

DIRECTIONS

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



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Five years ago Mitchelton Presbyterian Church planted Village Church at the Queensland University of Technology in Kelvin Grove. Village Church's mission and vision has always been to 'Grow followers of Jesus in inner-city Brisbane'. It started with a core group of 30 adults and one child, and now has around 162 adults and 30 children (all under 8) who call Village Church their home. The adult age range is 17-45. There are around 17 Bible study groups meeting from Aspley to Hamilton to Annerley to Sherwood.

What's on ...



What's on in 2014

October



Dr Peter O'Brien : Oct 9-10 : Hebrews

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



Colin Buchanan : Oct 18 : Children's Ministry Conference

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

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REFORMATION WEEKEND PROGRAM

Date: 26/27 OCTOBER
Speaker: Dr Noel Weeks
Place: St John's Annerley

Saturday Morning

09:15 Session 1 – "The Gospel Logic of Worship"
10:30 Session 2 – "The Reformation and the religion of the Heart"
11:30 A Season of Joint Prayer
12:00 Lunch b.y.o.

Sunday Afternoon Address during Worship
2:00 pm Service "The Reformation and the Future"
Afternoon tea following the Thanksgiving Service

Women in Technology

Each year Women in Technology present a series of awards to women recognising them as industry or leaders of innovation in their field locally, nationally and globally.

Recently appointed PMSA Councillor, Helen Murray, who is a Registered Nurse and member of St Pauls Presbyterian Church, has won her second Women in Technology (WiT) Award.

The first WiT Award Helen won was the Professional Award in 2011 for a new technique of combining clinical simulation used for educating clinicians with technology evaluation to support human factors, usability assessment of innovation and suitability of new technologies.

However, on Friday, 5 September she won the 2014 WiT Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Outstanding Achievement Award and the title of 2014 WiT ICT Ambassador for her service to eHealth.

Nominated by General Manager, QUT Enterprise Holdings Kris Trott, Helen leads the delivery of a range of eHealth projects for Queensland Health.

When interviewed by the judging panel, Helen explained how passionate she was about providing opportunities for young women to learn more about the potential career prospects provided by studying ICT.

The judging panel summed up her selection by stating "Through her vision, passion and influence Helen has delivered outstanding improvements in the delivery of health services across Queensland based on the innovative use of modern

ICT technologies. As a role model for women in ICT Helen would tell you to 'not put yourself in a box' but rather consider the broader opportunities to contribute to the community as she has clearly demonstrated throughout her own career."

Women in Technology aims to support, develop, recognise and promote achievements of women in ICT and Life Sciences via relevant events, mentoring, programs, awards and networks and by developing a sustainable and growing base of members, sponsors and supporters.



BE STILL AND KNOW
THAT HE IS GOD!



Briefly

USED STAMPS

WE CAN TURN YOUR USED STAMPS INTO MISSION SUPPORT
The Presbyterian Womens' Missionary Union (P.W.M.U) is collecting stamps to support our missionaries. Stamps can be left at Church Offices, 35 Amelia Street, Fortitude Valley, Qld, 4006 or call Carole on 07 3324 9309 or Margaret on 07 3285 6146 for other options or more details.

NAOMI REED

For more information regarding Naomi Reed, her five books, or to book The Zookeeper, please contact Naomi's manager, Leanne Smith on (02) 9501 3421 or go to Naomi's website at www.naomireed.info

MODERATOR-GENERAL

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

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

UNIT TO LET

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

News from Northside

Rev Andrew Millsom

Northside Townsville is rapidly approaching its fourth birthday. So what's been happening in the north's newest church?

By far the best thing of the past few years is that a number of people have put their faith in Jesus for the first time. This has been a great joy. And it's happened as people have been invited to church, have become a part of what's happening, and have then heard the Gospel and believed. We're trying to encourage this pathway as the main way people come to put their trust in Jesus at our church.

Almost as good has been seeing a number of people reconnecting with church and strengthening their faith as a result. Having Northside meet locally in our community has been a real advantage in making this happen.

We've also tried to be creative in the way we engage people with the Good News of Jesus, for example by surveying people on their questions about Christianity and inviting them to come along to church to hear these topics spoken about. We've done this publicly through social media and radio, and privately through people surveying their family and friends.

In addition to those things we've supported school chaplaincy, helped run a local after-school kids' ministry, assisted with the Christmas carols in our community, and much more besides.

It's not always been easy and there is much work to be done. But the rewards of seeing people trust in Jesus and grow in their faith have been worth it.

If you're thinking of moving north or know someone who is, then why not check us out? Or better still you could intentionally move to Townsville to be a part of establishing this new church in our city. There are over 800,000 people in North Queensland and they need to hear about Jesus.

Find out more at
www.northsidepc.org.au or you can contact
Rev Andrew Millsom at
andrew.millsom@northsidepc.org.au

- 2014 -

Be Creative...

LADIES RETREAT

A variety of workshops for you to enjoy!

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

Venue:
Watson Park
Old Gympie Road
Dakabin

women's ministries
presbyterian church of queensland

The 2014 BE CREATIVE LADIES CAMP will be held from 31 OCTOBER to 2 NOVEMBER at Watson Park Convention Centre at Dakabin. This is a wonderful opportunity for a girls' getaway, a mother-daughter weekend, or a chance for sisters or friends to spend time together relaxing with crafts, perhaps learning new skills and hearing from God's Word. A variety of workshops is in the pipeline including a quilt top, appliqué table centre, easy table runner, bag, Christmas wall hanging, gift items, jewellery, novelty tea cosies, felting, watercolour, acrylics and pastels, or bring your own project. Please consider joining us! Brochures will be available soon from Jane McClintock jane@mu.com.au

VILLAGE CHURCH CELEBRATES 5 YEARS

by Michelle Martin

During the past five years Village Church started, or is involved in evangelistic efforts such as Gospel Theatre and Krosswerdz (Hip Hop Church). They are also involved in community outreach and care including community choir, conversational English to international students, religious instruction in the local school, fundraising for the local community centre and a core group of people (10-15) to consider how we engage in a more coordinated way to be involved in social justice projects in Brisbane.

On Sunday, 17 August 2014, they celebrated its anniversary with the baptism of members of the congregation who shared how their lives have been changed by Jesus; a talk by Pastor Derek Hanna from Colossians 2:6-16; reflections on the past five years; and to end the night, dinner at The Caxton Hotel.

The members baptised were Michael Jones, Soraya Hirth and Anshula Dang.

"I never had any tough questions for God when I grew up", says Michael. "It took until adolescence when I really came up with questions and was surprised that when I prodded my faith I just had no answers for anything. So I left the church and decided I'd figure God out for myself.

But because that part of my journey involved no one but myself, it really became less and less about God and more about me."

Then Michael met Anshula and she invited him to Village. "Of course the sermon that night was specifically directed at people who walked away from God. It was one of those moments that just felt like the room went a bit darker and quieter. It felt like God walked through that door, gave me a nod, and said, 'Yep, it's time to come back now'."

Soraya Hirth says, "I was carrying all of my hurt because I thought God gave it to me to make me strong. But God in His graciousness started to work in my heart. I realised that carrying this hurt didn't make me strong, it made me hard. God softened my heart and in doing so gave me a strength that I couldn't imagine before. In this beautiful moment of clarity I learned what church really was: the physical body of Christ coming together so that you can be real and honest and confess your sins and struggles.

"Being a Christian doesn't mean your life is magically better, but I can never forget that Christ came to this earth and died, taking the punishment of sin so that while this life is tough, we can have hope and assurance that it won't be like this forever."

Anshula Dang says, "she felt like she was walking through life with a murky, muddy pair of glasses that made her feel really bitter with life.

"I came to know God through His people," says Anshula. "I was just curious why they weren't pursuing the same things I was pursuing.

"At Village Church I met incredibly lovely people who were flawed and didn't pretend not to be. It came

as a breath of fresh air. I saw a real genuine side of people and it gave me a glimmer of what God must be like. I really want to thank God today for revealing Himself to me, forgiving me, and for giving me a place to rest."

"Grace is the seed of glory, the dawning of glory in the heart - and therefore grace is the resolution of the future inheritance," said Jonathan

Edwards in his book 'Religious Affections'.

According to Pastor Derek Hanna, "This is a quote that captures the beauty of the Village Church community - what God is doing through the people He's put here, and the thankfulness I have for the future because of what I see."



Anshula Dang



Soraya Hirth



Michael Jones

"Grace is the seed of glory, the dawning of glory in the heart - and therefore grace is the resolution of the future inheritance."

Jonathan Edwards



Members of the 'Music Team' at Village Church

NEW DIRECTIONS

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The FAQs: Persecution of Christians in Iraq

by Joe Carter
An editor for The Gospel Coalition, USA

What is happening in Iraq?
On Friday, 18 July, the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) gave Christians in Mosul an ultimatum: convert to Islam, leave the area, or die.
ISIS had seized a large section of the country’s northern region in June, including the city of Mosul, the second largest city in Iraq. Since the takeover, the militant group has been putting pressure on Christians and other religious minorities in the area. Most of the remaining Christians departed the city that week.
According to CNN, a total of 52 Christian families left the city, with an armed group prohibiting some of them from taking anything but the clothes on their back. But a few Christians were reported to have converted to Islam in order to save their families’ lives and their property.
All 30 churches and monasteries in the city are under ISIS control. AINA News reports that crosses have been removed from all of them, some have been burned, destroyed, and looted, while many others are being used as ISIS centers.
“ISIS seems intent on wiping out all traces of minority groups from areas it now controls in Iraq,” said Sarah Leah Whitson, Middle East Director at Human Rights Watch. “No matter how hard its leaders and fighters try to justify these heinous acts as religious devotion, they amount to nothing less than a reign of terror.”
[The information in the below paragraph was originally based on a UN report which has since come under question. Further updates will be provided when the issue is clarified:
Along with the widespread religious persecution, ISIS is also embarking on a campaign that violates the human rights of Muslim women in the area. The UN reports ISIS has ordered all girls and

women between the ages of 11 and 46 in and around the city to undergo female genital mutilation. Female genital mutilation—the partial or total removal of external female genitalia—is used as a means of suppressing a woman’s sexual desire.]

How many Christians live in Mosul?
A decade ago, about 35,000 Christians lived in the city of 2 million people. But that number had dwindled to approximately 3,000 by the time of the ISIS takeover, and only a few hundred Christian families remained in the city until recently.

What is the significance of Mosul?
Mosul is one of the holiest cities for Middle Eastern Christian groups. The city, located on the west bank of the Tigris River in northern Iraq, is opposite the ancient Assyrian city of Nineveh. The city of Ninevah is mentioned in the Bible in Genesis, 2 Kings, Isaiah, Jonah, Nahum, Zephaniah and Matthew.
Along with its Biblical connection, the city reportedly contains the tomb of the Old Testament prophet Jonah.
A mosque built upon the burial site was blown up by ISIS on 24 July because the militants claimed the mosque had become a place for apostasy.

Who is ISIS?
ISIS (also known as ISIL) is the group that during the Iraq War was often referred to as ‘Al-Qaeda in Iraq’. ISIS stands for The Islamic State in Iraq and Syria. The group is actually called ‘The Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant’ but most western media translate ‘Levant’ as ‘Syria’.
The group claims it is an independent state with claims to Iraq,

Syria and Lebanon. It was established in the early years of the Iraq War and pledged allegiance to ‘Al-Qaeda’ in 2004.
The group has targeted the military forces and governments of Iraq and Syria but has also claimed responsibility for attacks that have killed thousands of Iraqi civilians.
According to a study compiled by U.S. intelligence agencies, ISIS has plans to seize power and turn the country into a fundamentalist Islamic state.

How did ISIS take control of Mosul?
The short answer: the Iraqi army ran away. Iraqi officials told the *Guardian* two divisions of Iraqi soldiers (roughly 30,000 men) simply turned and ran in the face of the assault by an insurgent force of just 800 fighters.
Senior government officials in Baghdad were equally shocked, accusing the army of betrayal and claiming the sacking of the city was a strategic disaster that would imperil Iraq’s borders.


What can be done to protect these Christians?
Most Christians in Mosul have fled 55 miles to the east, to the city of Erbil, the capital and largest city of the Kurdistan region of Iraq.
Erbil’s governor, Nawzad Hadi, has pledged to protect fleeing Christians and other minority groups. The territory is currently home to more than 2 million refugees and internally displaced people from Iraq and Syria, according to the United Nations.

This article first appeared on 25 July 2014 on The Gospel Coalition website. Used with permission.



Arabic Symbol ‘N’ (For Nazarene)
Used To Mark Out Christians In Mosul
For Tax Or Death





GRASS-ROOTS REFLECTIONS

I am not ashamed of the Gospel, or am I?

The apostolic Christians understood what it was to proclaim the Gospel, and what it meant not to be ashamed of the consequences. When Peter and John healed the crippled beggar in Acts 3, there was a natural progression into a shameless proclamation of the Gospel. They presented a message based on faith in Jesus and its holistic effects on the believer’s life: *‘Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out and times of refreshing may come from the Lord’* Acts 3:19 NIV.

Of course, these events did not go unnoticed by the authorities. The following day the apostles were called to account: *‘By what power of what name did you do this?’* Acts 4:7. *Endowed with the Holy Spirit the apostles courageously responded with another confronting Gospel presentation. Whilst the religious leaders found the content of the Apostles’ proclamation both disturbing and challenging, they were nevertheless astounded by their indefatigable courage* Acts 4:13. Despite warnings and threats, Peter and John remained shamelessly resolute in their desire to pursue an ongoing ministry of the Gospel proclamation.

We in the modern West all too readily assuage our consciences by conceiving of the events described as a ‘stylized’ representation of the facts—too amazing to be true for us! We say, ‘Oh yes, that was the Apostles but most ordinary Christians didn’t do those kind of things, did they?’ But according to leading New Testament scholar Larry Hurtado, they did! Despite the common perception that the early Christians hid in the catacombs to avoid persecution, Hurtado argues the opposite.

Rather than hiding from the Romans, the early Christians met there to have meals, and remember and honor the dead (especially the martyrs). There was nothing secretive or covert about it. He also argues that early Christian apologists, such as Justin Martyr, addressed significant defenses of the faith directly to the Emperor, as well as members of the general public (e.g. Epistle of Diognetus).

Moreover, these writings were being produced at a time when tensions between Christians and the Roman government were heating up. This is more than just not being ashamed; it’s making an open declaration of faith for the sake of the Gospel. What we witness in the historical accounts of the early Christian church seems almost in lock-step with the apostolic promotion of the Gospel.


The Gospel of Salvation is a life-transforming message, with profound consequences for this life and the next. As the apostles found, life-transforming messages threaten those with a vested interest in lives not being transformed. Perhaps that is why nominal Christians, challenged by Christianity’s true claims, often recite the mantra: ‘A little bit of religion is good, but you can’t let it control your life’. However, for deeply committed Christians such as Peter, John and Paul, the Gospel was not a peripheral attachment to their otherwise worldly lifestyle. It meant the all-consuming reality of Jesus Christ, with all its radical implications.

