

# DIRECTIONS

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



## CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

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The year 2014 marks not only 100 years since the beginning of World War 1, but also 100 years since the beginning of the Wilston Presbyterian Church. Our church family – past and present – poured in on Sunday 9 November for a thanksgiving service to celebrate this centenary milestone.

We were delighted to welcome back members from as far back as the 1930s, and even one couple from America who were married at Wilston in the 1960s. The State Moderator, Rt Rev Phil Case, and our local and State Members of Parliament were also able to join in the festivities.



# What's on ...

PREPARE and ENRICH have been used for many years by those working with couples planning to marry, couples wanting to strengthen their relationship and facing new challenges, and couples experiencing difficulties in their relationship. The inventories have a reputation for accuracy, reliability, sensitivity and relevance. PREPARE-ENRICH CUSTOMIZED VERSION has been used to great effect for 4 years now. It is accessed via the internet and is customised to suit each couple.

Training in the use of this new resource will be available at Brisbane Boys' College, Toowong on Thursday and Friday 11 and 12 December. For Registration details, please email [info@prepare-enrich.com.au](mailto:info@prepare-enrich.com.au), the Prepare office on 02 9520 4049 or Graham Cole on [gcole@bbc.qld.edu.au](mailto:gcole@bbc.qld.edu.au).

**Rev Graham Cole**  
Chaplain  
Brisbane Boys' College



## Study Tour of Israel and Jordan 2015

Late next year a group of intrepid Queensland Theological College (QTC) students will be walking where Jesus walked - literally - as they head off on a study tour of Israel and Jordan.

Led by QTC's Senior Lecturer in New Testament, Wesley Redgen, the group will experience firsthand the sites where Jesus's life and ministry took place, helping to bring the Bible to life.

Day 5 of the tour will see the group visiting Cana, the scene of Jesus' first miracle, and the village of Nazareth, while on Day 9 they will be visiting the Mount of Olives, the Garden of Gethsemane and Bethlehem.

The study tour is also open to the wider public who can join as 'audit' students. Being an 'audit' student enables you to participate in the site tours and talks but with no requirement to complete the readings and assignments.

If you are interested in joining the group there will be an information evening in early 2015 that you can attend.

Please contact Belinda Hoadley ([bhoadley@qtc.edu.au](mailto:bhoadley@qtc.edu.au), Ph: 3871 9373) to register your interest and she will send you further information.



On Day 13 of the tour visit Masada, the last stronghold of Jewish resistance to the Romans, and the Dead Sea



## Virginia-Banyo Presbyterian Church celebrates 50 years

The Banyo Presbyterian Church will celebrate 50 years since the opening of the Banyo Church building on Sunday 1 March 2015.

We are endeavouring to contact past members and friends to join us on the day, and to offer any information, photos, memorabilia that they might be able to contribute for the occasion. Please contact Annette Moran on (07) 3267 5666.



## PresAID Christmas Appeal 2014

**THIS CHRISTMAS WE PLAN TO HELP AN EXCITING VARIETY OF WORTHY CAUSES:**

**Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu** to upgrade solar power facilities on two missionary houses at Talua Bible College - \$10,000

**Reformed Presbyterian Church of Myanmar** to fund renovation of the hall at the Reformed Bible Institute, Yangon - \$3,000

**CCAP Zambia** to complete the construction of the principal's residence at Chasefu Theological College, Zambia - \$15,000

**Scholarships for three Zimbabwean students** to attend Chasefu Theological College - \$6,000.

We are looking to the Lord to provide this money through the generosity of His people in the 2014 PresAID Christmas Appeal. If more than the required amount is raised we will be able as a national church to do even more to assist these worthy causes in the extension of Christ's Kingdom.

We encourage you to participate in the forthcoming 2014 PresAID Christmas Day Appeal and to give generously.

Thank you for your help and co-operation.

Yours sincerely in Christ

Rev Bob Thomas, Convener, PresAID

P: 0417 592 646

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**JESUS**  
**THE REASON FOR THE**  
**SEASON**

## 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.

### 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](http://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](mailto:churchoffice@pcq.org.au)

### UNIT TO LET

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

## Lost & Found

Lost&Found is the new evening congregation of Eatons Hill Presbyterian Church (EHPC) that was launched on Sunday night 12 October.

Rev Garnet Swann as the lead pastor at EHPC tells why they've chosen the title 'Lost&Found' for this new work, "Our desire is that Lost&Found be made of people who are exactly that."

"We want it to be a community of people who are growing as followers of Jesus. But it's also a welcoming place for people to ask their questions, express their doubts and explore the Christian faith so that they might eventually find God or more to the point, be found by God."

Lost&Found currently meets in the same location as EHPC's morning service, at the Eatons Hill Community Hall but you'll find a very different vibe to what happens in the morning.

Dimmed lighting, coffee tables, acoustic music and a question time are some of the features that give Lost&Found its own distinct vibe.

Garnet says, "We've gone for that café vibe that some churches have found a helpful environment for young adults. The vibe might be casual but make no mistake this isn't a show on a Sunday night."

"This is about a new community serving our city and doing the missionary work of proclaiming Christ and praying for others."

"God takes us as we are but He doesn't want to leave us as we are."

Talking to Garnet and others from the launch team of Lost&Found, it's clear they're excited as they look to take opportunities to be in their community to serve and share the love of Christ.

Lost&Found is a small new gathering on the Northside of Brisbane but they have big dreams for how God might work through them.

If you want to know more, look up Lost&Found on Facebook.

Lost&Found meets every Sunday night at 6:30pm at the Eatons Hill Community Hall.



# From the Moderator

with Rt Rev Phil Case



One of the more pleasurable tasks of the Moderator is to visit churches around the State when invited. I have had the pleasure of speaking at the Atherton, Cairns, Maroochydore, Wavell Heights, St Andrews and Willows (Townsville) churches and addressing the Sunshine Coast Wide Bay Presbytery.

I cannot be certain how much of an encouragement or challenge I have been to the churches I have visited, but I have certainly been encouraged by what I have seen. The Lord is doing a work in our denomination. Though the figures tend to obscure the reality, a good number of churches are growing in health and numbers.

As a minister, it is tempting when preaching to focus on what people are not doing and what they should do as Christians. Certainly, we only know how to respond properly to the Gospel because it is revealed in the scriptures, and that needs to be taught. However, it is in hearing the Gospel that people's hearts are changed. All the scriptures testify to Christ. It is only as we come to comprehend the wondrous love of God in all the scriptures that we will mature into the people he wants us to be.

*17 I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, 18 may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, 19 and to know this love that surpasses knowledge-that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.* Ephesians 3:17-19. (ESV)

# From the Editor

with Michelle Martin



Dear Readers

Welcome to the Christmas edition of 'New Directions'.

I cannot believe the year is almost over and a new one is about to begin. This is a time when people reflect on what has happened during the year and a time to make New Year's resolutions, and goals for the coming year.

A lot has been happening within the Presbyterian Church and God's kingdom throughout the year. Milestones have been reached, churches are growing and expanding, and Christians are suffering in the name of Christ.

Our cover story this edition is the centenary celebration of Wilston Presbyterian Church. As you will read there have been a lot of changes since it was first established 100 years ago.

I recently attended Y Conference held at Mt Tamborine which was a weekend conference run by the QCCA for those who are part of Gen Y or close to. People from 30 different churches attended including Presbyterian, Baptist, Church of Christ and others. Mark Baddeley spoke to us over the course of the weekend about the following topics: Sexuality (God cares about it), Mental Health (God likes to fill creation with diversity) and Money (to love money is to hate God, so be careful not to be greedy). On the Saturday night we had a bush dance/get down where everyone had a great time busting some moves.

At the Heads of Churches meeting (page 4) representatives from different denominations across Brisbane met with the Brisbane leaders of the Islamic community to ascertain ways of strengthening relations between the Christian and Islamic communities.

I have been hearing, via the media, of the sufferings of our brothers and sisters in Christ overseas, particularly in Iraq, and my sufferings here in Australia seem quite insignificant compared to theirs. I encourage you, if you are not already praying for them, to start NOW and if possible help them in a practical way.