When Paul wrote the words ‘I am not ashamed of the Gospel...’ he knew this would be socially, religiously, and politically subversive. Paul’s gospel was not only offensive to Jewish pro-law sensibilities, but represented a substantive threat to the Roman socio-political structures of power. For Paul, too, being ‘not ashamed’ of the Gospel was not without cost. His catalogue of tribulations, outlined in Second Corinthians, attests to the fact that the Gospel was offering real challenges and making a real impact: *‘I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again.’* 2 Corinthians 11:23 NIV.

Paul confidently asserts that he is unashamed of the Gospel, and states why. Romans 1:16. The Gospel is the power of God for salvation. However, this powerful message of salvation did not derive its ‘power’ from clever rational persuasion that drew on the conventions of rhetoric and eloquence. The power that animated Paul’s gospel was the same power that animated the proclamation of the other apostles – the Holy Spirit! The same Spirit that enabled Jesus to be declared ‘with power’ the son of God by his resurrection (Romans 1:4), is the same Spirit that gave Paul the courage and ability to announce the Good News to a hostile pagan world. Notwithstanding the content of the Gospel being Jesus Christ, in Romans 15:13-19 Paul ties the effectiveness of the message’s deliverance and transformative acceptance, to the powerful ministry of the Holy Spirit.

For the apostles, not being ashamed of the Gospel had less to do with confidence in their own ability to preach or debate, and more to do with the transforming message of Jesus Christ’s death and resurrection, and the power of the Holy Spirit to effectively unveil it to darkened hearts.

The apostles were unashamed of Gospel ministry because they knew the source of their confidence, do you?



Roland Lowther



From Left to Right John Woods, Pastor Eddie Deen, Dell Woods and Very Rev Dr Ken Gardner



The Cook Islanders performing the 'Haka'

Pray, Live, Serve but what about work and rest?

by Naomi Reed



Naomi Reed

Last month I was invited to speak at a church in Sydney on the topic of work and rest... and I said yes immediately, not because I knew what to say, but because I knew I needed to think about the concept of work and rest myself.

As soon as I heard the topic title, I thought about my own blurry blend of writing, speaking, parenting, connecting, nurturing, administrating, recreational activities and I wondered whether I had any kind of recognisable work and rest balance at all. Probably not.

So I started at Genesis and read my way through the first three chapters as well as Exodus 20, only to find myself feeling guiltier.

God spoke and formed the heavens and the earth, in all their vast array, and then he rested on the seventh day. He made it holy. He formed mankind and put them to work in the garden and it was good... until the fall, when toil also became wearisome, and yet, there was the same command. God's people were to rest on the Sabbath day, keeping it holy. Exodus 31:15.

And since then, the debate about the Sabbath has continued... but I wondered about God's rest. Was He tired? Was He enjoying His creation, in all its glory? In what ways did He rest? If rest is the absence of responsibility or the presence of choice, or the opposite of work, how did the Lord God rest? And how should I rest? How do you rest?

Perhaps the problem for me is that my writing tends to happen whenever it can. At the moment, I have a deadline to submit the final manuscript of my sixth book and at the same time I have talks to prepare and conventions to attend and emails to answer and three teenage sons to feed (and love) and a dog to chase and a house to maintain and a husband to adore and friends to meet and a Bible

study to enjoy and The Zookeeper performance to rehearse... and now we've run out of rice so I need to go back to the shops and the washing has piled up in the laundry. And in the middle of all of that, my laptop sits in the living area and I try and pay it attention whenever I can, or at least in between the loads of washing. I also try and pay enormous amounts of attention to my husband!

My work and rest boundaries can feel very blurry. Some days, hanging out the washing is rest and emails are work, but other days it's the other way around.

Friends tell me that some days they'll sit at the office and spend 20 minutes booking holiday accommodation or ordering bike parts and then other days they'll sit at home and spend 40 minutes answering emails in front of the TV. Are we, as a society, getting blurrier?

So I kept reading, quietly. The Lord said to the Israelites, *"My presence will go with you and I will give you rest."* Exodus 33:14. He will give it to us... rest is a gift. And there's more. *"The Lord gave them rest on every side, just as he had sworn to their forefathers."* Joshua 21:44. And then David prayed, *"My soul find rest in God alone, my salvation comes from him."* Psalm 62:1.

Not only is rest a gift from God, but it's also somehow a noun as well as a verb. At that point, I breathed out and felt that perhaps rest wasn't about finding a new hobby or knitting pattern. *He will give rest for our souls as we spend time with him.* Jeremiah 6:16.

But then, there was more, so much more. In the New Testament, Jesus said to the crowd and the disciples, *"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."* Matthew 11:28.

Jesus, carrying our burdens and all

our fears and failures and guilt and unmentionable screaming took them to the cross to be dealt with forever. We can rest today (even in the middle of the emails and an overflowing sink) because of God's redemptive work on the cross and at the empty tomb.

We have been given rest and one day we will enter that place of rest forever and it will be glorious and it will be God's. Isaiah 11:10.

But perhaps we still need to wonder. How are we choosing to rest with God and be renewed today and next week and next year? Is it the kind of rest that allows us to listen to our own heart and God's still, small voice to us, through His Word? Is it different for all of us amidst our contrasting roles and responsibilities and weekly pattern? Are there ways that we could change that rhythm in the days to come, to let God renew us in the ways He wants to?

I'm still not sure, but I'm going to go and make some more hummus and clean up the kitchen and turn on my favourite CD and keep reading Isaiah, and think about what it means to rest.

Scot's Oakey and The Cook Islanders

by Very Rev Dr Ken Gardner

Scot's Oakey remained Presbyterian by the narrowest of margins, one vote. Consequently, it has been a continual struggle to support a fulltime appointment.

For the last ten years I have supplied the congregation on a 40% basis.

Our average attendance at worship services over recent times would be about 22.

However, in recent months Scot's Oakey has undergone a very significant, wonderful, and inspiring change, for our congregation has doubled in size. This has come about by the Cook Island people, who have come to Oakey to work in the local abattoir, linking up with Scot's.

From the very outset we have worked as one congregation, not two, for as the Scriptures remind us, *"For there is no distinction between Australian and Cook Islander; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing His riches on all who call on Him. For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."* Romans 10:12-13.

We have welcomed one another as brothers and sisters in Christ: *"That noble name by which we are called."* James 2:7.

The services are shared by Pastor Eddie Deen, who serves as the secretary of the Cook Island Christian Church of Australia, and me.

Pastor Eddie was a former representative rugby player for New Zealand, and has the physique to prove it.

The Islanders have formed a choir and sing every Sunday, sometimes in their own language and other times in English.

Their singing is truly wonderful, very inspiring, and the volume is absolutely amazing. You have to hear them to have a proper appreciation of how much they have contributed to the singing in our worship services.

Our local people's singing has improved greatly because of the confidence given to them by our

friends from Cook Island.

Recently we had a special morning tea for one of our couples who celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary, John and Dell Woods.

John's grandparents were members when the church was opened in 1906 and his father was an elder for many years, so John and Dell have had a long association with the church.

It was a day we will never forget for the depth of fellowship, the laughter, and the splendid music.

At the worship service the choir sang with such enthusiasm and joy that it would have been heard in the main street, a block away.

My sermon for the day was on Psalm 100:1, *"Make a joyful shout to the Lord."* After hearing the volume sung by the choir I introduced my sermon by saying, "I hardly need preach this sermon for you have just had a very good demonstration of what it means to 'make a joyful shout to the Lord'."

Over in the hall, after the service, the choir sang some items and then sang 'Happy Birthday' to one of our members. It was truly amazing to hear the volume with which they sang.

Someone then told them that I turned 88 on Monday. There was a repeat performance of 'Happy Birthday', perhaps even louder than before, finishing with their performing the 'Haka'. We all had a good laugh for it was so good to hear and see.

The congregation is growing together very well, for our one desire is where *"the love of Christ compels us"* 2 Corinthians 5:14a to love one another as Christ has loved us, and do all for the glory of God. We want to work as a team for we know that in a TEAM:

Together
Everyone
Achieves
More



Very Rev Dr Ken Gardner and Mrs Em Gardner

Supporting Eagles Wings



My name is Natasha Johnson. I am a happy member of Village Church, which meets at QUT Kelvin Grove.

During the week, I am an Adult Education Coordinator at the Endeavour Foundation. However, on the weekend, and very early in the mornings, I'm a mad cyclist, runner, and try-hard swimmer.

On the 24 August, I participated in Challenge Gold Coast to raise funds and awareness for Eagles Wings Australia.

Eagles Wings Australia (www.ewafire.org) is a grassroots organisation that works to aid underprivileged children and their communities in Ndola, Zambia. It also supports adult education and has several community homes for children in need.

I have been involved with Eagles Wings since 2009 and had the privilege of visiting Zambia as part of a building team in 2011.

Eagles Wings is infectious. It seems that once you're involved, it completely captures your heart.

I am involved in Eagles Wings' work for several reasons, including their commitment to creating sustainable development, and their 'least

intrusive' approach to supporting and empowering the Zambian people.

Most importantly though, Eagles Wings loves people and loves God. All of the program's work and support of Eagles Wings is motivated by love for the Zambian people.

Funds raised through my participation in Challenge Gold Coast will be specifically directed to building an adult education building at Eagles Wings. Having this building was the dream of the late Mrs Sarah Matolokoshi, a beautiful-hearted woman who so wonderfully led the adult-education program at Eagles Wings. I consider it a genuine privilege to be part of realising her dream.



PresAid: Uganda Water Project

Noel Thomas, Director of PresAID Uganda, reports that the Presbyterian Church of Australia's 2013 PresAID Christmas giving has been put to good use in Uganda where the UG-Buikwe solar-powered water project in the village of Nangunga on the shores of Lake Victoria is nearing completion.

Pipes have been laid spanning 1.2 kilometres, solar modules mounted, and a 10,000 litre tank installed. So far this community has been rated by the Community Development Officer as the most cooperative society PresAID Uganda has worked with in solving their societal needs. A safe, sustainable water supply is now guaranteed for Nangunga.

Thanks to all the Presbyterians in Australia who contributed to the appeal.

Melissa Powell to be Clayfield College Principal from 1 January 2015

The Presbyterian and Methodist Schools Association (PMSA) has appointed Ms Melissa Powell as the new Principal of Clayfield College.

Melissa Powell, who is presently Principal of the International School of Western Australia, has been appointed as the new Principal of Clayfield College. Ms Powell will take up her appointment from 1 January 2015, ready for the new school year.

Ms Powell's qualifications include a Master of Education, a Post Graduate Diploma in Educational Studies and a Bachelor of Education degree. Ms Powell has received numerous academic awards including the Heather Barr Memorial Medal as the top graduate in Education Administration in Western Australia in 1994.

Additionally, Ms Powell is a member of the Association of Heads of Independent Schools of Australia (AHISA), the Association of Independent Schools in Western Australia (AISWA), the Australian College of Educators (ACE) and the Australian Council for Educational Leaders (ACEL).

Ms Powell is a committed and passionate educator with over 20 years' experience in large, independent Uniting Church and Anglican girls' boarding schools in Western Australia, including Penrhos College, Methodist Ladies' College, St Mary's Anglican Girls' School and St Hilda's Anglican School for Girls.

Ms Powell joins Clayfield College having worked in executive roles at the International School of Western Australia (as Principal from 2010 until 2014) and Penrhos College (as Head of Middle School from 2003 until 2009, where she reported directly to the Principal).

Clayfield College School Chair,

Mr Kevin Standish, described Ms Powell as an experienced Principal with a strong track record of setting high standards. "Ms Powell's demonstrated success in raising academic standards while fostering a holistic approach to education will benefit the growth and development of Clayfield College students into the future," Mr Standish said.

Ms Powell's appointment follows the announcement of Mr Brian Savins' retirement from the PMSA at the end of 2014 after eight years' of significant service to the Clayfield College community. The process for selecting a new principal commenced in April this year and the PMSA Council was assisted by an executive recruitment firm in a comprehensive national search to attract high calibre candidates. The field of applicants included some outstanding senior educators.

In announcing the appointment today, Des Robinson, Chairman of the PMSA, said, "Ms Powell's experience in leadership positions at two Uniting Church schools, Penrhos College and the Methodist Ladies' College, coupled with her strong interest in pastoral care and her Christian faith, aligns closely with the mission of both the PMSA and Clayfield College."

Both Mr Standish and Mr Robinson are delighted to announce the appointment of a high calibre educator to lead Clayfield College into the future. We join the Clayfield College community in congratulating Ms Powell on her appointment and warmly welcome her into the school community.



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WENDY HENRY TALKS WITH CECELIA ORFORD ABOUT WOMEN'S MINISTRIES FROM A NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE.

Wendy: *Hello Cecelia! It's been a very long time since we last chatted here on Girl Talk (about 2007 I believe!), so perhaps I can re-introduce you with a couple of the roles you play in life and let you finish off the list? It's probably fair to say that you are a busy wife and mother, as well as...*

Cecelia: Hi Wendy. Yes, wife of a good man and mum to three great kids. At church I am involved in my local church music team (and anything else I can help out with), member of the PCQ women's ministry committee (WMPCQ) and at a national level in the Presbyterian Church, I am convenor of the GAA women's ministry committee (WMPCA). I am a Registered Nurse lecturing at a University in Brisbane and enjoy the challenge of shaping the future nurses. I also do some locum clinical work in my spare time. These are just some of the awesome roles God has delighted me with, far more than I ever aspired to be.

W: *You mention that you are a member of the Women's Ministry committee for the Presbyterian Church of Queensland. How long has that actually been and what has been a highlight for you?*

C: Hmmm, I think I was invited to join WMPCQ in 1998, so a little while now. The biggest highlight... that's difficult as there have been many. Serving God in any opportunity I would say generally has brought me the most joy. The biggest highlight I would have to say is seeing a huge change in how the leadership of the Presbyterian Church demonstrate their encouragement of women. When I was a working, single woman attending the Presbyterian Church in the 90s, I found it quite awkward as I didn't really look like a 'normal' woman in the church. I didn't fit into the normal roles of mother, wife, etc that women generally had within the church. I was outside the box! I was a single professional woman, but loved being in the family of the Presbyterian Church. But I have been very blessed, as God led me to churches where the ministers and their wives were so amazingly insightful and supportive. I believe that the leadership of the church had a genuine heart for encouraging women, but found it difficult to express this to women. Over the past 20 years, God has worked within the leadership of the church in Queensland and Australia, so that they are able to freely demonstrate openly their encouragement for women - irrespective of their roles or

marital status - to grow, serve Jesus and be equipped to survive in this life. I feel privileged to have been involved in this change.

W: *More recently you've been a part of Women's Ministries in the Presbyterian Church of Australia as well. How long has that been and who else is involved there?*

C: I started in WMPCA when our local committee WMPCQ began on a consultation paper about women's roles within the church in 2004. Our recent national committee is a dynamic team and has representatives from around Australia - Margaret Thatcher (WA), Mairi Girgis (VIC), Vanessa Stuckings (NSW), Fiona Millar (QLD) and I am the convenor. Andrea Pryde recently left the committee, but holds a special role of encourager in the group (I guess a bit like a Chaplain). The women on this committee are humble, kind hearted, trustworthy, generous and helpful and are a pleasure to work with. The most difficult part is we are all volunteers and hold very busy personal lives.