My church has been studying the book of 1 Peter and one of the topics we were looking at was suffering. Our minister explained to us that the normal Christian life involves sharing in Christ's suffering and therefore we shouldn't think of suffering as being abnormal.

As the year comes to a close I wish you a blessed Christmas with family and friends and a Happy New Year. Don't forget to check out the Christmas lights around your suburbs and also attend a Christmas carol service or two.

**P.S. Due to time and space constraints Part 3 of the John Knox series will not be appearing in this edition. However please look for it in the February/March 2015 edition. Also in the next edition, there will be an article about what's been happening at the Westminster Theological College in Uganda. Make sure you check it out.**

# CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS WILSTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

by Rev Stuart Atkinson

It was a great opportunity to give thanks for God's faithfulness to this church family over so many years, and to reflect on the ministries, events and relationships that have been part of family life here.

Over morning tea, we pored over old photos and memorabilia, and caught up with old friends. In birthday style, we also celebrated with games for the kids and cake.



Daphne McDonald cutting the cake with Rev Stuart Atkinson

We were treated to a photo tribute of the past 100 years, and reminded from Colossians 1 that while many things have changed in that time, the one constant has been our message: the great Gospel of Jesus, the source of our hope.

A highlight was the singing. Along with some great newer songs, there were rousing renditions of great old hymns that helped us to look back to what God has done for us (Great is Thy Faithfulness), and look forward in anticipation of what He will do (Be Thou My Vision).

The Wilston church began with Christians gathering in a local home as early as 1912.

In 1914, with some help from the Ann St congregation, the current land was purchased for one hundred pounds.

The first church building was officially opened on Saturday 9 May 1914 as the first Protestant church in the area.

By 1920, there were 120 members, a Sunday School of 138 with 12 teachers and a youth fellowship.

In 1921, Wilston was declared a sanctioned charge and eligible to call a minister. In true Presbyterian style, the first minister was a Scot, Rev Thomas Allan.

The ministry extended into Newmarket in the mid 1950s, and the charge was renamed Wilston-Newmarket in 1956.

Continued growth (evidenced by the Sunday School enrolment peaking at 200 in 1959) led to the construction of a new church building, which was opened in November 1963.

The original building was moved down the site and still serves as our church hall.

Since that time, the church has had its ups and downs. There have been some wonderful periods of growth, and other difficult times where we have struggled with no minister and low membership.

In 1982, the charge was extended to include the Windsor congregation.

We are thankful for those who have invested so much over many years – our members, elders and ministers such as the late Rev Bob Missenden and Rev Eric Noble.

We rejoice in God's faithfulness in growing followers of Jesus here in Wilston for 100 years, and we look forward to many more years to come.



Rev Stuart Atkinson preaching



Morning tea celebrations

1. Lord, be my vision, supreme in my heart, bid every rival give way and depart:  
You my best thought in the day or the night, waking or sleeping, Your presence my light.

2. Lord, be my wisdom and be my true word, I ever with You and You with me, Lord: You my great Father and I Your true son, You in me living and I with You one.

## NEW DIRECTIONS

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# Heads of Churches meeting with members of Queensland Islamic Council

by Rt Rev Phil Case

I attended the Heads of Churches meeting on the 20th October. We met with the Brisbane leaders of the Islamic community.

Some might ask why we would meet with them when our faiths are so different. This was not a meeting about the content of our respective faiths, but a meeting to express concern about the violence that has been perpetrated against some Muslims simply because they are Muslims. It was a meeting to support the Freedom of Religion we enjoy in Australia.

I think it was Evelyn Beatrice Hall biographer of Voltaire who wrote "I disapprove of what you say, but I'll defend to the death your right to say it." If we do not speak out against these actions pertaining to people because of their religion, how can we speak out when we are acted against because of our Christian faith?

We do not share beliefs with the Islamic Community, but we do share our humanity with them.

Our Lord has commanded us to love our neighbour, and to love our enemies. Speaking out in defence of their right to live in peace as law abiding citizens is doing just this.

Aggression toward people arises from fear; fear of that which is different, fear of that which we do not

know and understand.

It would be good if we as Christians could take the time to get to know our Islamic neighbours and show them love at the appropriate level. How can we expect them to listen to us if we will not listen to them and take the time to get to know them?

Not only is this an opportunity to live out the commands of our Lord to love our neighbour, but it is an opportunity to share the Gospel with people who desperately need it.

God has brought these people to our shores, but the tragedy is that most of these people have no more contact with Christians than they would if they still lived in their Islamic homeland.

They hear no more of the Gospel and know no more of Christianity than those in countries where Christians are not free to share the Gospel.

In 1 Peter 3:15-16 we read *...in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience... If Christ is Lord, we are to be prepared to give an answer to those who ask about our faith and hope.*

But no one is going to ask about our

hope if we never bother to meet and get to know anyone.

Note also, that we are to do it with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience. We are always to act with care and respect for those we speak to.

It is interesting that this is Peter's command to those who may be afraid of persecution (see verse 14). We are not to be afraid. We are not to fear anything because our Lord is in control.

Let us take the opportunity while it is day to do good to all men and to share the Gospel.

I encourage all Christians to learn not just about the beliefs of Islam, but also to get to know some people who practise Islam. Our common humanity ensures we have much in common with them. Many of their concerns are our concerns.

They are having open days at mosques and are open to invitations to events that we might hold at our churches.

This is a golden opportunity to build peace and share the Gospel as the Lord permits. It will take time and effort to build relationships in which questions can be asked and answered, but let's not miss out.

## Media Release: Heads of Churches and leaders of the Islamic Community meet

On Monday 20 October, the Heads of Christian Churches met with members of the Islamic Council of Queensland to consider ways of strengthening relations between the Christian and Islamic communities in the State that promote respect and harmony.

The meeting was precipitated by the concern over the recent negative sentiments expressed toward Muslims and especially Muslim women.

The meeting abhorred such actions, and called upon all Queenslanders to respect the right of all Australians to enjoy Freedom of Religion, and seeks to promote ways in which understanding and tolerance between people of different faiths can be increased.

Churches represented included the Anglican, Roman Catholic, Uniting, Congregational Federation

of Australian and New Zealand, Australian Christian Churches, Presbyterian Church of Queensland and the Wesleyan Methodist Church of Australia.

As well as members of the Queensland Islamic Council there were also representatives of the Council of Imams, Crescents of Brisbane and AMARAH in attendance.

Topics discussed included supporting freedom of religious practices and ideas within the Australian community; showing dignity to all people regardless of their beliefs and ways of life; and speaking with a united voice to government and politicians on topics of mutual concern.

As well it was agreed to support initiatives such as the open mosque days, organising forums to educate the wider community about Islam and

Christianity, opening social events to people of different faiths and working through local media to promote joint events and activities.

Three representatives from each faith were appointed to form a working group to produce an action plan to promote joint initiatives that uphold our Australian value of a fair go for people of all religious beliefs and cultures.

Further meetings of the Heads of Churches and the Islamic Council of Queensland will be held in 2015.

For further information contact:

Mr Mohammad Yusuf, President, Islamic Council of Queensland on 0413 038 610

The Rev Canon Richard Tutin, General Secretary, Queensland Churches Together on 0418 335 088.



## GRASS-ROOTS REFLECTIONS

### Ordering the World

It's a gruesome thing, but I am told that if you slowly boil a frog in water the hapless creature only becomes aware of its terminal plight at the bitter end. In seeking to make sense of the quantum changes that are overtaking our world, I feel somewhat like that beleaguered frog that has just become aware of his horrible plight at the 11th hour.

The recent events of significance: the Ebola outbreak in Africa, the ISIS/ISIL advance in Iraq and Syria, the Russian invasion of Ukraine, and various other less prominent 'crises', embellished by the media as requiring a 'global' solution, have conspired together to bring into sharp relief that the world is on the cusp of a significant paradigm shift. I am not talking up an Armageddon scenario, a potential thermo-nuclear conflict, or an outbreak of a world wide pandemic; although possible, they are more of a smokescreen for the real issue. I am referring to the change that is about to be foisted upon humanity under the guise of a new golden age of global unification, peace, and prosperity—a 'new world order'. History does not randomly unfold, and although some consider this phenomenon 'new' it has been a long time in the making.