W: *And what is the big project for 2015?*

C: Flourish 2015 in Melbourne!

W: *Who can come to 'Flourish' and why would you recommend it?*

C: Everyone is welcome to attend 'Flourish'. We do encourage people involved in or wanting to build women's ministry in some way, and of course we encourage leaders to attend (men and women).

W: *Can you tell us anything about plans so far for the theme, topics, speakers, venue, etc?*

C: A Melbourne committee is currently deciding on these plans, including the theme and date, so when I know more I can let you all know. It's a good idea to start saving now though, as you know it will be in Melbourne in 2015.

W: *Where do you see the future of women's ministry in Australia?*

C: Serving Jesus. We are all sinners in need of God's grace and love and we should be working together to serve Him and others. I think the future of WM in Australia is not about things we do, like playgroup, craft, high teas, etc as they are comfort things in life God gives us to network and connect with people. I believe that women need to grow in the knowledge of Jesus and follow Him (that's a responsibility that each of us owns) and that church leaders need to encourage women to do this. Furthermore I think they need to make opportunities available for women to grow. Women also need a voice in their churches, so leaders should involve women so they have input into everyday decisions about church activities. So... the future of WM in Australia? It's a Gospel-led ministry with men and women in partnership, communicating and spurring one another along, but where the unique characteristics of being female are allowed to flourish. Godly women are so awesomely beautiful. Any women's ministry should encourage this beauty to be shone to others unashamedly. That's one reason I love my daughters reading *Bella* magazine.

W: *What challenges might there be ahead of us?*

C: There are so many challenges ahead of us but probably communication and the societal changes are two large ones I see in the church. Communication has changed over the years. Hand written letters are often a thing of the past. The ever changing social media (what's in and what's not)



Cecelia Orford

causes concern for people not wanting to interface with social media, as well as for those who do and are keeping up with the new and exciting. There are so many ways in which we communicate now. God established the use of media in His written word - a book you can take anywhere and read anywhere! So now we have electronic and online media, how far is God willing to allow us to explore our ways of communicating? Societal changes are seeing many women in Australia working full time, and women are encouraged to go back into the workforce. This is a challenge for leaders when seeking to meet the needs of encouragement, growth and equipping women through the church in a contemporary manner. The Gospel, good teaching and Bible study are essential to achieve a contemporary approach. Women need to be encouraged because, when they feel valued, accepted, esteemed and not ignored, they flourish the most. However, being a woman (or a man) is secondary to hearing the Gospel, we all need to hear the Gospel, glorify God and grow in Him. So I guess the biggest challenge is to stop ourselves getting in the way and making the ministry about us, instead of about Jesus.

W: *And what are the rewards of seeing women ministering to other women?*

C: A woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. I love working with women who passionately love Jesus. They are like magnets that draw women to all that is good. Women ministering to other women is so deeply rewarding to our hearts. It is not always easy and is often exhausting, but brings peace to our hearts knowing this is the right thing to be doing. Wendy, between you, me and the readers of ND, I immensely dislike craft, women's clubs or groups (well groups or clubs of any kind). WM should not be about clubs or belonging to a team, it should be about spurring one another along and shining brightly. God calls us to be courageous, trusting, to have purpose, to be obedient and to follow Him. This is my heart's desire for all women in our church and for the leadership of the church to partner with each woman for this purpose.

W: *Thanks, Cecelia, for bringing us up to date on what's been happening for you personally and in women's ministries within the church at different levels. I trust that many will join us in praying for a successful "Flourish" next year, as well as abundant opportunities for Presbyterian women all over Australia to share the Gospel of Jesus and to encourage one another in the Word of God.*

WOMEN @ PRAYER ...

Then one of the elders asked me, "These in white robes - who are they, and where did they come from?" I answered, "Sir, you know". And he said, "These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore, they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will spread his tent over them. Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat upon them, nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb at the centre of their throne will be their shepherd; he will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes." Revelation 7:13-14

- Pray for the Christian men, women and children in many parts of the world suffering persecution and atrocities at this time. Pray that God might grant them perseverance, wisdom, strength and courage as they take up their crosses and stand up for Jesus.
- Pray that they might be enabled, through the power of the Holy Spirit, to forgive the perpetrators of these injustices and instead pray for their salvation through the gospel of Jesus Christ. Let's join them in praying for the salvation of the persecutors.
- Pray especially for the children who are exposed to the violence and brutality, that God might protect them from physical and emotional harm. Pray for the children whose parents are perpetrators of violence, that they might come to know the love of Jesus and not follow in their parents' footsteps.
- Pray for those women that we come across in our neighbourhoods and daily lives, who are not living in war-torn countries, but who suffer persecution nevertheless. Ask God for wisdom in how to support and pray for them. Pray for boldness in sharing the gospel with those who need to hear it.
- Praise God that he is in control and has a plan that is often beyond our understanding.
- Praise God for his promises in Revelation that those who have come out of the great tribulation will have their tears wiped away by God! And that Jesus promises to come again soon.
- Amen. Come Lord Jesus.



Dennis and Cecelia Orford



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

JOHN KNOX: THE TRUMPET BLAST OF SCOTLAND (2): THE EMERGING FORCE (c.1547-54)

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

The second of five articles published by *Banner of Truth* which will be printed in New Directions to commemorate 500 years since the birth of John Knox.



From the moment of his call to preach, the fiery convictions of this bold Scot were already surging ahead with great force.

In an hour when Rome was 'breathing out threats and slaughter against all who tried to break them', Knox was fearlessly preaching the Word of God with the undaunted boldness of the martyrs who preceded him.

Nothing could prevent the inevitable Reformation from crashing upon Scotland's coastline, led by this man who would become the most pivotal figure in the nation's history.

From the outset of his ministry Knox firmly believed that to preach the Bible was 'to blow the Master's trumpet'. He viewed himself, not as a gentle flautist, but as a militant trumpeter, who was sent to awaken a nation from its spiritual slumber.

Just as the walls of Jericho came crashing to the ground at the blast of Israelite trumpets, so Knox was convinced that the false religious battlements of this world could be brought down only at the sound of the authoritative preaching of the Scriptures. It was to such a high view of biblical authority that Knox committed himself throughout the entirety of his ministry.

In this second article of our series the foundational years of Knox's ministry will be traced (1547-54).

During this period Knox became a marked man and his life was often in great danger.

However, through these life-threatening circumstances God was preparing him for the great work of establishing the Church of Scotland and advancing the cause of the Reformation in his native land. The story of this famed reformer, John Knox of Scotland, now continues.

Preaching in St Andrews (1547)

From his initial preaching in St Andrews, Knox daringly upheld the cardinal Reformation truth of *sola fide*, that justification is by faith alone in Christ alone.

A staunch defender of salvation by grace alone, Knox denounced Rome's teaching on purchased indulgences, holy pilgrimages, forced fasts, and clerical celibacy. He declared these vain practices to be blasphemous and openly pronounced the pope to be an antichrist.

Describing the spiritual climate of that time, William Blaikie explains, 'In those days, every man's preaching was coloured by the attitude he held to the Church of Rome'. As a result, the congregation in St Andrews renounced Roman Catholicism and pledged their allegiance to the message of the Reformation.

As a lightning rod draws fire so Knox unavoidably attracted the heat of the Roman church for such preaching. He was called before John Winran, the sub-prior of the Augustinians, to give an account of his Protestant doctrine. Knox

declared that no man can usurp Christ as the head of the church, not even the pope.

Moreover, he asserted that Catholic ceremonies went beyond the commands and instructions of Scripture. He further insisted that the Mass was idolatrous and decried the church's teaching on purgatory. Knox also maintained that there was an insurmountable chasm between the true and false church. But surprisingly, Winran took no action, and Knox was delivered out of the lion's mouth.

Imprisoned as a galley slave (1547-49)

In June 1547 the castle at St Andrews came under siege by a fleet of French galleys. After a month-long attack, the Protestant congregation in the castle were bombed into submission and forced to surrender. As their spiritual leader, Knox was a prime target. He was captured, along with 120 other defenders, and consigned to the fate of a galley slave in the hull of a French battleship.

For nineteen months (1547-8), he was chained to an oar with little food, deplorable sanitation, and rampant galley-fever. Knox was scorched and blistered under the blazing sun and shivered during the damp cold nights. Throughout this long period of intense suffering, he grew physically weak until his health was broken.

Aboard ship repeated efforts were made by his French captors to 'encourage' Knox and his fellow Protestants back to Catholicism.

On one occasion a statue of Mary was thrust in his face, his captors wanting him to kiss the image. He resolutely resisted, 'Trouble me not; such an idol is accursed and therefore I will not touch it.' Knox finally took the image but, instead of kissing the idol, threw it overboard and quipped, 'Let our Lady now save herself; she is light enough; let her learn to swim.'

On two occasions, Knox rowed in the open water within sight of the towers of St Andrews. Longing to stand within the city's walls once again, he never surrendered his ardent hope that one day he would return and preach in the very place where God had first called him into the ministry. With unshakable confidence in the Lord, Knox stated:

'I see the steeple of that place where God first opened my mouth in public to His glory, and I am fully persuaded, how weak soever I now appear, I shall not depart this life till my tongue shall glorify His Holy name in the same place.'

Through negotiations with the new Protestant King of England, Edward VI, the French authorities eventually released Knox as part of a prisoner exchange early in 1549. However, it was unsafe for Knox to return to his pro-Catholic homeland, where certain arrest, trial, and probable death awaited him.

Instead, he journeyed south across the border to England and on to London, believing that he would receive a good reception from fellow Protestants in England. He was not to be disappointed; as he expected, he was well received and for the next five years (1549-53), Knox preached as a Scottish exile in England. His mission now was to establish reformation in the Church of England.

Preaching in Berwick-upon-Tweed (1549-51)

At the command of Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury, and the Privy Council (an inner circle of eminent men who advised the king in matters of government), Knox was sent north to Berwick-upon-Tweed as a preacher of the gospel. Berwick was a garrison town on the Scottish border and consisted of some 5000 inhabitants, half of them soldiers.

In April 1549, Knox began his

preaching ministry here in the parish church of the Holy Trinity.

Berwick was a wild and rugged outpost and a notoriously difficult place in which to minister. Spiritual darkness reigned, and the town was well-known for moral corruption and licentious living. Yet, the Lord used Knox's faithful and energetic preaching of the gospel to bring about a remarkable transformation. Instead of spiritual darkness there was now a burning beacon of gospel light.

Many years later, as Knox reflected on his time here, he recalled:

'God so blessed my weak labours that in Berwick where commonly before there used to be slaughter by reason of quarrels among the soldiers there was a great quietness, all the time that I remained there.'

The reference to 'weak labours' should not hide the fact that for Knox the work of preaching was a very serious matter.

The reformer spent much time in the study poring over numerous books and commentaries as he prayerfully meditated on the text of Scripture. Knox sought out and endeavoured to absorb the most important works of the leading writers of ancient and modern times.

On one occasion Knox opens up a little window into his habits of study when he describes himself as 'sitting at his books' and contemplating the Gospel of Matthew with the help of 'some most godly expositions, and among the rest Chrysostom'.

Behind the success of his ministry in Berwick and elsewhere lay much hard work as well as prayer.

On trial in Newcastle (1550)

The deeper Knox dug into Scripture, the stronger his preaching grew, especially against the idolatrous practice of the Mass. Accusations by those sympathetic to Catholic dogma were again raised in opposition against him.

In April 1550 he was summoned to Newcastle to give an account of his reformed doctrine to the Council of the North. Standing before his examiners Knox presented a strong biblical defence, stating 'all worshipping, honouring, or service invented by the brain of man in the religion of God, without His [God's] own express commandment, is idolatry'.

His polemic argument was so compelling that no formal charges were made against him. He again was released and returned to Berwick to continue his preaching.

It was in Berwick that Knox met his future wife, Marjory Bowes. Marjory was the daughter of Richard Bowes, the captain of nearby Norham Castle and one of the most influential men in all of northern England.

Marjory and her mother, Elizabeth, were among the many who were converted to Christ under Knox's ministry at Berwick.

Knox and Marjory fell in love and pledged betrothal to one other, though they were not to be married until 1555. Marjory would eventually bear him two sons, Nathanael and Eleazer. Later, in Geneva, John Calvin would refer to Marjory as 'a wife the like of whom is not found everywhere'.

Preaching in Newcastle (1551)

In the early summer of 1551, Knox accepted a call to preach in the Church of St Nicholas in Newcastle, about 60 miles south of Berwick. Though his time in Newcastle would be short, his preaching made such an impact that his reputation spread far and wide, so much so that many fellow Scots travelled south across the border to hear him.

In the pulpit Knox's primary concern was to feed his hungry flock with the Word of God. He stated:

'I did distribute the bread of life,

as of Christ Jesus I received it ... My honour was that Christ Jesus should reign, my glory that the light of his truth should shine in you.'

Chaplain to the king (1551-53)

With mounting acclaim, Knox was recommended by the Duke of Northumberland to be one of six Royal Chaplains to King Edward VI (1551). This appointment was a significant honour and enlarged Knox's influence for the gospel. He was now free to travel and preach throughout England and spread reformed doctrine throughout the church.

In September 1552 Knox moved to London. He frequently preached before King Edward VI at such notable venues as Windsor Castle, Hampton Court, St James' Palace, and Westminster Abbey.

He was now, as Martyn-Lloyd Jones observed, 'right in the centre of affairs in England', and in such a strategic position Knox used his increased influence to bring further reforms to the worship of the Church of England, which he believed retained far too many Catholic elements.

Under the previous king, Henry VIII, the national church had separated from Rome politically, but it had not moved very far from Rome theologically on a number of important matters. Much more reform was needed.

One such matter was the practice of kneeling at communion. The archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas Cranmer, insisted that one should kneel in communion while receiving the bread and wine. Knox strongly objected to the practice and denounced it as idolatrous. His protest was so effective that it forced the insertion of the 'Black Rubric' into the Second Book of Common Prayer (1552).

Although the practice was retained, it was now clearly stated in the Prayer Book that kneeling at communion was not to be understood as an act of worshipping the bread and wine. Lloyd-Jones argued that, by his protest in this matter, John Knox was the 'founder of Puritanism', for this was one of the first attempts at purifying the practices of the Church of England.

It was about this time that Knox was nominated for the bishopric of Rochester (October 1552). He declined this position, 'frankly stating that he was not free in his conscience to accept a permanent charge in the English Church, believing as he did, that it was not sufficiently reformed in sacraments and discipline'. Instead, he chose to remain 'simply a preacher'.

A little later another attempt was made to bring him into the establishment when he was offered the office of vicar of All-Hallows in Bread Street, London, (February 1553). Again, Knox refused, and for the same reasons.

Withdrawal into hiding (1553-54)

On 6 July 1553, the Protestant cause in England was brought to an abrupt halt. The reform-minded king, Edward VI, suddenly died at the tender age of sixteen.