On the 9 September, renowned international diplomat/U.S. Secretary of State, Henry Kissinger launched his book 'World Order'. Kissinger, a longstanding advocate for world unification, rose to prominence during the Nixon administration in the 1970s and has been a key participant in central foreign policy events since. He believes the twenty first century's ultimate challenge revolves around how to build a shared international order in a world of divergent historic perspectives, violent conflict, proliferating technology, and ideological extremism.

Kissinger observes that there has never been a true 'world order', an order that could ensure peace and stability between nations. However, this 'new world order' hides a dark underbelly. Although organisations such as the IMF, UN, WHO, and Greenpeace appear relatively innocuous, they (or more accurately the people that control them) are key players in the push toward a system of world governance superior to, yet independent of, sovereign nation states and the values that formed them.

Given that the agenda behind this World Order is inherently secular, such a large scale shift should give Christians sober pause for reflection with issues such as: the integrity of the family, the freedom of religion, and personal privacy firmly on their agenda.

Many Christians make the mistake of 'simply' equating worldliness with immorality. Such a naïve view leaves them open to be blindsided by the subtle and nefarious forces manipulating our systems of: economics, technology, politics, and social structures. Worldliness has more to do with being complicit with the 'systems' of the world, and forsaking Christ's lordship in the process, than capitulating to personal sin. If we are not more attentive to our engagement with the world on every level, we, like the unwitting frog, might discover our demise too late and find our entrapment so overwhelming that escape seems virtually impossible. This calls for wisdom.

The agenda of this world is self-serving; the agenda of Christ is self-sacrificing. The Apostle Paul did not live in a world shaped by Christendom; he lived in a world shaped by imperialist Rome and its ubiquitous and comprehensive influence. When he wrote to the Romans and exhorted them, "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed with the renewal of your mind, and that by testing you may discern what the will of God is..." Romans 12:2, he genuinely knew the pressures of 'worldliness' and firmly had in mind that Christians should present themselves to God, holy and acceptable, in his service—uncompromised by and disentangled from worldly agendas, priorities, and values.

In a 2007 interview Henry Kissinger said, "On one end of the spectrum there is globalization and the other end religion..." Surely his categories are crossed, how could globalization and religion be at odds? However, this is no false dichotomy. In Kissinger's mind religion divides; world politics unites! Let the Christian be warned, religion and globalization are not deemed compatible by those advancing this agenda. Or to put it simply, independent religion (e.g. authentic Christianity) has no legitimate role in this new world order. Be assured, the pressure to conform to this new order will become increasingly great for us in the West: social pressure, economic pressure, technological pressure, political pressure etc. will all increasingly turn up the heat beneath the metaphorical 'pot of life' we swim in.

Up until now Christian complicity with the first world has come at a low perceived cost to our faith, but from now on we will pay a higher price for remaining loyal to Christ, his values, and his cause. Will we simply continue to conform to this world, allowing our uncompromising loyalty to Christ to be subtly eroded as we are gradually boiled alive by secularism? Or will we choose not to capitulate to the world and its systems, and make a stand for Christ? It is a choice we all must make—sooner or later!



Roland Lowther

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# Making Friends for Life

by Rev David Niven

LifeChurch (aka The Gap Presbyterian Church), recently farewelled a newly made friend from the USA.

A few months ago Hannah arrived in Brisbane as an au pair for a family in The Gap. She was befriended by several members of the congregation and when she lost her job at short notice was provided with help and accommodation.

She soon found another position in a suburb some distance from The Gap, but kept in touch through Life Church's Facebook pages.

When she lost her second job, again at short notice, she was once more supported by the congregation.

Hannah attended the church for the last time on 12 October and was photographed with the congregation.

It was very encouraging to see the way the congregation rallied around

to help her. It was an example of Christian care and compassion.

Here's Hannah's own take on what happened. "By God's grace I found a safety net in a local church during both short periods of unemployment.

"Many members rallied around me to make sure that I wasn't homeless or starving or too discouraged. Without them, you can be sure I would have called it quits after the first month and flown home.

"The love and encouragement from the Brisbane church family definitely goes down as one of the best demonstrations of mercy I've personally experienced. It's really my favourite part of my Australian story so far."

Hannah will be a friend for life - that's why we are called Life Church.

We do life together with Jesus.



Members of Life Church

**'We do life together with Jesus.'**

# Pray, Live, Serve ... but what if I'm weary?

by Naomi Reed

For the last two years, I've been interviewing Interserve partners, who have served in various parts of the Middle East and Asia. Most of the partners have been in those places for well over ten years, although some are now back in their home countries.

My role has been to get to know them and capture their stories for a new Interserve book called 'The Plum Tree in the Desert'.

It's been a delight! I can't think of a more inspiring project, or book to write! But it just so happened that immediately prior to the first interview, I was feeling tired and weary myself, and questioning the value of some of my activities. Then I flew to Melbourne to interview the first couple who had served in four different countries in the Arabian Peninsula, over a period of 21 years.

During the interview, I asked them both about the lessons they had learnt, especially during hard times. They told me about setting up home in each case, and making good relationships with their neighbours and in the community, and how long it took. It was hard.

But then, they said that on two occasions, the police had come to their door and told them they had to leave the country in the next fortnight.

Neither time, the family had any warning, or were told the reasons for the visa refusal. But both times, they packed their bags, their homes, their children's lives, and moved back to Australia for a time, before beginning again in another Middle Eastern country.



Naomi Reed

They carried on serving the new community with their medical skills and language training.

At the very end of our conversation, I asked them both for their advice and wisdom. They said to me that they'd been reading Revelation 13:10. It says, "This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on behalf of the saints". And they turned to me and said that they usually find it so much easier to be results-orientated, or to analyse the next opportunity, or ministry... but sometimes God just wants us to be faithful, to stay in the battle, even when it's hard.

Later, I got back on the aeroplane and thought about my own story and the places where God wants all of us to stay in the battle, and remain faithful to him, to the end. It was exactly what I needed. [Naomi Reed is a speaker and writer who lives with her family in the Blue Mountains. For more information go to [www.NaomiReed.info](http://www.NaomiReed.info)]

# The Health of the Body

by Rt Rev David Cook, Moderator General

I have now completed the first year of my three year term and have visited each State Assembly, except Queensland.

It has been a privilege to see what is happening throughout Australia and to be able to draw some conclusions about the health of the Church.

In Victoria I spoke at the Ministers' Family Camp and then gave the Expositions at the Assembly. It was good to get beyond the Courts of the Church to hear what is happening in the congregations.

**Observation 1:**

Each State Assembly has a united focus on the Gospel. The single mind of the Church in Australia is to glorify God by seeing the Gospel reach into every corner of our nation. It is a privilege to be part of such a harmonious, evangelical and evangelistic denomination.

**Observation 2:**

The theological emphases of the Sixteenth Century Reformation are the emphases of the Bible and they are the emphases of the Presbyterian Church of Australia. However, I see a widespread determination to present a contemporary face to our culture and not transmit a distant, censorious and unwelcoming tone, which sometimes flavours the reformed tradition.

This balance between Biblical faithfulness and cultural relevance, often difficult to maintain, is largely being maintained.

**Observation 3:**

Our Presbyterian structure serves us well. Congregations are cared for as part of a wider denominational family and at the same time are given the freedom to reach their own communities in their own way.

Nowhere is this more apparent than the new church plants springing up in Victoria, such completely different approaches being adopted at parishes like Bendigo, Daylesford and Doreen and yet all thriving within the denomination.

**Observation 4:**

I have found not only unity but

mutual affection for one another at State level. It has been very encouraging to attend Assemblies. There is no way that these are a drudgery. One would have to be a stone not to be moved to hear of the work of God being carried out by the Church throughout Australia.

However there are three areas I think we need to work on:

First, at more than one Assembly, a good deal of time was spent dealing with the problem of institutional leadership devoid of Christian commitment. Why leaders who are not Christians are appointed to hospitals or aged care facilities or schools or campsites, who do not share our ethos, I will never know.

This is a source of anguish and frustration to us and cannot be a pleasurable experience for those thus appointed.