On 10 July Lady Jane Grey was proclaimed Queen of England in London. But the people of England rose up in support of the king's half-sister, Mary. Though she was known to be a devout Catholic, the people believed she was the legitimate heir to the throne.

With the looming possibility of a Romish monarch, Knox boldly preached at Amersham, issuing the following warning:

'O England, now is God's wrath kindled against thee. Now hath he begun to punish as He hath threatened a long while by His true prophets and messengers. He hath taken from thee the crown of thy glory and hath left thee without honour as a body without a head...'

'O England, shalt thou be plagued and brought to desolation, by means of those whose favours thou seekest, and by whom thou art procured to fall from Christ and to serve Antichrist.'

After a reign of only nine days by Lady Jane Grey (10 July-19 July), the Protestants' worst nightmare came to pass.

On 19 July 1553, Jane was beheaded in the Tower of London and Edward's half-sister, the strict Catholic, Mary Tudor, was proclaimed Queen of England.

Knox himself had travelled back to London and was present on this ignominious day.

Mary's succession to the throne was to usher in a reign of terror and ignite the fires of persecution.

'Bloody Mary', as she came to be known in future years, was eventually to slaughter some 288 Protestant men, women and children. Among them were some of the finest Englishmen of the day, spiritual leaders such as John Rogers, Hugh Latimer, Nicholas Ridley and Thomas Cranmer.

With the threat of persecution looming, Knox made the most of the last few months of calm before the storm.

During the summer and autumn, he preached in Buckinghamshire and in the Protestant stronghold of Kent, and moved in and out of London.

He made one last visit to Northumberland, making contact with members of his congregation in Newcastle.

The main purpose of this visit to the north was to see Marjory and her mother Elizabeth who both wanted to flee England and escape the looming persecution of Protestants. But the opposition of Elizabeth's husband, Richard and brother-in-law, Sir Robert Bowes extinguished Knox's hopes of taking Marjory and her mother with him to the safety of Europe.

As the threat levels increased Knox made his way back to London in readiness for a quick exit to the relative safety of the continent.

Finally, at the request of friends he made the agonizing decision to cross the English Channel. He arrived in Dieppe in January 1554.

The continent of Europe would be the scene of Knox's ministry for the next five years. Through these tumultuous conflicts, John Knox was being battle-hardened for larger campaigns that lay ahead.

In every trial and circumstance of these early years, Knox proved himself faithful in each assignment entrusted to him. In due time God would entrust his servant with even greater responsibilities.

Knox's great work in the future would be the establishment of a reformed church in Scotland. But, for now, he was called to be faithful to the stewardship of the gospel the Lord had given to him.

May God raise up such valiant men, who like Knox will be firmly committed to the all and sole sufficiency of Scripture.

May God give to His church those who, in the face of much adversity, will steadfastly persevere and boldly lead the sheep to the rich feeding grounds of the Word. In this present difficult and dark hour, may God's servants hold fast the torch of gospel truth, and in so doing, let gospel light spread far and wide throughout the whole world.

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



FEATURE TRACKS

**PROCLAIMING THE LORD JESUS
CHRIST BY WORD AND DEED**

WITH GREAT THANKS TO ALMIGHTY GOD BERT AND PENNY — TEN YEARS WITH PIM

The area which we were originally responsible for was the largest ever covered by a PIM patrol. Its boundaries extended from a line from Forrest on the Transcontinental Railway, across to Kalbarri and then included all regions above,

extending to and including the Kimberley. The patrol was massive in area and praise be to the Lord, so were the blessings. It took some twelve months to traverse and was the longest patrol in both time and distance ever carried out by PIM.

While on early patrol work, we visited many pastoral stations and Aboriginal communities. We were privileged to speak of our Lord and to render practical assistance in meeting local needs. Over time, this meant the commitment of donated and personal resources in the purchase of two vehicles for ministry, and to the supply of Bibles and other Christian literature, clothing and food. We are so appreciative of the generosity of Presbyterian congregations in Perth and right across Australia in this, for the many, many gifts which helped so much when on patrol over the years.

One Sunday morning we were at Laverton (in the Northern Goldfields) and found out that there was no worship service in town. We travelled to Mount Margaret Aboriginal Community (formerly the Mount Margaret Mission) in search of a church and were directed to a large corrugated iron building from which we could hear Aboriginal voices singing hymns. We got out of the LandCruiser and quietly walked in through the rear. The Pastor stopped the service and warmly welcomed us. We were the only white people in the congregation of about 30 people together and mandatory canines between the pews. This commenced a long relationship and I was invited to speak to the congregation on our many future visits.

We had often used the caravan park in Mount Magnet (in the Murchison) as base for patrols. About five years ago funding for the Anglican Parish dried up, which meant that the church property was to be sold, thus removing organised Protestant Christian influence in the town and the huge region around Mount Magnet. Penny suggested to Stuart that the PIM should consider purchasing it, which would allow for the church to continue on and a PIM Patrol base to be established in the heart of the Mid West Patrol. The PIM agreed and at a very reasonable cost the property was acquired, with



the Anglican Diocese of North West Australia also generously transferring their church building and property in Meekatharra (two hours north of Mount Magnet, in the Gasgoyne) gratis to the PIM. The vision was to eventually develop another PIM Patrol base up there, to service the North West Patrol into the Pilbara and to the east into the 'red heart' of the continent. We agreed with the vision, but almost immediately I (Bert) was affected by health problems which required two major operations. We were sure that God was saying "Yes you can go to Mount Magnet but there are a few things to take care of first".

We knew something of the struggle that the Anglican Minister had in building a congregation. The main problems being that Mount Magnet has a transient population and that most townspeople generally feel that all is attainable by the strength of the human arm. We worked on building a congregation and gradually a small number of white and aboriginal people began to attend. Then things took off with a flourish and it was not unusual for meetings to be attended by 50 or more aboriginal people plus children. We took the opportunity to minister and there was much singing, praying and praising God. This was

often delivered from the back yard of the Manse through a loud speaker system which could be heard on the other side of town.

God had given the blessed opportunity to speak His word to these people for approximately 12 months. Then as quickly as it formed, the whole thing dissipated and people went in their various directions. We were bewildered and devastated as this happened and the biggest quandary and question for us was "why?" There was no easy answer. It can simply turn out that way and as Christians, we should just be thankful that we could touch those lives. We continued to do patrol ministry and conduct church services. We prayed for Aboriginal ministry but did not see how any future situation would come about. The aboriginal community continued to use us to conduct weddings and funerals.

When we first came to live at Mount Magnet, Penny had started a ministry with children, giving an icy-pole in summer and a biscuit in winter to all children who knocked at the Manse door. This gave opportunity for a dialogue with the children whereby Penny could speak about good manners and standards, as well as giving invitations to attend Sunday school to learn about the Lord Jesus. Some aboriginal women continued to meet with Penny in a ladies Bible group. Penny was also invited to speak and in one talk she spoke on the topics of "The Significance of women at Easter" and "The Crowning Qualities of Womanhood". The ladies enjoyed both talks and later requested copies.

Then in early 2013 I received a phone call from George Taylor, an Aboriginal Pastor of NSW. He said

Continued on next page



Mt Magnet PIM Church 9:30am every Sunday
Clive and Doreen Griffiths 0420 470 311

MISSION TO ALICE SPRINGS CHRIST COLLEGE OUTBACK GOSPEL OUTREACH

During the second week of April this year, 8 students from Christ College, Sydney visited Keith and Jenny Bell in Alice Springs. Together they had the opportunity to do evangelical work, cold calling, Bible studies and outreach initiatives such as letterbox

drops. Valuable opportunities for witnessing were gained through the students' optimism and the students were able to immerse themselves in the Alice Springs' way of life while getting to know the indigenous culture a little as well.



Left to right: Chor Tim Chan, Sei Hee (Paul) Cho, Kyeol Jung, Elise Funnel, Hugh Prattis, Rira Cho, Theodore Potts, David Burke



WITH GREAT THANKS TO ALMIGHTY GOD *from previous page*

that they had received a calling to come to Mount Magnet and minister to Aboriginal people. George is an Aboriginal man of the Badimia tribe which is of the Yamatji tribal area which includes Mount Magnet. He is married to Kate who is medically qualified in the areas of women's and children's health. They arrived in town in June 2013. They joined our Wednesday night Bible Study at the Manse and showed themselves to be devout, long standing Christians.

George wanted to commence a Yamatji congregation. While not part of the PIM, we were pleased to encourage the Yatmatji congregation in a number of ways. We are delighted and thankful for George and Kate and for their stable

Christian leadership for Aboriginal people of this area.

For some years I have officiated at the ANZAC Dawn Service at Mount Magnet. Last year I instigated wreaths being laid for Padres and Aboriginal ADF personell who had served at times of war. This year I invited George to join me and participate in the delivery of the ANZAC message.

As we mark the end of ten years of PIM patrol and church work, we look back and are very thankful for so much ministry to so many people and to see the Lord's Spirit so clearly at work! To Him be all the glory and praise!

Bert and Penny Pierce

**VIEWS BEYOND THE FURTHEST FENCE
CENTENARY VOLUME STILL AVAILABLE**

To commemorate the founding of AIM in 1912, Stephen Dyer was commissioned by the PIM to bring



together a collection of historical and contemporary photographs in a large format full-colour book entitled

VIEWS BEYOND THE FURTHEST FENCE. Stephen was selected because of his photographic skills and his personal commitment to the PIM. Over the years he has visited sites of historical significance to the PIM as well as travelling though various Patrol areas. Stephen currently serves as an elder of

the Kerang Presbyterian Church.

In addition to the magnificent photographs, VIEWS BEYOND THE FURTHEST FENCE contains an historical account of the work of the AIM and the PIM written by Stuart Bonnington. Stuart has done research in church history, with a special focus on the place of the Presbyterians in the Australian story. Stuart combines being the Superintendent of PIM with ministry at the Scots Church in Fremantle.

All profits from the sale VIEWS BEYOND THE FURTHEST FENCE will go to support the PIM. For bulk orders please contact the PIM Office.

MUNGO PATROL MORROWS SENT FORTH

'May the peoples praise you, O God; May all the peoples praise you.' (NIV)

On Friday 7 March members of the Sunraysia Presbyterian Church, and representatives of the Presbytery of North Western Victoria, the wider PCV and the PIM met together for the commissioning of Colin and Alison Morrow to parish and patrol.

The service of commissioning was led by Rev. Phil Burns (Presbytery Moderator) and Elder Tony Zirngast (Clerk of

Presbytery and elder at the Sunraysia congregation). Rt. Rev. Andrew Bray (representing the PCV Moderator), Mr. Denis Wright (representing the PIM Committee), Rev. Mark Smith (representing the PIM Superintendent and preacher for the service), Mr Mike Timmins (PIM Office Manager) and Rev. Dr Robert Carner (PCV Ministry Development Director) were in attendance joining with the Sunraysia people for this significant event for Colin and Alison, the congregation and the Mungo Patrol.



Sunraysia members from left to right, Tony Zirngast, Madge Brady, Ann Zirngast, Ros Voullaire, Alison Morrow, Colin Morrow, Robert Tierney, Bev Carter, Isabel Brooks.

The Mungo Patrol covers South West NSW and North Western Victoria.

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?"
And I said, "Here am I. Send me!" – Isaiah 6:8

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M: 0428 665 123 Southern Patrol WA (Denmark PIM Church)

David and Gae McDonald

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John Flynn Patrol SA ('Smith of Dunes' Beltana PIM Church)

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M: 0408 786 898 Central Patrol Qld

Roger and Margaret Crane E: rcrane@pim.org.au

M: 0439 515 163 North Patrol Qld

Laurie and Gwen Peake E: lpeake@pim.org.au

Leichhardt Patrol Qld M: 0427 486 677

Colin and Alison Morrow E: colinmorrow@pim.org.au; alisonmorrow@pim.org.au

M: 0407 220 005 Mungo Patrol NSW/Vic

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M: 0438 719 956 Alice Springs PIM Church

Rob and Jeanette Duncanson E: convener@pim.org.au

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Partnership

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE AUSTRALIAN PRESBYTERIAN WORLD MISSION



APWM
Australian Presbyterian
World Mission

81 Shaftesbury Road, Burwood NSW 2134
[02] 8073 7490 • national@apwm.org.au • www.apwm.org.au

2014 #3

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

DILI DELIGHT TIMOR LESTE TRAINING JUNE 2014

Dili, the capital city of Timor Leste, was the venue for the latest step in the partnership between Australian Presbyterians and the church in Timor Leste.

A training workshop for about 30 local church leaders was held in the new



church building in Dili on 9-13 June 2014. These workshops are proving to be an encouragement and help for attendees. Many of these leaders have limited training and most work in isolated and deprived settings.

Peter Burke (SIM Nigeria) led sessions on church finance and administration, assisted by Alex Ralston (APWM National Committee Treasurer). Dave Bell (Cornerstone Church, Concord) gave brief sessions on discipling ministry and the prayer life of a leader. David Burke (Christ College Sydney) spoke on Mark's Gospel and



preached at a public service.

Alex and Peter had pre-conference meetings with Synod leaders and Dave Bell stayed an extra week to investigate local mission possibilities. It was a first for brothers David and Peter Burke to minister together like this.

The new buildings were a great venue for the training. They are part-funded by Australian Presbyterians through PresAID, along with significant help from the Timor Leste government. When the full suite of buildings is completed later in 2014, the Dili church will be well-equipped for its own ministries. The buildings will also be a great venue for such events as the training ministry.

Where does the training go now? For several years we have run an annual workshop focussed around Christian character, Biblical and theological

knowledge, and ministry skills. It seems timely to develop these workshops into a more systematic programme to train existing church leaders. Plans are underway to hold a consultation on ministry training later in 2014, with a view to significant enhancement in coming years.



UPDATES

WORKPARTNERS DECEMBER 2014

We have another Workpartners trip coming up!

Dates: 5-22 December 2014.

Location: Talua Ministry Training Centre, Santo Island, Vanuatu

Cost: \$2100 - this covers flights (exiting Sydney or Brisbane), accommodation, food and visa costs. This does not include any passport related fees, immunisation or travel insurance costs.



ANDREW SCHACHE & JENERY
MEASURING UP NEW BOYS TOILETS

Passports must have at least 6 months validity before departure. Important Dates – full payment must be made by 5th November 2014. All application forms (Workpartners and Visa) must be submitted by the 20th of October 2014 to allow enough time for the sending and processing of your visa application form in Vanuatu. Visit our website for more information: www.apwm.org.au/what-we-do/workpartners/

APWM DIRECTORIES

The 2014-2015 APWM Directory is now available. Copies were recently sent to



parishes so if you would like one then please speak to your congregation's mission coordinator or your minister. APWM can supply more if needed.

MEAL FOR MISSION

Each year we encourage congregations to hold an annual 'Meal for Mission' as a way of raising awareness about overseas cross-cultural mission and as a means of providing financial support for APWM's overseas projects. We encourage you to choose a country from the list that can be found at www.apwm.org.au/partner-churches/ There you can download information sheets about each of our Partner Churches. Please encourage those in the congregation to give the cost of one meal toward the work of overseas mission.