Our institutions must be led by well qualified people and such qualifications must include the vital recognition of Christ's lordship in all of life, otherwise why are we involved in such institutions?

Second, the health of the Australian Presbyterian World Mission (APWM) and Presbyterian Inland Mission (PIM) is wonderfully apparent. Are we giving equal vigour and support to evangelistic outreach at the local level?

New churches are being planted, but are the vast number of settled congregations reaching out in missions to children, youth and adults, where the Gospel is presented and people invited to respond?

Where is the APWM equivalent to encourage creative, persistent and persuasive local outreach?

Third, our spiritual health is highly dependent on the ability of our theological colleges to attract quality people and to train them well.

This involves a financial commitment which will see our growing number of candidates well taught and cared for by faculties who are united in the truth and have close

contact with the local church, the arena where candidates will work.

Our colleges must model and duplicate the local church so the faculty members preach and disciple students as well as lecture them, set exams and mark essays.

Our colleges are more than academic institutions, they are places where pastoral ministry is practised and modelled.

Pray for our colleges and their leaders and promote their interests at State Assemblies so that they do not lack resources to fulfil the demanding ministry required of them.

I was recently at a conference in Geelong and two fine young men told me they were about to go to College to train for ordination. "Where, I asked? Presbyterian Theological College (PTC), Victoria" was their response.

PTC along with Queensland Theological College (QTC) and Christ College must have enough quality staff to cope with the influx.

Brethren, sometimes in the middle of the battlefield of parish work, we can lose sight of the big picture. Be encouraged and rejoice because I believe the big picture of our church is healthy.

From the remote PIM outback patrols, to major regional centres like Launceston, Mt Gambier, Fremantle, Tamworth, Warrnambool, to growing outer city areas and inner suburbs of major cities, the name of Jesus Christ is being proclaimed in church buildings, school halls and community centres.

Chaplains are visiting hospitals, hostels, gaols, schools; Special Religious Education (SRE) teachers are delivering the message; Sunday School classes are being taught; Bible studies are being led; chapel services being conducted.

How grateful we can be that our testimony duplicates that of the apostles, *they reported all that God had done through them...* Acts 14:27, 15:4, 21:19

# Five Faces of Islam: Converted Muslim to equip Australian Christians

Militant, mystical or moderate – what is the true face of Islam and how should we respond? An international missiologist converted from Islam to Christianity will help to equip Australian Christians to understand and engage with Muslims.

Rev Dr John Azumah grew up in a Muslim home in Ghana, became a Christian at school, and went on to study theology.

Now Associate Professor of World Christianity and Islam at Columbia Theological Seminary, Georgia, US, John will be the international guest speaker at the Church Mission Society (CMS) Queensland with Northern New South Wales (NSW) Summer School, being held at North Tamborine in January 2015. He will speak on understanding Islam and being a Christian witness in a Muslim context.

"We need to be able to understand the five faces of Islam if we are to engage with Muslims in a meaningful way," John said.

"The first face of Islam is the mystical, spiritual, popular face so well known and practised in Asia, Africa and the Middle East. It is very attractive in these parts of the world and even in the West.

"The second face of Islam is the

missionary face. Islam is aggressively involved in mission work, or da'wah, across the world. We want to understand this face and how as Christians we can engage with it, and equip Christians to understand and withstand it.

"In Africa, for instance, while Muslims are coming to faith in Christ, Christians are also becoming Muslims. We need to not only evangelise Muslims but also teach our people to not fall prey to Islamic da'wah.

"The third level of Islam is the ideological and political face, which seeks to make Islam the religion of the State and seeks to implement sharia law. Within that, minorities, especially Christian minorities, suffer all kinds of discrimination.

"The fourth face of Islam is the militant face that we see on the news everyday. I would want us to see how Christians can begin to make sense of it, and how Christians, especially victims in such violent contexts, can respond in a Christian way that is a witness of the Christian Gospel – yet not underestimating the threat of this face of Islam.

"The fifth face is the progressive face of Islam that many people are not aware of. It seeks to critically re-read

Muslim sources and to engage with the militants and challenge them. There is a battle for the soul of Islam going on right now."

In South Ghana, John developed a Gospel ministry to unreached people groups who migrated from the predominantly Muslim north. Fifty-eight congregations were established in a little over a decade.

'Operation Go Back Home and Tell' was organised for converts to go back to their home towns and witness to their kin. Many congregations in north Ghana were revived and new ones established. "I believe that is the heartbeat of the church, so I want to talk about equipping the whole church to take the whole Gospel to the whole of the Muslim world," said John.

"As someone who comes from the Muslim faith myself, sharing the Christian Gospel with Muslims is my passion and I want to share it with you at CMS Summer School."

In the 1990s a bursary from CMS enabled John to complete a doctorate in Islamics in the UK. He later served as a CMS missionary to India in the early 2000s. He will speak at CMS summer conferences throughout Australia in January 2015.





## WENDY HENRY TALKS WITH WENDY ALLAN ABOUT HOW WOMEN ARE MINISTERING TO OTHER WOMEN AT EATONS HILL.



Wendy Allan and Angela Allen

**Wendy H:** *Hello Wendy and welcome to Girl Talk! I have been hearing a lot recently about what is happening at Eatons Hill and we'll get to that, but first, let's get to know you a little, by starting at the beginning of your story. So... where did you grow up and where are you living now?*

Wendy A: I grew up in Corinda, on the southside of Brisbane. I'm now living in Strathpine on the northside.

**WH:** *And in the middle of all that, what study or work have you done?*

WA: I became a Home Economics teacher after I left high school, but it wasn't something I was passionate about. I've since discovered I enjoy welfare work, and teaching women, preferably one-to-one or small groups. I get embarrassed when people who hear I was a Home Economics teacher say, "You must be a good cook" because I think I'm just average. We had a number of years in the country where Bill taught, we built our own house, had a hobby farm; and I was the relieving post mistress in a town named Cooyar. We moved to Warwick and then back to Brisbane. When our kids were teenagers, I worked part-time as a Family Resource Worker with the

Department of Family Services. From there we went to Sydney in 1993, but our kids stayed in Brisbane to work and study. Our church in Sydney had a ministry to migrants and I was soon employed part-time in this ministry which I loved. I worked with women and families whose English was poor, who were adapting to life in a new country, and some who attended 'Introduction to Christianity' classes at our church. I coordinated the 'Easy English Church', and with Bill, spent a very special time in hospitality ministry. I fulfilled a long held desire to go to Bible College, by studying part-time for a while at Sydney Missionary and Bible College (SMBC). We returned to Brisbane in 2000, and went to Mitchelton Presbyterian Church and later joined the church plant at Eatons Hill.

**WH:** *Now, what keeps you busy on a daily basis?*

WA: Bill and I live very close to some of our grandchildren, so we like to be involved in their lives when we can; we're avid gardeners; I have a craft group in our home; I'm involved in ministry to women and families in our church; I'm part of the team that does the Gospel presentation at the annual 'Be Creative' camp; and this year I've had the opportunity to speak at a few women's events.

**WH:** *I can see how all that would keep you busy... Tell us a bit about your family.*

WA: Bill and I have been married for 42 years and we have a son, Matthew and a daughter, Kate, plus four grandchildren.

**WH:** *So how and when did you become a Christian?*

WA: My mum taught me to believe in God (she became a Christian later in life and I'll have to wait til Heaven to find out whether Dad eventually came to trust in Jesus). I went to Sunday School and Youth Group and heard the Gospel. I considered myself a believer, but I was in my early thirties when I actually accepted Jesus as my Saviour and Lord.

**WH:** *Who or what do you think helped or encouraged you most, as you were growing and learning about Jesus?*

WA: Faithful preaching of the Word, studying the Bible for myself, taking God at His Word and applying it by faith. In the beginning I had a Bible study leader, Vetta Thomason, who lived out the Gospel, and took the time to be involved with me, as I grappled with what it meant to follow Jesus in every part of my life.

**WH:** *And now you are sharing some of this with the women at Eatons Hill! What is actually happening there?*

WA: It's interesting...because as I'm talking to you, I realise that I'm doing with other women what God provided for me when I was a new Christian – mentoring! I do it in a structured way with our year long T2 internship, and informally as the need arises.

**WH:** *How did you get started and who has helped you along the way?*

WA: Our minister, Garnet Swann, set up the T2 internship. It's a one-day-a-week commitment based on Paul's instructions in Titus 2 – older women teaching younger women. It's about discipleship really – meeting one-to-one with another woman, reading the Bible and praying together. She also meets with another woman to encourage her the same way. And each fortnight, my 'mentoree' and I meet with Garnet for training and to discuss ministry opportunities.

**WH:** *How has it been working out and what were some of the challenges?*

WA: Everyone involved has been really pleased with the outcomes. Probably two challenges – just being committed to this time slot every week (there are days when I just don't feel like meeting up, but that's what commitment means, I guess) – and it takes me a little while at the beginning of the year to get to know someone (and that's different for each woman). It's just keeping at it, praying and trusting God to make the connection – it's His work!

**WH:** *What has been the most surprising/satisfying/exciting part of this ministry?*

WA: It's a privilege (I know that sounds a bit cliché – but it is pretty special!) to watch God at work as He makes changes – I love seeing women learn how to read the Bible; it's exciting to discover new things together; to see women going through difficult situations and learning that God has something to say about all of life, and then trusting Him with the outcome. It's also been really encouraging to see women trying new ways of serving as an act of faith, and see their joy as a result. I could go on... but I believe the T2 internship has the potential to bring about growth and maturity for women who are willing to give it a go.

**WH:** *Where do you see God might take it in the future?*

WA: That's been a challenge, and we're still working on it! We've had six women do 'T2' and seven do the 'Ministry to Women' course run by Queensland Theological College (QTC), so we don't want to lose the value of this training. In response to our concerns, at the beginning of the year, we began what we called 'Read Pray Grow' (aka Eat Pray Love) with a view to holding this kind of event twice in the year. We want to give all our women the opportunity to grow in their faith and in their ability to share it with others (incorporating the ideas of 'The Trellis and the Vine'). So we held a breakfast, where Fiona Millar

spoke to all of us about forgiveness and then we offered two workshops to choose from – either 'How to Share Your Faith' or 'How to Read the Bible One-to-One'. Because we want to see our women develop their gifts, the workshops were led by women from our church family. Our women really appreciated this event, and we're praying that they'll grow as a result.

**WH:** *In those times when you are not busy with this important work, what do you like to do to relax or unwind?*

WA: I love designing our garden and growing flowers... Bill and I go somewhere nice for breakfast once a month... I enjoy going to new cafes with friends... and I couldn't live without the ocean...

**WH:** *In closing, do you have a favourite scripture, song or book, that has encouraged you and that you could share with us?*

WA: Lots of verses, but at the moment Romans 5:8. I'm bowled over by the fact that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. That's amazing! And I think the book 'When Life and Beliefs Collide' by Carolyn Custis James is worth reading.

**WH:** *Thanks Wendy for sharing your story. We trust that God will bless you in all your endeavours and especially in the work with the women at Eatons Hill.*

## WOMEN @ PRAYER ...

*All over the world this Gospel is bearing fruit and growing, just as it has been doing among you since you heard it and understood God's grace in all its truth. Colossians 1:6*

- Give thanks and praise for the Gospel and the way it bears fruit and grows, as we share it with others.
- As the end of another year approaches, pray for those who are preparing to move to a new place to live, study or work. Pray that they might find fellow believers to support and encourage them as they adapt to their new surroundings. Also pray for those who are facing final exams and other challenges at this time that they will find their strength to endure in and through Jesus.
- Pray for those who have lost loved ones during this past year that their grief will be made more bearable by knowing the love and comfort that the Holy Spirit offers. And for those who have had the joy of seeing new lives begin, that they may enjoy the celebration of the birth of Jesus with a new understanding and richness.
- Thank God for the beginning of a new year, when some of us might plan to begin (or continue) reading the Bible regularly with another, or meeting to pray together, sharing our lives and growing with one another – passing on the Gospel to bear more fruit. Pray for perseverance with these commitments and that we will not be distracted by the demands that come with living in this world.
- Praise God for those who have encouraged us in the past and pray that we might go on to encourage others in the same way.
- Praise Him for the challenges of life that require us to re-think what God might be wanting us to do. Give thanks for the ability He gives us to change and to try new things, and for the joy that comes from being obedient to His will.
- Pray for those you love and care about, in the way that Paul prayed for the Colossians (1:9) - asking God to fill them "with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding".



Rev Garnet Swann and Wendy Allan

**But God demonstrates his own love for us: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8**



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



## Staying Socially Connected with Friendship Groups

Keeping people socially connected is imperative for a healthy mind and body. Too often you hear of older Australians being socially isolated, whether through the death of a spouse or the loss of being readily mobile.

Social isolation is experienced by one in five Australians and the impact on health is equivalent to 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.

Keeping people socially connected to their friends, family and community plays an important role in how PresCare looks after its clients.

There are a number of programmes in and around Queensland that the organisation has created to help keep people connected.

Friendship clubs are just one of the initiatives that PresCare is implementing right across the business to mitigate the impact of social isolation.

Local Kawana Waters Chaplain, Robyn Sansbury has been coordinating a friendship club for the past two years to give people who are socially isolated the chance to come

together to share a chat and a laugh or two.

"I wear my heart on my sleeve, Robyn says. "So I think the people that I work with each day know that I really do care about their welfare and ensuring they have a chance to have some fun each month too."

Robyn works tirelessly to ensure the clients who come are able to relax, enjoy themselves and forget about their troubles, even if it is only for a few hours.

PresCare's Christmas Appeal will run from November through to February 2015, and funds raised from this campaign will go towards PresCare social isolation programmes, including Friendship Groups.

PresCare runs a number of other Friendship Groups around Queensland, and we're always looking for volunteers willing to come along and help us provide clients with a fun day or morning out.

For more information about friendship groups, to see if there is one in your area, or to enquire about donating to the Christmas Appeal please call 1800 773 722 or email us at [information@prescare.org.au](mailto:information@prescare.org.au)

## What a Difference a Year Makes



Yaralla Place, Maryborough

In October 2013, PresCare took over residential aged care facility Yaralla Place in Maryborough and what a difference a year has made.

PresCare Chief Executive Officer Greg Skelton said that with 30 years' experience running Maryborough's Groundwater Lodge, PresCare knew the purchase of Yaralla Place from the State Government would only enhance the connection they had with the city.

"The board and I definitely felt that our selection by the government as the preferred operator was an important recognition of the high standard of care our people provide every day," Mr Skelton said. "We have proven over the last year that we were the right choice for Yaralla Place."

Mr Skelton says, "There are a number of initiatives and improvements PresCare has put in place over the past 12 months which

are proving to be successful and well-received."

PresCare's GenConnect programme was launched at Yaralla Place and Groundwater Lodge by Volunteer Programme Manager, Julie Hoffmann, earlier in the year and has since had two very successful rounds. The participation of residents and staff alike ensured the programme ran smoothly and received high praise from the local community, particularly the school involved.

Another initiative of the Volunteer team was the refreshed 'Yaralla Corner Store', a mobile shopping cart which stocks all manner of sweets, gluten-free and sugar-free choices, puzzle books, pens/small writing pads, a variety of drinks and some personal items. It does the rounds of Yaralla Place every week. Residents love the opportunity to shop right from their front door!

Wayne Pivac, Maryborough and Wide Bay Chaplain, has helped embed chaplaincy and pastoral care services at Yaralla Place, ensuring the spiritual needs of our clients are met.

The team at Yaralla Place have established daily walking groups. There are also regular visitors from the community and local Presbyterian congregation who provide entertainment of all varieties for our residents.

Collaboration between Yaralla Place and Groundwater Lodge staff has greatly increased. We have recently begun having staff work across both sites. This is leading to sharing of knowledge and experience. It also gives us a more flexible workforce.

If you are interested in volunteering at Groundwater Lodge or Yaralla Place, or hearing more about either facility, please call PresCare on 1800 773 722.