NEW MISSIONARIES DEVELOPING SUPPORT

Neil & Rowan (Woonona, NSW, Pioneers, Southeast Asia) Neil and Rowan are joining a team in Southeast Asia to share Jesus with travellers and seekers. They are seeking to build a team of supporters around them and can be contacted at hippies@swissmail.org



NEIL AND ROWAN

Vivien Barton (Tamborine Mountain, QLD, SIM, Kenya) will serve as SIMpact coordinator assisting and mentoring short term missionaries to Kenya. Vivien is currently building partnership support and can be contacted at vivienjaybarton@gmail.com



VIVIEN BARTON

J (Western Blacktown, NSW, CMS, Middle East) is currently preparing for ministry in the Middle East and is seeking partnership support. Please contact the National Office for details.



Jared (Maroochydore, QLD, OM, West Asia) will be serving in West Asia from mid August. Please contact the National Office for details.

Paul & Elaine (Kingaroy, QLD, ICC, East Asia) will be involved in ministering to abandoned and disabled children. Please contact the National Office for details.



Mick Alley (Grace, NSW, AIM International, Kenya) will be serving in outreach and discipleship among the Samburu people. Mick can be contacted at mick.alley@gmail.com.



MICK ALLEY

Surendra & May'an Wesley (APWM/PIM, Western Australia) will be serving in outreach and discipleship in the remote mining town of Mount Magnet. APWM is still looking for pledges of support for this ministry to Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people in Western Australia.



SURENDRA AND MAY'AN WESLEY

Tumirin & Sheridan Indarto (Bundoora, VIC, Wycliffe, West Papua, Indonesia) are preparing to serve in community development and mother tongue school programmes.



TUMIRIN AND SHERIDAN INDARTO

MISSIONARY UPDATES

Morris & Florianna Key (Cornerstone Concord, NSW, APWM National Associates, Indonesia). Morris is currently the Senior Presbyterian Chaplain and the Director For the Centre for Pastoral Education at Westmead Hospital in NSW. In January 2015 Morris will take up a position in Indonesia training and supervising Hospital Chaplains for Private Christian Hospitals in Jakarta, Indonesia.



MORRIS AND FLORIANNA KEY

Paul & Jenny Rayner (Central Church Ipswich, QLD, Pioneers, Cambodia) have been commissioned and have left for Hope International School.



PAUL AND JENNY RAYNER

Congratulations to **Fiona Lockett** (Crossroads, TAS SIM, Chile) who married Pablo Sazo in June.



FIONA AND PABLO

Please note APWM National's new phone number and address 81 Shaftesbury Road, Burwood NSW 2134 (02) 8073 7490

“AFTER THIS I LOOKED AND THERE BEFORE ME WAS A GREAT MULTITUDE THAT NO ONE COULD COUNT, FROM EVERY NATION, TRIBE, PEOPLE AND LANGUAGE, STANDING BEFORE THE THRONE AND IN FRONT OF THE LAMB. (REVELATION 7:9)”

VANUATU NEW DAYS AT TALUA

In recent years APWM has focussed its partnership with the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu at the Talua Ministry Training Centre. Over the years we have seen a variety of Australians serving at Talua – Ian & Jenni Smith, Beryl Burke, Norah Taylor, Robert & Pam McKean, Darrell & Margaret Thatcher, Chris & Leah Balzer, Philip & Sandra Burns, Andy & Rosemary Williamson and Glen & Rachael Connor. In addition, there have been many Australians who have taught short courses. What a privilege to be in such a partnership!



BACHELOR OF MINISTRY HOUSING

PRINCIPAL DESIGNATE PASTOR
SELERICK MICHEL

I have just returned from my sixth visit to Talua. Talua today is very different from the Talua I first visited in 1990. The standard of education has increased so that it now offers a fully accredited Bachelor of Ministry and a Diploma of Theology. There is a library built by the niVanuatu and ourselves. There is housing for the families of students studying for the Bachelor of Ministry degree.

after 10 years at Talua. In addition, Andrew & Marilyn Schache will complete their service. Talua would welcome someone to replace Andrew in his hands-on maintenance/project management role. We would like to thank the Connors and Schaches for the way they have given of themselves to serve our brothers and sisters.



GLEN & RACHAEL CONNOR

2015 will bring other changes. God-willing, in January 2015 John & Kara Dekker from Victoria will replace the Connors. In August, Andy & Rosemary Williamson will complete their service. Who will replace the Williamsons? We are currently seeking suitable people to take on the challenging and yet rewarding task of equipping the next generation of pastors for Vanuatu. Perhaps this is something that God is leading you to consider?



JOHN & KARA DEKKER

PRAYER AND FINANCE Response Form

Please send to: **APWM**
81 Shaftesbury Rd, Burwood NSW 2134

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Church _____

I would like to support the following:
Missionary's Name _____

☐ Please send me the missionary's prayer letter.

☐ APWM ministry in a particular country _____

Please indicate an amount

☐ \$20 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100

☐ other \$ _____

Please indicate how regular your payment will be:

☐ one-off ☐ monthly ☐ quarterly

☐ half-yearly ☐ yearly

Four Ways to Give

1 Cheque (*made out to 'Australian Presbyterian World Mission'*)

2 Credit card ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard

Name on card: _____

Expires: ____/____

Signature: _____

Date of first payment _____

3 Direct debit

Your account name(s): _____

Signature _____

BSB _____

Account number _____

Bank name _____

Date of first payment _____

4 Direct deposit

Account: **Australian Presbyterian**

World Mission BSB: 032-260

Account number: 151207

Please write your name and the

surname of the missionary you are

supporting in the description box.

Please also email finance@apwm.org.au

telling us that you have made a deposit

and provide the name of the

missionary that you are supporting.

Enquiries

finance@apwm.org.au

02 8073 7490

www.apwm.org.au/supporting/finance



ANDREW & MARILYN SCHACHE

At the end of 2014 significant changes will take place as three long-term staff members finish. The principal, Pastor Fiana Rakau, will be succeeded by Pastor Selerick Michel. Cindy the librarian is leaving as well as church history lecturer Pastor Masia Nato and an ESL teacher from New Zealand.

2014 will be the final year of service for Glen & Rachael Connor

A MACEDONIAN CALL

Eighteen months ago, high school teachers Brian and Judy Cullen left their retirement to travel to Vanuatu to teach at the Tata Secondary School in Vanuatu. They have had to work through various obstacles – cultural communication, a lack of electricity, separation from family etc. – but they are finding it immensely rewarding! Brian and Judy will finish at the end of the year and the school would like APWM to replace them.

This raises a bigger issue. When Independence came to Vanuatu in 1980, the Church gave many of its schools to the Government. However, this has had a negative impact as secular values have led children away from Christ.

The Government now has plans to hand a number of schools back to



BRIAN & JUDY CULLEN

the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu. This means that the Church now has to prepare for the challenge that this will bring. We have been asked if we could do as we have done in the past and send Christian teachers to help shape the next generation of young people for Christ. Teachers don't just teach information, they model what it means to follow Christ.

Is this something that God is leading you to consider?

HAVE YOU THOUGHT OF INCLUDING APWM IN YOUR WILL?

If you would like to include APWM in your will, then you may like to use these words as a guide:

"I give to the Presbyterian Church Property Trust for the National Committee of the Australian Presbyterian World Mission [here insert a description of the bequest together with the amount of money or description of property

or other gift] free of testamentary charges and duties for [here insert 'its general purpose' or the specific purpose you desire] and I declare that the receipt of the Secretary of the Trust shall be sufficient to discharge to my Executors."

Please provide this wording to your Solicitor when seeking advice and assistance in drawing up your will.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO PROMOTE MISSION IN YOUR CONGREGATION?

A Mission Prayer Slot in Church

Our congregations typically set aside time for prayers of adoration/confession and intercession. Why not have a specific time to pray for mission — local and overseas?

Select some local mission activities such as

school scripture • your church's Kids' Club • playgroup • an upcoming evangelism event

Pray for one of these each week as well as praying for one of the missionaries associated with your congregation. If your church uses a data projector then you could put up a photo of the missionary and perhaps give a very short update on the missionary.



A Monthly Collection

Some churches have a monthly envelope they use to collect money for the particular missionaries they support. What about the younger generation? A specific bank account could be set up and they could be encouraged to set up a regular monthly deposit into that account. Some congregations collect people's loose change

once a month and use it not to pay for the missionaries' support but for a specific ministry need e.g. a new laptop, travel costs.

Sunday School

If your church supports missionaries who have children then you could have the Sunday School children send letters, packages or videos to the children. Talk about what it would be like to live in that country and culture. You could have one Sunday where you focus on the particular people group that the missionary family serves.

Mission Sunday Church Lunch

Hold a 'Mission Sunday' at church. Invite a guest speaker, focus on a particular APWM missionary activity overseas and use specific envelopes to encourage people to give the cost of one meal toward the cause of overseas cross-cultural mission. This could be followed by a church lunch.

Other ideas?

Do you have ideas that work in your congregation that could be used elsewhere? Please email kevinmurray@apwm.org.au with your suggestions and we'll share them around.



VANUATU: POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Theological Lecturer at Talua Ministry Training Centre

Late 2015/early 2016.

Qualifications • Master's degree in a theological discipline, preferably a research Master's degree • pastoral-evangelistic experience • cross-cultural experience (preferred)

Head Teacher English for Academic Purposes

Late 2015/early 2016. Oversee development of the Foundation Year and Bachelor of Ministry students' academic skills,

particularly in the area of English.

Qualifications • Master's degree in Teaching English for Academic Purposes or equivalent • experience in teaching.

Primary and Secondary Teachers: Various Locations

From 2015 onwards

Qualifications • academic qualifications appropriate to the area being taught • professional accreditation

Please note that all positions require the raising of partnership support.

AUSTRALIAN PRESBYTERIAN WORLD MISSION www.apwm.org.au

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3 Ways to Pray for our Enemies

by Joe Carter
An editor for The Gospel Coalition

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy,' said Jesus in his famous Sermon on the Mount. 'But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven.'" Matthew 5:43.

If you've ever wondered why many people refused to follow Jesus during his earthly ministry, you have to look no further than that verse.

In our day, we have watered down the term 'enemy' so much that this command has lost much of its shock value. Today, 'enemy' is used primarily in reference to people who are rude to us or treat us unkindly. We even use the portmanteau 'frenemy' to refer to an associate pretending to be a friend or someone who really is a friend but also a rival.

But in Jesus day, the Jews in Israel had real enemies. For the entirety of their existence as a people they had been fending off enemies - from their slavery in Egypt to the state of occupation by their latest enemy, the Roman Empire. Telling them to love and pray for enemies was akin to telling the Christians in Iraq to love and pray for ISIS.

And yet, that is exactly what Jesus was saying. When Jesus gave the command to love and pray for our enemies he knew it would one day require praying for Islamic extremist groups like ISIS and Al-Qaeda who murder his Bride. Jesus was saying that when we think of those people, we no longer even see them as enemies.

As John MacArthur explains, "we are not to be enemies of those who may be enemies to us. From their perspective, we are their enemies; but from our perspective, they should be our neighbors."

But how do we do that? How should we pray for these neighbors who want to murder members of our family? Such a task is difficult, but there are three specific ways we can pray for those who are engaged in persecution against Christians:

1. Pray for their conversion

There are two primary reasons we don't pray for the conversion of Islamic extremists. The first reason is that we believe it is absurd to think they'll become Christians. The second reason is that we fear they might actually convert.

The first reason is more common, since praying the terrorists will

convert seems like a useless plea. We recognize the theological truth that God can do for them what he did for us: provide the gift of grace that they might be saved. Ephesians 2:8.

But we look at the situation 'realistically' and tell ourselves that the probability of their genuine conversion is so close to zero that it would be a waste of our time (and God's) to even bother to ask.

No doubt such conversions are unlikely and rare. Yet we should pray for their conversion anyway. If we truly love our enemy, how could we not at least petition God on their behalf?

Another, less frequent, reason we don't pray for their conversion is because we fear they may actually repent.

Like Jonah in Nineveh, we want our enemies to receive their just desserts, not mercy and forgiveness. Consider all of the Christians who dutifully prayed for the Nazis. How would they have felt if they discovered that Hitler, in the moments prior to his death, had truly repented of his sins and was forgiven by God? Many of those Christians would have felt cheated, as if it was unfair of God to forgive such horrific crimes.

They would likely want to complain, as Jonah did when God spared the Ninevites, "I knew that you are a gracious and compassionate God, slow to anger and abounding in love, a God who relents from sending calamity". Jonah 4:2.

But it is precisely because He is a gracious and compassionate God that we ought to pray for the conversion of our enemies. How could we do anything less than ask God to show them the same grace shown to us?

2. Pray the evil they do may be restrained

There is no dichotomy in praying for the good of our enemy and praying that their evil actions be restrained. It is to their benefit as well as ours that they be prevented from committing more evil.

For those who have hardened their heart against God, it would be better that their life was shortened than for them to continue to persecute his children.

The protection of innocents from slaughter may require human governments to take military action against those Islamic extremists.

We are warranted in supporting the just use of force in restraining such

evil. But we should remember that while the death of the terrorists may be the only effective way to restrain their actions, we should not rejoice in their suffering or death. Proverbs 24:17.

3. Pray they will receive divine justice

Just as we seek justice on earth from duly established governmental authorities, we can seek the divine justice of our holy God. As John N. Day says, "Whereas love and blessing are the characteristic ethic of believers of both testaments, cursing and calling for divine vengeance are their extreme ethic and may be voiced in extreme circumstances, against hardened, deceitful, violent, immoral, unjust sinners".

In asking that divine justice be done, we should be careful to guard our motives. Praying for divine justice can be a way to circumvent our duty to love our enemy. While we must leave vengeance to God, we must not forget what is commanded of us. As Paul writes in Romans 12:19-21:

Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

In the order of our prayers, asking for divine justice should be included as the 'last resort' option, a plea for doing what is necessary for those who will neither turn to God nor turn away from doing evil.

As former enemies of God, we should be gracious and grateful that we are allowed to pray for our current enemies, secure in the knowledge that Jesus will hear us.

We should be thankful enough for the grace of God that we want even our enemies to receive it too. But if they refuse and harden their hearts against the one who would spare them, then we must ask they receive the divine retribution due everyone apart from the righteousness of Christ.

This article first appeared on 14 August 2014 on The Gospel Coalition website. Used with permission.

Ukraine: Praying for a Breakthrough

Independent from Russia only since 1991, Ukraine is not a monolithic state. Rather, it is an ethnicreligious 'faultline' state.

The northwest is predominantly ethnic Ukrainian, Ukrainian speaking and Ukrainian Orthodox and Catholic. The southeast is predominantly ethnic Russian, Russian speaking and Russian Orthodox.

The divide is reflected in voting patterns, making Ukrainian unity extremely fragile, something to be handled with great care.

When Ukraine held elections in 2010, opinion polls predicted that Viktor Yanukovich would win – and he did, convincingly.

In the parliamentary elections of 2012, Yanukovich's Party of Regions won 185 of 450 seats, 84 seats clear of its next rival.

As party leader, Mykola Azarov became Prime Minister. The Ukrainian ultranationalists and neoNazis won 37 seats in the parliament (almost 10% of the vote), having won none in the previous election. These groups are vehemently antiSemitic and anti-Russian.

In November 2013 opposition forces protested in Kiev, unhappy that Yanukovich had signed a trade pact with Russia rather than the EU.

Actually the deal being offered by oil and gas-rich Russia was much better than the deal being proposed by the cashstrapped, proausterity EU.

In a democracy, protests are permitted with the expectation that they will be civilised.

In Kiev, however, a coalition of antigovernment, ultranationalist and

neoNazi forces, including numerous neoNazi paramilitaries united under the umbrella of the Right Sector, joined the protest, strengthening it and putting it on a dangerous course.

AntiSemitism soared to the extent that Israel was forced to airlift Jews out of Ukraine. As Kiev started to resemble a war zone, the EU (led by Germany) and the US entered the fray, backing regime change. Eventually, Yanukovich fled to Russia and the US installed its man, Arseniy Yatsenyuk, as Prime Minister.

An interim government was formed that ensured the neoNazis and Right Sector militants, who had made regime change possible, were rewarded.

In their first act of legislation, the new regime voted to repeal the law that recognised Russian as an official language in Ukraine. Only when the EU objected did interim president Oleksandr Turchynov reverse the ruling.

It is unsurprising that eastern Ukraine's ethnic Russians felt disenfranchised and threatened and that predominantly Russian eastern regions subsequently voted to secede.

Rather than dialogue, Kiev opted for a punitive military campaign under the implausible pretext of 'anti-terrorism'.

This campaign is taking on all the characteristics of ethnic cleansing. Western silence seems to indicate that ethnic cleansing is permissible when the victims are ethnic Russians. (That looks like racism to me – EK).

The United Nations High Commission on Refugees reported on

5 August 2014 that Ukraine now has 117,000 internally displaced people, with eastern Ukrainians making up 87% of the country's IDPs. The number of displaced people from the Luhansk and Donetsk eastern regions has risen sharply from 2,600 in early June to 102,600 at the start of August and more than 6,200 civilians were forced from their homes in the first week of August.

The UNHCR has complained to Kiev about lack of coordinated relief efforts and the paucity of shelter, especially with winter approaching.

Furthermore, the UNHCR reports that masses of Ukrainians are fleeing to Russia under the visa-free regime; Russian authorities estimate the figure to be some 730,000 Ukrainians.

Jews are leaving for Israel. These refugees are fleeing endless shelling and the advance of neoNazi Right Sector militants. According to Kiev's own figures 1,129 civilians had been killed in eastern Ukraine and 3,442 injured by 28 July.

Russia is pressing for an unconditional ceasefire and the start of political dialogue but Kiev is resisting. Russia has appealed to the US to use its influence with Kiev to get the Right Sector paramilitaries reined in and disarmed.

Right Sector militants have been engaged in such unlawful actions in eastern Ukraine that Ukrainian police have been forced to arrest them.

Right Sector head Dmitry Yarosh (the interim government's Deputy Secretary of National Security) responded on Saturday, 16 August by slamming the police as 'anti-

Ukrainian'. He threatened 'to call off all our units on the front line, start a general mobilisation of reserve battalions and launch a march on Kiev'.

The next day Yarosh called off the march on Kiev when the authorities had agreed to release all Right Sector militants who had been detained.

Because the West has supported undemocratic regime change, ignored the rise of antiSemitic and antiRussian Ukrainian ultranationalism and is now tacitly supporting the ethnic cleansing of the eastern regions, it has made itself into an enemy.

This puts all Protestants and evangelicals living and especially ministering in the eastern regions in serious danger as rebel fighters will assume they are aligned with the enemy.

Recently four volunteers with Far East Broadcasting Company (Gospel radio) in eastern Ukraine were taken captive and savagely beaten to death, reportedly by militants from a separatist militia. Two of those killed were brothers and one was the father of eight children.

FEBC's radio towers in eastern Ukraine have been crippled in the fighting and a partner church has been overrun by rebels. If ever Ukrainians needed to 'tune in' to the Gospel, it is now. So too the belligerent, self-interested foreign powers that are fanning the flames of this totally unnecessary conflict.

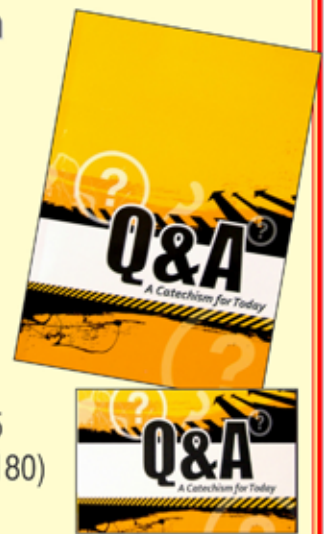
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“As former enemies of God, we should be gracious and grateful that we are allowed to pray for our current enemies, secure in the knowledge that Jesus will hear us.”

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your request to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”
Phillipians 4:6-7

QTC@Townsville Classes Begin

by Annette McGrath

An exciting new chapter began in August with the first Queensland Theological College (QTC), North Queensland class held in Townsville at Willows Presbyterian Church.

There were 18 students from 5 different churches enrolled in a class called 'Principles of Interpretation', taught by QTC Principal, Gary Millar.

Over three days the enthusiastic students examined the importance of history, literature and biblical theology when reading the Bible and began to learn how to communicate the message of any text in the context of the flow of the whole Bible.

They were equipped to understand how the whole Word of God fits together, how Jesus Christ is the key to all the Scriptures and to approach the task of interpreting any part of the Bible.

It was a terrific introduction to the 'Back to Basics' unit and one that all theological college students at QTC undertake at the beginning of their course.

For most of the students this was the first unit of study undertaken towards an entire accredited course such as the Graduate Diploma of Divinity or the Diploma of Theology and they are looking forward to more!

The class days were very full with much to learn, but comments from students ranged from 'excited' to 'refreshed', with the majority of students now anticipating their next unit on Jesus and the Gospels to be taught in the first semester of 2015.

Holding theological classes in North Queensland is an initiative QTC has been working towards for a number of years. The Committee

on Ministries Training along with the staff and students of QTC in the southeast were thrilled to have North Queensland students join the QTC family, to share the privilege of being fellow workers, teaching, learning and training together so that the Gospel may go out.

QTC is committed to serving people in this part of the State by continuing to offer units of study in intensive face-to-face mode, making it possible for students to complete one of the shorter qualifications, such as the Graduate Diploma of Divinity or the Diploma of Theology, entirely in North Queensland.

This first class was just the beginning of what the College hopes to be a vibrant centre for learning and equipping people for Gospel ministry.

For Christ and His Kingdom: The Life and Work of Francis Nigel Lee, Dallas Clarnette, Palmer Higgs Books, 2014.

by Peter Barnes

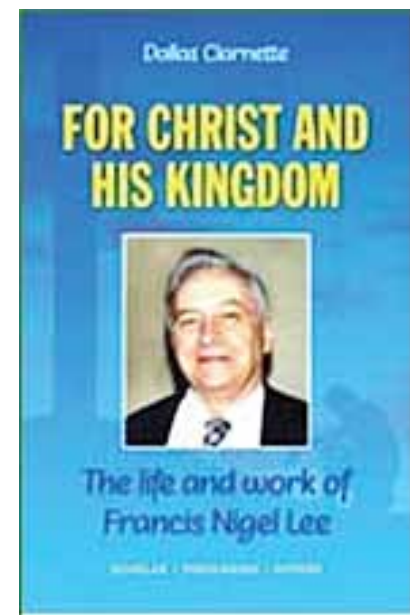
Francis Nigel Lee (1934-2011) was one of those larger than life characters who appears every so often. For a start, he took up more than the usual amount of space in the Australian Presbyterian Yearbook as it listed his ten doctorates. Raised by his atheist father and Roman Catholic mother, he was converted to the Reformed faith in a goldmine explosion in South Africa in 1955.

Coming to Queensland to teach theology, Professor Lee made an impact on the wider Presbyterian Church of Australia, as well as lecturing in other parts of the world, notably the USA and South Africa. He was particularly prominent in the 1991 decision of the General Assembly of Australia not to admit women into the pastorate. For this he was sued, along with Dr Allan Harman and Elder John Mill.

In 1994 his aged father was attacked by an intruder in his home, and died as a result of his injuries. Lee was able to visit the guilty man, and presented him with the Gospel of free grace in Jesus Christ. He responded warmly to this, and the correspondence between the two men is reproduced here. It reveals that Dr Lee was more than simply a talking head, capable of arguing any case he wanted to. He was a barrister and a theologian but also a warmhearted evangelist.

One need not agree with everything he wrote on the book of Revelation or the details of theonomy to welcome this biography of an extraordinary man.

This article first appeared in New Life on 1 September 2014. Used with permission.



QTC - Event Roundup

by Naree Keighley

The month of August saw an unprecedented line-up of guest speakers dropping in to QTC to speak to students and guests.

It started with Kathleen Nielson who spoke at the weekly 'Window on the World' session about her work as Director of Women's Initiatives for The Gospel Coalition.

Kathleen also spoke at a day conference 'Dazzled by Grace' for women hosted at the Brisbane Convention Centre, where about 400 women came along to hear her speak on the Psalms.

Dr Michael Horton, who lectures in systematic theology and apologetics at Westminster Seminary, California, gave us a preview of his yet-to-be-released book 'Ordinary: Sustainable Faith in a Radical, Restless World'.

He then took questions on a wide range of topics.

To finish the month off we had Matt Chandler, lead pastor of The Village Church in Dallas, Texas, come to speak to the students and invited guests at QTC. Matt is the president of the Acts 29 Church Planting Network.

He spoke about his experience starting at a church with 160 people which has now grown to over 12,000 at a number of sites.

Matt also spoke at an evangelistic event 'Proclaim Jesus' at the Brisbane Convention Centre where 1000 people attended.

It has been a real treat for students to have access to these high-calibre speakers, and though it made for a busy month it was well worth it.

Students and Staff delve into Ezekiel



Rev Dr Gary Millar and Prof Daniel Block

QTC's Lecturer in Old Testament, Tony Pyles, enjoyed a day being a 'student' again when Prof Daniel Block came to teach on Ezekiel. Here's what he had to say about the one day conference.

One of my greatest joys as a teacher is sharing my passion for the Old Testament with students. There is something about the slow change from confusion to delight, the transition from folded arms to heads bent down over the text, that makes lecturing not a 'job' but a 'privilege'.

A month or so ago, I got a great reminder of what it's like on the other side of that transformation.

At the end of July, a humble but passionate man who loves Jesus, loves the church, and loves the Bible came to QTC to teach us about this strange book called Ezekiel. That man was Prof Daniel Block. Though he was here to teach a Master of Arts class, the Monday was open to anyone, so the room was full of students, pastors, and a number of interested lay people.

I believe I'm not the only one who left at the end of the day feeling like this strange and wonderful book might just be my favourite!

Prof Daniel Block, who teaches Old Testament at Wheaton College in the US, has written commentaries on books such as Judges, Ruth, Obadiah, Deuteronomy and Ezekiel. He's a recognized name and does fine work, but there's only so much you can tell about a person from what they write.

What he shared with us at QTC that morning, and with some students over the course of a whole week, was not just insight and information, but an infectious and transforming passion: passion for Jesus, passion for the Bible, and passion for seeing challenging and strange parts of God's Word do their transforming work in His people.



Dr Michael Horton and Rev Dr Gary Millar



Left to Right: Fiona Millar, Kathleen Neilson and Robyn Bain

Cross Cultural Mission - Army Chaplaincy

by Rev Dan Cassidy



Rev Dan Cassidy serves as Chaplain to The First Battalion The Royal Australian Regiment in Townsville and is a member of Willows Presbyterian Church.

When I think of missions I often think of overseas missions. I think of the long running involvement that the Presbyterian Church has had with the Bible College in Talua, Vanuatu. I think of the Evan's Eight in Japan and Chandra Smith in Ecuador.

Yet apart from our mission to those within the communities around our church, we have an amazing opportunity to do cross cultural mission right here in Australia. You guessed it, the 80,000 men and

women that serve in our Defence Force need to hear the Good News about what Jesus has done for them and Defence sees fit to ensure that this happens.

The typical Aussie bloke may appear a little rough and a little tough to crack. But my experience has been that once you crack that nut there's a soft kernel inside. So too with soldiers. They are spiritually hungry.

When challenged about the great truths of the Gospel and the emptiness of their own lives many respond for the first time in faith.

From an Army perspective, most soldiers enter service through the Army Recruit Training Centre (ARTC) Kapooka. Kapooka is 'the home of the soldier', the place where every enlisted soldier receives his/her induction to army life. But often it's also the first place that soldiers will experience what church is like, having never attended or grown up in a church before. And first impressions count.

From that first experience of church at Kapooka, some fall away but many continue in their new found faith.

Chaplains play an important part in this process because as missionaries to another culture (if you haven't guessed, the Army has a culture all of its own) they serve as the conduit for soldiers to consider their belief system, worldview, and the reality of death - their own and others - and ethical decision making at home and on operations.

There is a great hunger for the Word of God. We need chaplains that are proactive, passionate and able to communicate God's truths effectively

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or contact the Director, Jesse on 0413 078 684

email: director@insideoutchaplaincy.org.au; post: PO BOX 513 Red Hill Qld 4059

insideout
CHAPLAINCY



1RAR soldiers deploy from an MRH90 during EX CATA14

Scripture Union Caloundra Chaplaincy Fundraiser

by Rev Prof Ian McIver

On the last Saturday in July a team of members from the Caloundra congregation hosted an all day fundraiser for the Scripture Union Caloundra Chaplains outside the local Bunnings Warehouse.

For part of the day the team was joined by two of the local chaplains, Di Mesa from Currimundi State School and Craig McMillan from Caloundra State School.

Bunnings has a national programme to support local community charities by providing all the gear necessary for

a barbeque, including tents and even the 'kitchen sink'.

The charities only need to provide a team of people to run the barbeque, and enough sausages, bread, onions and drinks to last the day.

A wide range of local charities take part in these fundraisers from surf life saving clubs to service clubs, and now a local Presbyterian Church.

The whole day was busy, but as might be expected business picked up during mid-morning and was constant until early afternoon.

Altogether our team was able to raise over \$1,300 from the sale of sausages and drinks.

Our thanks go to the local IGA store which provided the sausages without charge, and to Coles for the provision of about twenty dozen cartons of soft drink at a reduced price.

We also wish to thank Mr Howard Montgomery who provided a friendly face as Community Co-ordinator on behalf of Bunnings in Caloundra.



Members of the fundraising team from the Caloundra congregation



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Farewell *Lynda Rackley*...



Lynda returning to the office from her last Assembly



Lynda leaving with her presents

When I commenced work with the Presbyterian Church of Queensland 27 years ago, the plan was to stay for two years while I completed a Grad Dip in Second Language Teaching.

Three years previously I had left Commercial Teaching at Mt Gravatt State High School to complete a Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of Queensland.

During that time I lived for a year in South India with an Indian family to experience a different culture while studying externally.