Lyla Shand and Dawn Fox

## 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](http://www.prescare.org.au) or call us on 1800 773 722.



[www.prescare.org.au](http://www.prescare.org.au)  
A Ministry of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland

50 YEARS

PresCare  
more connected

## What Makes a 'Contented Chef'?

The satisfaction of knowing you are providing nutritious, creative and wholesome food to your clients is what drove PresCare to develop a line of homestyle meals and desserts under the name 'Contented Chef'.

The team of chefs at the 'Contented Chef' prepares family favourites like roast beef, ham steak with pineapple and honey mustard, and bangers and mash, along with more gourmet options like apricot chicken with French almond pilaf, beef bourguignon and sweet mango pork.

In recent months, PresCare has reviewed the service offering, packaging and delivery process for the 'Contented Chef' range of pre-prepared meals and made a number of improvements.

Food and Catering Service Manager, Scott Fraser says the 'Contented Chef' range will soon reach customers from Cairns to Coolangatta and offers dietician approved, colourful and exciting food options as well as customised catering for special events.

"If you love food like I do, you want to ensure that what you're eating isn't only made from the freshest ingredients and is healthy for you, but also tastes great! Scott says. "That's what I love about the 'Contented Chef' meals."

The gourmet meals and customised catering are offered direct to clients as well as through distribution points including PresCare facilities, independent retirement living communities and in-home care services. Call the 'Contented Chef' on 1300 645 665 for more information or to place an order.



Right: Scott Fraser



## Visible progress every day at Kingsford Terrace

The site is full of construction equipment. Grindley Construction has established a row of jaunty yellow-roofed huts along the side of the excavated site, and each day a little more metal and concrete is laid for the foundations of PresCare's Kingsford Terrace development.

PresCare's \$100m retirement living development, Kingsford Terrace, is being built on the site of the former Hopetoun aged care and independent living facility in Brisbane's Corinda.

PresCare Chief Executive Officer Greg Skelton said "It is exciting to be able to actually see the progress the project is making each day, rather than just reading about it in reports.

"Now that you can literally see the development rising out of the ground, it's an exciting time to be part of Kingsford Terrace's story," Mr Skelton says. "I can't wait till the

structure of the Litchfield building is in place because then people will be better able to visualise what we are creating here."

Future residents of the village have been visiting the site regularly, attending get-togethers and formal events that PresCare hosts as a way of establishing a community feeling amongst the group, before they even move in.

In October the sales team, Safiya and Matt, hosted sunset drinks at the Display Suite and representatives from the Kingsford Concierge team came along to promote their unique service.

Kingsford Concierge will deliver an in-house and digital concierge service to residents, whereby they can seek assistance with anything from organising a holiday or party, to finding an anniversary gift or simply

sorting out dry cleaning and parcel pick up. It is available to residents as soon as they put a deposit down on an apartment. "This means that residents are all eligible for the benefits of this service before their apartment is even built," Mr Skelton says.

"The addition of Kingsford Concierge to the lifestyle at Kingsford Terrace is another way PresCare is setting our development apart from other retirement villages in Queensland."

The new community, named after aviator Sir Charles Kingsford Smith, will be home to 200 residents, with the 34 phase-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.



UNDER CONSTRUCTION

# KINGSFORD

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Kingsford Terrace, nestled in the leafy heart of Corinda, surrounded by some of Brisbane's best shopping, recreational and public spaces, only 20 min from the CBD.

Offering premium, spacious apartments and beautiful landscaped gardens with exceptional facilities - gym, indoor heated swimming pool, lounge, café and concierge service - *Kingsford Terrace has it all.*

With phase one due for completion in September 2015, Kingsford Terrace embodies security, support and choice with peace of mind knowing Kingsford Terrace is operated by PresCare - a Ministry of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland.

Call **1300 287 672** to view our display suite or visit [kingsfordterrace.com.au](http://kingsfordterrace.com.au)



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



## Ministry Expansion and the Local Churches

by Rt Rev Phil Case

As my year as Moderator progresses, I am learning much about our denomination. There are many churches where Gospel ministry is showing fruit. Over the last 10 years (or so), some of our churches have grown to be quite large. This is the easy growth to spot and it is exciting to see people coming to the Lord and growing in the Lord in these ministries.

There are also some churches which started a few years ago as small church plants. Some have taken root and are growing well. From a small base of 20 or 30 people they have grown to now approach 100. They began when a home church stepped out in faith and sacrificially supported them, but now they are separate churches paying their own bills. This is harder to spot but equally exciting as what is happening in the 'big' churches.

There are also a number of churches which were gradually shrinking, barely surviving, that are now turning around. They were living off accumulated assets, but now some have also turned the financial corner. Some of these churches are now self sufficient or on the way to it. All this has happened because of Gospel ministry.

All this growth, be it a new plant or a rejuvenation, brings its own demands - demands for people to do ministry at a full time and lay level - demands for larger or renovated meeting places. This places demands for money and resources which, as a denomination, we have in short supply.

Those in the various committees of the Assembly are working hard to support these churches where they can.

Much goes on behind the scenes to keep the wheels of denomination turning smoothly and also to promote and support future growth. This is one of the truly exciting things I have seen as Moderator - Gospel focussed men working behind the scenes to support the ministry at the local church level. They are working particularly hard to find the resources needed by the local churches that are growing so they can continue to grow and expand their Gospel ministry.

The Committee for Ministry Training has done an amazing job in facilitating the growth of our college, the Queensland Theological College, so it is able to give training of the highest quality to men set aside for ministry within our denomination.

The Committee on Ministry Resourcing (formerly Home Missions) is working hard behind the scenes to support the local churches in their efforts to take the Gospel to the community in which they live.

Time and space do not permit me to mention the work of the Property Board, Gospel in Society Today Committee, the Outreach and Nurture Committee, the Finance and Administration Board and the Commission of Assembly, not to forget the Code Committee who are all working toward one goal - facilitating proclamation of the Gospel and the growth of the Kingdom.

I should also mention those who work in the office looking after administration and accounts. Without them, our denomination would grind to a halt very quickly.

You may smile when I mention these committees, especially the Code and Legal Reference Committee. To you they may simply be the 'bureaucracy' of the Church with no real impact on Gospel ministry. That is what is so exciting.

The committees of the Assembly and our Church offices are very consciously seeking to improve their support for the Gospel ministry of the local churches.

All this good work is stretching the local churches involved and also those in the Assembly committees. The question confronts us, "How can we as a denomination support and strengthen Gospel ministry of the growing local churches?" This is not about keeping a dying patient alive. It is about supporting Gospel ministry that brings life.

One of the problems faced by young churches as they grow and expand is an adequate meeting place. It has been shown that when a church meets in temporary rented facilities, growth is limited. When that church acquires its own permanent facility, it continues to grow.

The big problem facing these young growing churches is that property and building costs have far outstripped average growth in income. To help overcome this problem, the Commission of Assembly has created a 'Ministry Expansion Fund'. This fund will be used to help churches get into their own premises. The aid will be in the form of grants and interest free loans.

Initially, the Commission has set aside just over one million dollars. That may sound like a lot of money, but this money, and more, has already been allocated to help meet the immediate needs of three or four growing churches.

The Finance and Administration Board has committed to injecting funds into this Fund each year to prepare for future needs. You also can help. I would ask each church to ask two questions:

1. Has God blessed and prospered us?
2. How can we help our fellow churches?

If God has prospered you as a church, please look at how you can help these growing Gospel ministries.

In the eighteenth century, mission to those who had not heard the Gospel captured the heart of the church with Mission Societies being formed and the Word going forth to foreign lands with zeal.

Today, many are keen to serve in and contribute to, overseas mission.

We need to recover that same zeal for mission to the unreached in Australia.

We need to see Australia as a mission field. The need is so great. There are so many places with little or no Biblical witness. The number of places without a witness to the scriptures from a Reformed Gospel emphasis is almost overwhelming.

The efforts of local Presbyterian Churches to reach their own area are having fruit.

I ask you to consider helping Presbyterian Churches to be planted and strengthened as the Lord has blessed you.

The Good News is that the Presbyterian Church of Queensland is showing signs of healthy renewal. The Bad News is that we are still very fragile and the need is great.

Please consider helping the growth of Gospel ministry in the Presbyterian Church of Queensland by giving generously to the 'Ministry Expansion Fund' established by the Commission of Assembly. Every cent will be going to aid Presbyterian Churches in Queensland to acquire strategic infrastructure to assist them to grow their Gospel ministry.