Never did I expect to be here 27 years later; nor that this would be the job from which I retired. But I had determined early in my life to live in obedience to God and to trust Him in whatever circumstances I found myself. So this has been quite a journey and this is the place He chose for me to learn the lessons He had to teach me.

My first position was as Secretary to the Director of Home Ministry and Christian Education from 1987 to 2004.

In all those years, I remember twice – for 15 minutes – having caught up on all my work. It was an extremely busy time with a lot of responsibility. Many volunteers helped out in the work and it was fun working with them.

Circumstances changed and in 2004, I moved to the position of Secretary to the Clerk of Assembly

and Editor of *New Directions*. Even though it was now less busy with computerisation and extra staff, the job was varied and the combination of legal and creative aspects kept it interesting.

Highlights (in no particular order) have been time spent at Assembly (meeting ministers, elders, missionaries, Church members, representatives from entities associated with the Presbyterian Church and para-organisations), the early Assembly dinners, compiling *New Directions*, quiet chats about life, doctrine and the direction of the Church, friendships I have made, and learning about a denomination and how it functions.

Any achievements are bound up with what I have learnt along the way. All the publications I spent hours helping compile in the 90s - Vacation Bible School workbooks and craft packs, OHP sets, study books etc - have all gone. It was fun doing them but they no longer exist.

What I have achieved is that I know that God is faithful and that no matter how bad things get, He is worth holding on to. Forgiveness is essential for you to move on in life - harbouring resentments and disappointments destroys who you are and what you can give. God is the One who changes things in His time and it is OK if He doesn't change things - He gives you the strength and

the courage to go through them.

And as in the words of the chorus, I know that 'God's love never gives up on me' and His purpose is to make me more like Christ.

These have been valuable lessons (some harder to learn than others) but I am so grateful to leave here whole and contented.

I'm not sure what the future holds but I'm certainly excited about the next stage of my life. Parents who need care and help, family and friends I love spending time with, travelling, gardening, reading, making photo books, family tree research, ways I can help my own church, helping in the Presbyterian archives, movies, sewing, volunteer work in the community are all ideas I have.

But I want to take three months out to decide what, where and how ... and maybe God has totally different plans.

I always found Ecclesiastes depressing when I was young, but looking back now I can see great wisdom in the last two verses:

Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind. For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil. Ecclesiastes 12:13,14

Introducing Paul and Elaine

[NB This article and photo should not be reproduced on any social media, email or website without removing Paul and Elaine's surname and photo as they are ministering in a sensitive area.]

While at Sydney Missionary and Bible College during the 1970s God gave us a heart for missions. After graduating, Paul went on to serve as a Home Missionary with the Presbyterian Church of Queensland for 12 years while Elaine looked after their growing family and later worked as a nurse/midwife in the various local hospitals where they lived around the state. The family of five is now grown-up and we are grandparents to eleven lively youngsters.

When Ruth, our oldest daughter, and her husband, Dave went to China with International China Concern (ICC) we went to visit them as members of a short term mission team – just to see what they were doing and to be able to share with folks at home first-hand knowledge and experience.

Whilst we spent time with disabled and abandoned children, and their carers at the ICC centre at Hengyang our hearts were touched. We became acutely aware that Australian children who need specialist care and therapies have such ready access to these services while their counterparts in China are not so blessed.

Returning home was difficult. Returning to China was inevitable!

As we talked together about another short term team we realised that God had a place and a purpose for us to serve on a long term basis.

Our application to ICC was accepted at the end of last year and our journey started in earnest. It was an exciting day when we heard that APWM and ICC had established a partner agency relationship.

Deputation started for us at our home church on 30 March.

Since then we have travelled to a number of churches in southern Queensland sharing our vision for the future and our journey to China.

As we travel, we take our China 'toolbox' with us so we can give folks a taste of what we will be doing at the children's centre at Changsha. It

is very different from your regular toolbox – filled with soft toys, skipping ropes, colouring books, crayons, hand creams for massaging tight limbs, LOTS OF BUBBLE MIX, a stethoscope (somewhere in there) and, most importantly, our hearts for the children of China.

We would love to be heading there around the beginning of February 2015 but this is obviously dependent on building our team of partner supporters here.

It is not an easy road; asking people to financially sow into one's vision never really finds one in their comfort zone. This task often falls to Paul alone for the moment as Elaine is still a fulltime shift worker until early October.

Disabled and abandoned children in China have nothing without an advocate to speak for them. We have joined a team of passionate advocates who are committed to bringing love, hope and opportunity to these children and young people.

Now we are working towards the day when we are able to be with them, experience life with them and enlarge their world as we bring them the love of a wonderful Father with the help of hundreds of His caring people from other parts of the world.

If you would like to partner with us on this journey we need faithful prayers and encouragers as well as financial supporters. We would also welcome opportunities to speak about these beautiful children, the work of ICC and our small part in it.

Do check out the International China Concern website www.chinaconcern.org

On My Shelf: Life and Books with Matt Chandler

by Matt Smethurst
Associate Editor for The Gospel Coalition

On My Shelf is a series which helps you get to know various writers through a behind-the-scenes glimpse into their lives as readers.

What's on your nightstand right now?

I'm reading 'A Season on the Brink' by John Feinstein and 'How Africa Shaped the Christian Mind' by Thomas Oden.

What are some books you regularly re-read and why?

'Knowing God' by J. I. Packer
'Desiring God' by John Piper
'The Chronicles of Narnia' by C. S. Lewis

The first two books put the immensity of God in front of me. They are like a warm blanket to my soul. Lewis' Chronicles have always had a deep effect on my emotions. They profoundly stir my affections for God.

What books have most profoundly shaped how you serve and lead others for the sake of the Gospel?

'The Christian Ministry' by Charles Bridges and 'Biblical Eldership' by Alexander Strauch have helped shape how I lead and serve others.

What biographies or autobiographies have most influenced you and why?

Bonhoeffer and 'Amazing Grace' by

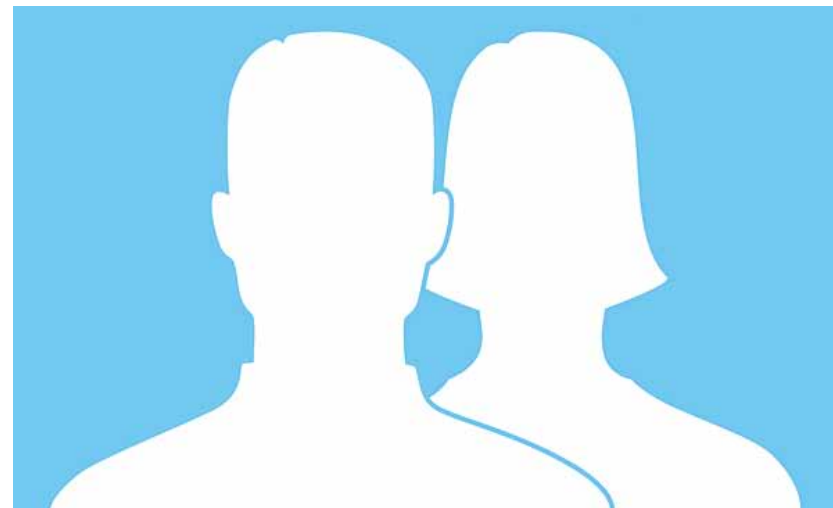
Eric Metaxas as well as 'The Last Lion' series on Winston Churchill are my favourite biographies. In each of them there are extreme peaks and valleys wrapped into fights that were worth having and wouldn't be cheap to win. I need to be reminded of that truth often.

What are your favourite fiction books?

I don't read a lot of fiction

(besides The Chronicles of Narnia). This past year I have devoured Cliff Graham's 'Lion of War' series on David's mighty men.

This interview first appeared on 7 April 2014 on The Gospel Coalition website. Used with permission.



Soldarity Sunday

Rt Rev David Cook

The Australian Christian Lobby, in consultation with churches throughout Australia has set aside Sunday, 2 November as Solidarity Sunday.

This gives Christians in our relatively safe and secure Australia, the opportunity to pray for and stand with our brethren, especially in the Middle East, who are enduring dreadful persecution because of their discipleship of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Sunday, 2 November is also the International Day of Prayer for the persecuted Church and we are asked especially to pray for persecuted Christians and other religious minorities suffering in the Syria-Iraq crisis.

The Lobby will also be producing a short video, this will be available at www.acl.org.au. T-shirts with the Arabic letter "N" for Nazarene as a visual demonstration of solidarity may also be purchased.

Local congregations may consider a retiring offertory to be given to APWM for those working in the sensitive areas (www.apwm.org.au) or to Middle East Reformation Fellowship (MERF www.merf.org).

These are Spurgeon's words:

Plead with God, plead with God, plead with God!

That praying is poor shift that is not made up of pleading. "Bring forth your reasons", said the Lord. Bring forth your strong arguments. O what strong prayers were those of John Knox, when he seemed to say to God "Save Scotland for this reason – for that reason – for another reason – for yet one more reason." The number of his motives still multiplying with the fervour of his heart. So did he labour with God as though he pleaded for his life, and would not let him go until he had gained his suit for Scotland!

PLANNING AHEAD GIVES YOU PEACE OF MIND – THE VALUE OF ADVANCE CARE PLANNING

Imagine you became very sick and couldn't talk to your doctor about your treatment.

One of the hardest situations for a doctor is to be called to a person with a critical illness, when there is no plan in place. Some people may be suffering from a chronic illness which has made their quality of life poor, others whose quality of life may have been good right up to this sudden illness.

The doctor faces the challenge of deciding whether to start invasive medical care and intensive care, without knowing if the client would want this.

Advance Care planning is a process that helps you plan your medical care in advance so if you become too unwell to make decisions for yourself, your wishes can still be respected by your health care team and your family.

Having a nominated Enduring Power of Attorney and an Advance Care Plan or an Advance Care Directive allows you to plan ahead of time; decide what to do when faced with critical end of life illness. Discussing your plan with your family, GP and health professional will help reduce stress if an emergency should happen.

There are three ways to record your advance care wishes.

1. Completing an Enduring Power of Attorney (personal/health matters)

This is a legal document that enables you to appoint another person to make personal/medical treatment decisions on your behalf.

This person, referred to as your Attorney (EPA), can make personal/health care decisions on your behalf only if you are not able to make or communicate decisions.

It is important to note there are two distinct types of attorney: general power of attorney (financial matters) and enduring power of attorney (health/personal matters). Your Enduring Power of Attorney (personal/health matters) is not automatically authorised to make financial decisions for you and vice versa.

When selecting someone to be your attorney, it's important to choose someone whom you can trust; who knows you well and is willing to respect your views and values and who is able to make decisions under circumstances that may be difficult or stressful. They must be over 18.

You can complete an Enduring Power of Attorney (EPA) yourself but you may wish to first consider talking to your solicitor, the Public Trustee, financial planner, or others who can give you professional advice tailored to your circumstances.

The Enduring Power of Attorney (EPA) form can be obtained from your local newsagent or through the Qld Government/Adult Guardianship website.

2. Completing an Advance Health Directive

An Advance Health Directive is a Queensland legal document which will assist in medical decisions when you lose the ability to make or communicate your medical choices.

It's important to note, this

document will come into effect ONLY if you lose the capacity to make or communicate decisions about your health care.

The Advance Health Directive form can be obtained from your local newsagent or through the Qld Government/Adult Guardianship website. It is important to involve your family, doctor and any nominated Enduring Power of Attorney (if appointed) in your decision making.

3. Documenting your wishes on an Advanced Care Plan Document

The Advance Care Plan is designed to inform your family, doctor, health care team and Enduring Attorney of your medical treatment wishes in order to assist them in making decisions when you can no longer do so. Your wishes as expressed on this document will still be taken into consideration if you lose capacity.

It is still important to discuss your wishes with your family, doctor and Enduring Attorney (if appointed).

You can change or cancel your Advance Care Plan, Advance Health Directive and/or Enduring Power of Attorney at any time, as long as you are capable of understanding your decisions. This can be done in writing by completing a new document.

Advance Care Planning helps you to think, and talk to your family and/or friends and doctor, about your future health care if you become seriously ill. It enables your family or someone appointed by you to have something in writing for doctors to consider and respect.

BRISBANE BUSINESSES ON PAR TO SUPPORT REDUCTION OF SOCIAL ISOLATION IN THE ELDERLY

Over 50,000 Brisbane seniors are among an increasing number of Australians at risk of depression and early death due to social isolation, identified as one of the most serious mental and physical health risks facing the nation.

PresCare again joined forces with Woollam Constructions to host the eighth annual PresCare Woollam Constructions Charity Golf Classic in Brisbane on Monday, 1 September, raising funds to help combat this growing problem in our ageing population.

PresCare Chief Executive Officer Greg Skelton said that more and more of our older people will experience

social isolation which can occur when families move away or a partner passes away, resulting in minimal interaction with others and a low level of involvement in community life.

"Social isolation is experienced by one in four older Australians with research suggesting it is equivalent to the harmful effects of smoking 15 cigarettes a day or consuming more than six alcoholic drinks daily. It is more harmful than not exercising and twice as harmful as obesity", Mr Skelton says.

Funds raised at the event reached almost \$47,000 and will go directly towards research and developing social inclusion initiatives for the

elderly.

"Older Queenslanders who stay in their own homes, often alone, are most at risk of social isolation and its impacts", Mr Skelton says.

"As our population ages and seniors make up a greater proportion of our communities, we are likely to see more and more people at risk of social isolation."

PresCare is commissioning significant research projects into social isolation and the money raised at the Charity Golf Classic will help PresCare develop programs to reconnect lonely people in the local community.



The teams line up to start the day

PresCare believes in providing more than just physical care

Our dedicated team across Queensland provides friendship and care to thousands of individuals through our residential, community, independent living, allied health and chaplaincy services.

Different levels of care are designed to meet the varying needs of our clients while maintaining their independence, dignity and connection to the broader community.

For more information about our range of services, visit www.prescare.org.au or call us on 1800 773 722.



www.prescare.org.au
A Ministry of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland

50 YEARS

PresCare
more connected

CONGREGATIONS SUPPORT PRESCARE'S CHAPLAINS' APPEAL

Thanks to the support of many of the congregations across Queensland, PresCare's inaugural Chaplains' Appeal raised nearly \$12,000 towards their \$50,000 campaign target for the year.

As you know, PresCare is a Mission of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland and has been supporting the elderly and most vulnerable in our communities for the last 85 years.

PresCare Director of Chaplaincy John Gilmour says that thanks to many generous donors during the 2013 Christmas Appeal, PresCare raised half of its \$50,000 target. The support of congregations for the 2014 Chaplains' Appeal, as well as that of suppliers and clients of PresCare, means that PresCare has now moved \$12,000 closer to their goal.

"Funds raised through this campaign, as well as the other fundraising events we hold over the next 12 months, will help PresCare research and develop innovative initiatives to assist older Queenslanders at risk of

social isolation and its associated consequences of loneliness, withdrawal and depression", John says.

PresCare believes people live more enriched and fulfilling lives when they are connected to care services, their families and their communities.