If you can help in any way, please contact Lesleigh Hall, Church Liaison Officer, at Church Offices on (07) 3251 4100 or email [deputyclerk@pcq.org.au](mailto:deputyclerk@pcq.org.au).





# FEATURE TRACKS

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

## PIM CENTENARY VISION MOVEMENT SINCE 2012

### 1. PLACING FOUR NEW INLAND PADRE TEAMS ACROSS AUSTRALIA

Four patrols have been filled – David and Gae McDonald – John Flynn Patrol (SA); Colin and Alison Morrow – Mungo Patrol (Vic/NSW); David and Kathy Allsop – Central Patrol (Qld); Surendra and May'an Wesley – Mid West Patrol (WA). PIM continues to look for new workers for the North

West Patrol (WA) and the North Australian Patrols.

### 2. OBTAINING A CHURCH BUILDING/PATROL BASE PROPERTY IN DARWIN

The Darwin congregation continues to reach out in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ under the leadership of the Rev. Rob and Mrs Jeanette Duncanson. Efforts to gain what

appeared to be a very suitable property in the end bore no fruit. The search is on-going for land/existing buildings which would allow for the development of a patrol base (for the Kimberley Patrol (NT/WA) and the opening of a church building.

The Rev. Ross and Mrs Ruby Brightwell have completed a season of ministry at DPC, they have returned to Melbourne. Their labours

are sincerely appreciated by all in the congregation and PIM.

### 3. TO DEVELOP A CHURCH/PATROL BASE IN ALICE SPRINGS

During the centenary celebrations in 2012, the Rev. Keith and Mrs Jenny Bell were appointed to initiate the new PIM congregation and prepare thereby also for the ultimate launching of the Central Australian

Patrol. A multi-ethnic congregation has come together and on the last Sunday of the month 'the open air cathedral' is held. Keith (Chaplain to the NT Police, Fire and Emergency Services) and Jenny (AS Hospital volunteer) have developed a community ministry which has received good coverage in the local media. Plans are in hand for further development of church and patrol.



## ON PATROL WITH THE MCDONALDS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA



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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE AUSTRALIAN PRESBYTERIAN WORLD MISSION



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2014 #4

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

## WHAT DOES CHURCH PLANTING LOOK LIKE IN TAIWAN?

Linda McKerrrell serves with OMF in Taiwan with a team seeking to plant churches who go on to plant other churches among the working class, a group that is often neglected. How does a Taiwanese church plant differ from an Australian church plant?

### 1. What are the essentials for a "Church"?

At the recent Church planting retreat, we tried to write a list of things that make up 'a church'.

If one of these things were missing would it still be a church?

Here's the list we came up with –

- A group of Christians who meet together regularly
- Pray and praise God together
- The Bible is central – we read and learn together
- Looking after each other
- Baptism and the Lord's Supper
- Having leaders and church discipline



LINDA MCKERRRELL

### 2. What are the essentials for a healthy 'working class church'?

i.e. – if something was missing, it would no longer be healthy – aside from the above.

Food – an essential part of Taiwanese culture!

- Living geographically close together so that we can easily be involved in each other's lives
- Specific teaching re: idolatry, food sacrifices
- Flexibility – time, structure and noise level

- Equipping people to serve each other

### 3. Questions we wrestled with

Religious buildings/places are important to Taiwanese people. Therefore, should we have a 'church building' or should we meet in homes, restaurants, parks etc.?

What should be the relationship between the local established denominations in Taiwan and the kinds of working class churches we are trying to plant?

The answers are not straightforward. They are bound in Taiwanese church history, Taiwanese culture, the various cultural of backgrounds of missionaries from Europe, Asia, USA and Australia. Please pray that God would use His people in Taiwan (both Taiwanese believers and foreign missionaries working together) to help grow His church, especially, to reach out to the working class.

## DISPATCHES FROM THE FRONT

'Dispatches from the Front' by Tim Keesee is an unusual book. It's a travel journal which records the advance of the gospel in some of the world's remote locations. There is also a 7-disc DVD series. You can watch some excerpts at [www.dispatchesfromthefront.org](http://www.dispatchesfromthefront.org).

You can read the Frontline a blog at [www.frontlinemissions.info](http://www.frontlinemissions.info)

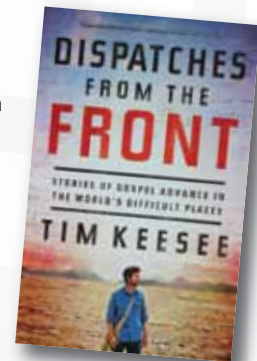
Reformers Books in Sydney stocks the book [www.reformers.org.au](http://www.reformers.org.au) (02) 9564 3555. You may be able to order the DVD series through Reformers.

Here's a great excerpt "This amazing grace that John Newton wrote about in his day has been found by many here in West Africa in our day. The gospel is crossing borders and crushing barriers and giving sight to those who once were blind. In this corner of Christ's kingdom, a dress rehearsal is already

underway for the day when the ransomed from every nation, tongue, and tribe will see their King, the King with scars on his hands. And they will sing—we will sing—for joy and wonder at the reach of such grace!"

John Piper writes about the DVD series "Beware of watching these Dispatches if you don't like being moved and inspired and shaken out of the ruts of your life. My wife and I were riveted in watching the frontline reports of God's work recorded in the Dispatches from the Front. This is the sort of information that builds faith in the present providence of God over

his mission, and stirs up action for the sake of lost and hurting people near and far. I would love to see thousands of people mobilized as senders and goers for the sake of the glory of Christ and the relief of suffering on the frontiers, especially eternal suffering."



## UPDATES

### Surendra & May'an Wesley

(APWM/PIM, Western Australia) We are currently awaiting the approval of their visa. God-willing Surendra and May'an Wesley will be arriving in Australia in December 2014. It is anticipated that they will commence ministry in the remote mining town of Mount Magnet, Western Australia in early 2015.



SURENDRA AND MAY'AN WESLEY

**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](mailto: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.



YOUSIF KUNDA &amp; VIVIAN AJAWIN

**Yousif Kunda & Vivian Ajawin** (Clayton, VIC, GRN, Australia) have commenced serving with Global Recordings Network which is located in Sydney. Yousif has been trained as a recordist to produce Bible resources in people's heart language. Vivian is serving in the GRN promotions team. Although they are currently serving, they still need more support.

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



**John & Kara Dekker** (APWM National, Aspendale VIC, for Talua Vanuatu). John and Kara will take over from Glen & Rachael Connor at the Talua Ministry Training Centre, Vanuatu. John will be



JOHN &amp; KARA DEKKER

serving as one of the lecturers and this year is undertaking PhD studies in Australia. As at early October they have 20% of their support target and are seeking the remainder so that they can commence in Vanuatu in early 2015. They can be contacted at [johnandkaradekker@gmail.com](mailto:johnandkaradekker@gmail.com)

## NEW MISSIONARIES

**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 January 2015 Morris will take up a position in Indonesia training and supervising Hospital Chaplains for a large group of Private Christian Hospitals in Jakarta, Indonesia.



MORRIS AND FLORIANNA KEY

**Aaron & Katie Rigg** (Eltham, VIC, MAF, Australia) God-willing, in early January, the Riggs will commence



AARON AND KATIE RIGG

service in Arnham Land with MAF. They are currently developing their partnership support and can be contacted at [adisk@inet.net.au](mailto:adisk@inet.net.au)



TUMIRIN &amp; SHERIDAN INDARTO

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



VIVIAN TO

**Vivian To** (Gracepoint, NSW, OMF, Taiwan) is preparing to serve in outreach and church planting in Taiwan. Vivian is currently developing her partnership support and can be contacted at [vivhto@gmail.com](mailto:vivhto@gmail.com)

**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)”



APWM CHRISTMAS GIFT CATALOGUE 2014

This Christmas why not give gifts to your friends and family and at the same time help someone who doesn't have the basics that we take for granted? The items below can provide for the needs of christians and others in our partner churches in Myanmar. All gifts will be channelled through our partner Presbyterian Church in Myanmar.