Spiritual and pastoral care can lead to a better quality of life. Sharing a meal, discussing the news of the day, enjoying beautiful music, swapping stories, and simply connecting with others is vital.

These are a small example of what our care teams will be able to achieve with funds raised. All social activities bring companionship and happiness to people who spend most of their time alone, day after day, month after month.

"Thank you to everyone that contributed to this campaign, and indeed to those of you that are regular supporters of PresCare", John says.

"With your help, PresCare is able to fulfill our mission of Christ in all we do."



PresCare clients enjoying one of the Kawana Friendship Group outings

KINGSFORD

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

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

PresCare



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

Grindley Construction to Build Stage One of Kingsford Terrace



Representatives from Grindley Construction, PresCare CEO Greg Skelton and Pioneer Club members admire the Kingsford Terrace model

PresCare announced the appointment of Brisbane's Grindley Construction as the building contractor for stage one of Kingsford Terrace, the organisation's \$100M retirement living development, at an event on Thursday, 28 August.

Kingsford Terrace is on the site of the former Hopetoun Aged Care and Independent Living Facility in Corinda, which has been part of PresCare for 85 years.

The new community, named after aviator Sir Charles Kingsford Smith, will be home to 200 residents, with the 34 stage-one apartments due for completion in 2015. The development is the first premium retirement living village in Brisbane's inner west and will be an integral part of the Corinda community.

PresCare Chief Executive Officer Greg Skelton said, "Grindley Construction has an excellent reputation as a builder of retirement living facilities, and has won a number of Master Builder Association Awards over the years including this year's Excellence in Housing Award for BallyCra in Scarborough."

"PresCare was seeking a partner in this build, not just a contractor," he said. "This is a project which has been dear to the heart of all of our Board and Executive Team for several years now. We are confident Grindley Construction are as dedicated to our vision as we are."

Grindley Construction has a 25 year history of creating innovative projects in a broad range of sectors including aged care, retirement, commercial, education and health. With more than 300 properties added to their portfolio in that time, their experience in retirement living and aged care has seen them add more than 35 retirement living developments across Queensland and New South Wales.

Also at the event in August, Kingsford Terrace Ambassador Mike Munro inducted a number of future residents into the Pioneer Club. They each received a memento highlighting their loyalty to the development and membership of this prestigious club. Once the Southern Cross Community Centre is complete, they will see their names inscribed on a plaque in the centre.

New e-Book Resource!

TRUTH Matters

'We are living in times of an explosive growth in knowledge — except in the knowledge of God and therefore of ourselves.' – David Cook
Eight chapters, each with study questions.

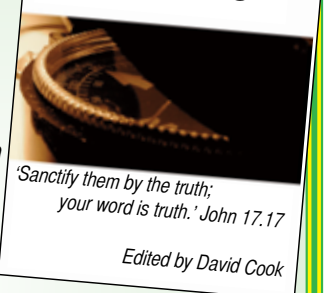
e-Book price: \$10

(Includes licence for up to 10 copies)

Email: Greg Goswell

christianedpca@gmail.com

TRUTH MATTERS



'Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.' John 17.17

Edited by David Cook

Widow's Life Changed by Bible Literacy

Annpurna is a widowed mother of five living in India. Annpurna encountered Jesus through Bible League's Bible-based literacy class and her life was totally transformed.

"As a full-time mother, I worried about my children's future. But one day, this changed," Annpurna said. "Brother Nishant, a Bible League trained literacy leader, came to my house. He shared the Gospel with me and invited me to Bible-based literacy class."

"I decided to try it. When I went, he taught us about reading, writing and Jesus. Brother Nishant also said (referring to Jesus), 'Cast your burden upon Me because I understand your worries quite well'."

"These words gave me peace. Since then, I attend Bible-based literacy

class regularly. And now I can read and write very well and read God's Word. I am a totally changed person because I know Christ as my Saviour", she reveals.

The Holy Spirit didn't stop with Annpurna. "My children have also met Jesus!", she said with evident joy. "Today, Christ is the head of my family."

Meeting Jesus through the Word... because of people like you providing Bibles, people like Annpurna learn to read and write from God's Word.

Through your prayers and support, you provide Bibles, training and Bible-based literacy resources so people like Annpurna can read, write, and know Jesus.

Thank you!



Our Vision

We see a world...where everyone can have and understand a Bible so they may have faith in Jesus...where everyone can find a Bible study group...where everyone can have fellowship in a thriving church. **Can you see it too?**

BibleLeague
INTERNATIONAL

Letters to the Editor

We would encourage all who contribute to Letters to the Editor to do so in the spirit of Christian love and grace and to deal with issues involved, not personalities. The Editorial Committee reserves the right to decide which letters to publish. Please limit letters to 500 words and send to newdirections@pcq.org.au.

A disaffected reader

My name is Rob Johnson, and I am the Session Clerk at the Charleville Presbyterian Church.

I have read Roland Lowther's column on self-vindication. I was filled with concern for what was contained in this column, I guess that makes me one of the disaffected and disgruntled faction.

I think I can see what he is trying to say, that as leaders, sometimes we have to make difficult decisions for the good of the church that we lead. The message in this column however comes across as arrogant, no thought that he could possibly be wrong. We are also a church governed by elders, and as such most of these decisions should be the Session decision, not his alone.

I will agree that self-vindication is not something that should be common practice in our ministry. Roland cites Paul's ministry as a man who could have practised self-vindication but didn't, and he quotes Galatians 2: 20. However he should have read the verses from the start of Galatians 2. then.

I have found over the years that in most cases the reason people get upset about decisions they don't like is because they don't understand them.

This may be because they are immature as Christians and are not looking at it from the biblical point of view, but from a personal or worldly view.

Or it may be because as leaders we haven't taken the time, or haven't done a very good job of explaining why we are making the decision.

It could also be because we haven't built up a level of trust with the congregation.

Whatever the reason, we need to work with these people, not to vindicate ourselves, but to help them understand the reasons for the decision, and from a biblical perspective, why it was the right one. And we need to be open to the fact that if some are upset, maybe, just maybe, we have made the wrong decision.

We may be presented before God the Father as without blemish or stain, but it is through the blood of Christ.

The process of making this perfect is ongoing, and we will stumble.

It concerns me that Roland does not seem to be concerned with mending fences, but is encouraging our church leaders to build the fences. If our churches are to grow and fulfil the great commission, we need to be two things, a church that lives by the teaching of the Bible, and a church that is filled with love for Jesus, and each other. If we don't make every effort to be unified as the body of Christ we will fail this great commission miserably.

Nothing turns the nonbeliever away from a church like disunity, and nothing will draw them in more than a church full of love for Jesus and each other.

Yours in Christ.

Rob Johnson, Charleville.
bigrobxx@bigpond.net.au

VACANCY Caloundra Presbyterian Church

Are you an ordained minister who has a heart for missions, preaches the Bible evangelically and is looking for a sea change? Then we might be the place for you.

Ideally we require you to be:

- At least one term in another charge;
- Preferably with a young family;
- Keen to grow a church;
- Interested in reaching out to young families and youth.

Caloundra Presbyterian Church is located on the Sunshine Coast in Queensland. They have three services each Sunday, a viable Committee of Management, forward looking Session, strong outreaching PWA, strong Mission Committee and strong Outreach and Nurture Committee.

For further information please contact Session Search Elder, Randall Roberts on (H) 07 5437 3494, (M) 0419602257, marran@bigpond.net.au or Session Clerk, Wayne McMaster on (H) 07 5439 7131 or wayne.mcm@bigpond.com.

Presbyterian Women's Association of Australia (Queensland Unit)

Report on 2014 Assembly Week Activities

by Mrs Heather Burton, Secretary

41st Annual AGM and State Conference

Monday, 30 June was a chilly but glorious day for 81 PWA members, friends and guests who attended the 41st Annual AGM and State Conference held at Ann Street Presbyterian Church. The theme was 'Faithfulness' from the scripture reading Lamentations 3:22,23:

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases. His mercies never come to an end, they are new every morning; great is Thy faithfulness."

It was our pleasure to welcome the newly inducted State Moderator Rt Rev Phil Case. He was accompanied by his Chaplains, Rev Ross Wilson and Mr Robert Thompson.

We were delighted to hear an introit and later an anthem from the Sunshine Coast Presbyterian Ladies Choir.

The guest speakers for the day were Mrs Ruth Jones, who spoke on the theme scripture from Lamentations; Miss Christine O'Gorman sharing about her role as chaplain at Somerville House; and Mrs Jan Langbridge speaking about her recent holiday to visit Rose, John, and the grandchildren in Japan, and an update on their ministry to the Japanese people.

The Moderator inducted the office bearers for the 2014/2015 year, gave encouragement to the ladies and accepted the Burning Bush Project

cheque on behalf of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland. The amount of \$3,100 is to go towards refurbishments at the Lake Tinaroo Campsite.

After a delicious lunch of sandwiches, slice, cake and fruit we gathered for our afternoon session.

When our guest speakers finished, the meeting was closed by our President Mrs Heather Ross. While the congregation was leaving the church, the organist, Mrs Shirley Pollock played the Hallelujah Chorus. A very 'fitting' end to a wonderful day with the Lord and each other.

41st Annual Report of the Presbyterian Women's Association of Australia (Qld Unit)

On Tuesday, 1 July, at Clayfield College, the President of PWA of Aust. (Qld Unit) Mrs Heather Ross, Secretary Mrs Heather Burton and Treasurer Mrs Beverley Horgan were presented to the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland.

Mrs Heather Ross addressed the Assembly and presented a copy of the 41st Annual Report for the year 2013 of the PWA of Aust. (Qld Unit).

Brisbane City Hall

The final day of our activities commenced on a chilly Wednesday morning at the Brisbane City Hall where 20 ladies braved the cold to have a guided tour through the City Hall, which has been restored to its

former glory. It is magnificent.

The main auditorium is designed so that the interior is unhindered by columns. The central lighting is known as the Oculus and has a myriad of colours when switched on.

We heard the pipe organ, which has over 4,300 pipes, being played. It was brilliant.

We viewed the auditorium through the original timber and heritage windows uncovered during restoration.

The guide obtained permission to visit the 'Gold Leaf Mirror' room where the Lord Mayor greets and entertains guests.

We also visited the museum to see and read the history of Brisbane City. The museum is referred to as 'the Jewel in the Crown' for receiving many prestigious awards.

By 12.30pm it was time for lunch. More ladies joined us for lunch at the historic Shingle Inn. The fixtures and furnishings are from the original café in Edward Street.

Some ladies enjoyed the fish and chips served in newspaper depicting news and photos of 'yester' Brisbane.

It was a delightful way to end our activities and special thanks to those who organised the events.

We give thanks to Almighty God for His blessings upon all who attended these activities. It was a wonderful time of fellowship and praise. He truly is a faithful God to us.



Back: Secretary - Mrs Heather Burton, Chaplains - Rev Ross Wilson and Mr Robert Thompson
Front: President - Mrs Heather Ross, Moderator - Rt Rev Phil Case and Treasurer - Mrs Beverly Horgan



Brisbane City Hall Tour 'The Gold Leaf Mirror'



QUEENSLAND THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

MEGA SPORTZ SOCCER CAMP

by Joshua Mansfield

Mega Sportz Soccer Camp was once again held at the Field of Dreams – Camp Moogerah. It was World Cup year this year (yes, I'm still recovering from sleep deprivation) and the 126 World Cup trialists arrived at camp ready for a week of Soccer Madness!

Greeted by Striker the Stallion, the campers got straight into it, breaking into their Six-a-Side teams, eating lunch and playing soccer right from the start.

Right from the start it was obvious to all that these campers were a passionate and friendly bunch, and that the camp was in full swing.

Crazy Dude night was followed by a good two and a half hours sleep before we rolled into Tuesday.

The leaders had spent time planning a series of talks with workbooks linking ideas and themes from soccer to the Gospel. We took ideas such as the coach, the players and the referee endeavoring to show the campers how the greatest game of all was important but that following Jesus was WAY more important than soccer!

This was of great benefit to the campers as the seeds of the Gospel were planted.

The leaders prayed that God would produce fruit in the lives of the young campers.

The leaders also took time to ensure they were humbly planted in the Word over the course of the week, and what a great encouragement it

was to work as a united group for the Glory of God.

Meanwhile the camp continued; when Carnival Day dawned a great sense of anticipation grew as the campers' parents arrived to watch the leaders and players in action.

The games played are firmly based on the idea of fair game time, sportsmanship, winning humbly and losing graciously.

It was amazing to see the leaders and players working within this framework, which often goes against what they see at their local clubs. The parents were impressed, expressing their gratitude to the coaches for their efforts.

Appreciation goes to the Boonah Soccer Club for their continued support and provision of fields for the Friday Carnival.

A massive thank you must go to our coaches and our cooks – Troy Wilkins is a big man with a big heart and his love for the Lord was evident in the way he managed his dual role as leader and cook. Thanks legend!

Please pray for the campers as we see a lot of them regularly through our churches and through the local soccer clubs.

The Lord has been gracious to this camp for many years. We will continue to pray that He would bless it into the future.

Thank you for your prayers for the camp.



MEGA SPORTZ NETBALL CAMP

by Jeanette Teale

Mega Sportz Netball Camp was held in the second week of the winter holidays and was a fantastic week away. We had a huge group of girls join with us at the camp to learn more about God, enjoy playing netball and spend time together.

Netball Camp often attracts girls at different points of their spiritual walk. Some girls are from Christian homes, have a good understanding of the Bible and are looking to grow their faith; some are still pretty new to Bible reading and what it means to be a Christian; and a large group of girls who don't know much about God at all. Therefore, this is a great chance to show and tell the Gospel.

All the leaders had the beautiful challenge of getting to know all the girls in their group and helping them in their walk with God.

Each morning at camp was an upfront time with activities designed to teach the girls more about God, including videos, pick a box, a Bible talk and a memory verse. Small groups followed this teaching time giving the girls the chance to ask some great questions about Jesus and what it means to be a Christian. We had some challenging questions this year and it is encouraging for us to see the girls growing with each camp they attend.

Obviously, there is a chunk of time set aside to play netball and do some drills and technique practice.

There was a lot of talent out there on the courts. The leaders not only

coached the girls how to play better netball; they taught the girls about playing fair; giving everyone in the team fair game time and how to work as a team.

Congratulations to the Blizzards who took out every age group Final!!

It was lovely to see so many parents come up on Friday afternoon to watch their daughters play in the finals and to meet the leaders.

Camp also has plenty of free time or time for leaders to interact with the girls and share their lives a bit. They had lots of chats and just time to hang out, which helps to build relationships, allowing everyone time for a shower...not something you would see too much on Soccer Camp, we hear!

There was a Disney-themed dress up night (#lotsofprincesses), a craft night and the annual Presentation dinner where every girl was drafted to a team, receiving their own netball shirt and water bottle. Lots of great times!

A big thank you as always goes to the team of leaders and cooks from churches across Brisbane. They did a great job making camp run smoothly, getting to know the girls and also challenging them to consider Jesus.

Please pray for all the girls who came along to camp, that they would continue to grow in their relationship with Jesus and know how much God loves them.

Looking forward to next year's camp already!!