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

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

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

**SCHOOL UNIFORM (MYANMAR)** A gift of \$12 will provide a school uniform for a child.

**BAG OF RICE (MYANMAR)** A gift of \$25 will provide a bag of rice for a family.

**BIBLE COLLEGE STUDENT (MYANMAR)** A gift of \$25 will help support the training of a Bible College student.

- APWM ABORIGINAL MINISTRY (AUSTRALIA)** A gift of \$25 will help support APWM Aboriginal ministry in Mount Magnet, Western Australia in conjunction with PIM.

**BIBLE COLLEGE BOOK RESOURCES (MYANMAR)** A gift of \$35 will provide book resources for the Reformed Bible Institute in Yangon.

**STATIONERY FOR ONE RURAL CHILD (MYANMAR)** A gift of \$45 will provide stationery for one rural child.

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

**EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR ONE CHILD (MYANMAR)** A gift of \$60 will provide educational assistance for one year for a child.

**MEDICINE FOR BIBLE COLLEGE STUDENTS (MYANMAR)** A gift of \$60 will provide medicine for students at the Reformed Bible Institute in Yangon.

**SOLAR LIGHTING EQUIPMENT (MYANMAR)** A gift of \$700 will provide lighting for children in village schools to study at night.

APWM CHRISTMAS GIFT CATALOGUE 2014 ORDER FORM

- HOW IT WORKS
1. You choose the item(s) on our list that you would like to purchase for your friends/family.

2. Send us your order, including payment. Please note that these gifts are **not tax deductible**.

3. We will send you the cards you have ordered. You are then free to give these cards to your friends/family for Christmas. The cards state which gift(s) you have purchased, on their behalf, for someone in Myanmar. The card does not state the monetary value of the gift.

4. APWM then sends the money to our partners in Myanmar. They will then purchase the gifts locally and distribute them to those in need.

ORDER FORM / PAYMENTS

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

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

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

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

Please mail your order form to:

**APWM Christmas Catalogue** 81 Shaftesbury Road, Burwood NSW 2134 and we will send you the cards you have ordered.

Item	Qty	Cost
Mosquito Net (Myanmar) \$6		
Blanket (Myanmar) \$6		
Umbrella (Myanmar) \$6		
School Uniform (Myanmar) \$12		
Bible College Student (Myanmar) \$25		
Bag Of Rice (Myanmar) \$25		
APWM Aboriginal Ministry (Australia) \$25		
Bible College Book Resources (Myanmar) \$35		
Stationery for One Rural Child (Myanmar) \$45		
Vitamins and Medicines for a Rural Village (Myanmar) \$50		
Educational Assistance for One Child (Myanmar) \$60		
Medicine for Bible College Students (Myanmar) \$60		
Solar Lighting Equipment (Myanmar) \$700		
General Donation for Myanmar		
Total		

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

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

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

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Suburb \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

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](mailto: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](mailto:finance@apwm.org.au)  
02 8073 7490  
[www.apwm.org.au/supporting/finance](http://www.apwm.org.au/supporting/finance)

WHERE IS YOUR FAITH AND TRUST?

*Bali and Premla Shepherd run a ministry known as 'SEWAH' in Northern India. The ministry reaches out to children from poor families through its education and welfare activities. Bali and Premla were recently in Australia, speaking in churches about SEWAH. (SEWAH stands for 'Society for Education and Welfare Activities in the Himalayas').*

**Bali, how did you become a Christian?**

I was born and brought up in a Hindu family and I had never heard about Christians before. I travelled to Musoorie where there were so many Christians. I wanted to catch them out but God caught up with me in a miraculous way. I wanted to commit suicide but God stopped me every time!

**Premla, how did you become a Christian?**

I was a Hindu. My father became very very sick. My relatives sacrificed goats and chickens for

him and he became worse. A neighbour suggested we ask a Christian minister to pray for him and one came to our house and prayed for my father. That same day my father saw a vision. There was a black man pushing him up and a white man like Jesus, pushing him down. Both were pushing and the white man won. My father slowly began to get better and I thought "Jesus is a living God that's why the minister prayed for my father and he was healed." It was at that time that I accepted the Lord.

**What does the SEWAH ministry do?**

I was a pastor many years. One day God called me to reach out to Hindus with the gospel because I understood them and used to think like them. They had the same questions as I used to have. I said "God, I have family responsibilities." God said "You preach about having faith, where is your faith and trust? Trust me." Through some miraculous ways, God gave us an operating school. We began to teach Bible stories and

songs to the children and the school began to grow. The God spoke to us through Proverbs 22:6 "Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it." That verse became the basis of our ministry. Now we have 5 schools with 300 children.

**How many teachers do you have and are they Christian?**

We have 18 teachers. Some are Christian and some are not. The non-Christian teachers have the responsibility of teaching Bible verses to the children and they also learn the Bible. Some of these teachers have come to faith in the Lord Jesus. On the first Saturday of every month all the teachers join together for Bible study.

**What encourages you?**

We're encouraged that we are able to teach the children from the Bible. We are free to teach them the Word of God. They have a fresh mind and the Bible verses they learn stay with them. We are very happy to see the children



BALI AND PREMLA SHEPHERD

growing in the Word of God day by day.

**What challenges does the ministry face?**

We really don't have challenges! Since we give a very good education to the children we don't have many objections from the parents. We have very few problems.

**Can you please tell us about the role that Scots College, Sydney, has in this ministry?**

Scots College is our only financial supporter. This money is raised by the students and the school. I believe that this all from the Lord. God has convinced the people at Scots to support us. We believe that this is not our ministry, it is God's ministry. God gave us this ministry and we believe that God will sustain it.

RICK MANTON

Many will have heard that Rick Manton, Pastor of the Mount Druitt Indigenous Church, has been quite ill. What began as an infection quickly developed into a life-threatening illness as the infection travelled to his heart. Rick spent many weeks in hospital as the doctors tried to bring the infection under control. He is now home and undergoing rehabilitation to regain full mobility in preparation for open heart surgery to deal with a damaged heart valve.

Throughout this trial, God has used the congregation at Mount Druitt to minister to Rick and his wife Kayleen. Rick and Kayleen's son-in-law, Leon



Turvey, is the congregation's youth worker and has been pastoring and preaching in Rick's place.

If you speak to Rick he will quickly tell you what a tower of strength Kayleen has been to him.

Rick and Kayleen would like to thank the many people who have been praying for them. There is still a long way to go before Rick will be back to being his usual self. Please continue to remember them in prayer.

AUSTRALIAN PRESBYTERIAN WORLD MISSION

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

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## All Creatures Great and Small

by Graeme Hyland

It was much more than one parishioner had bargained for when he was about to leave St Andrew's Tewantin/Noosa to go home following a 9am Spring service.

Tucked neatly in the engine of his car was a four metre python!

The snake had been spotted acting suspiciously in nearby undergrowth before the service commenced.

Despite some spirited driving in the car park, the snake hung on for the ride.

Fellow parishioner, biologist and snake charmer Stuart Hyland, volunteered to remove the snake.

Oddly enough assistants were not forthcoming. The snake wrapped itself around one arm, whether this was intentional no one is quite sure – with his other arm he grabbed the snake's head, before posing for photographs.

Stuart took the python to nearby undergrowth and flung it off his arm – the snake was for a moment

airborne before landing and slithered off, none the worse for wear. Oh... and Stuart was ok too.

Minister Keith Mayers reported the incident had not discouraged worshippers, but he noticed more people were parking on the bitumen part of the carpark.



Stuart Hyland

## Restoring Sight through Vision

In August this year, Vision radio's breakfast presenter Richelle Wenham journeyed to Dar Es Salaam in Tanzania. Along with presenters from three other Christian radio stations, she witnessed Christian Blind Mission's (CBM) life-changing work and helped promote their national 'Miracles Day'.

The presenters had been invited to raise awareness about the world's number one cause of blindness—'cataracts'.

The funds raised went towards restoring sight to the poorest of the poor, through a simple 12 minute operation costing just \$32.

For Richelle, who attends Village Church in Kelvin Grove Queensland, this was a very personal journey back to a place which held very special memories for her. Having previously served as a Short-Term Volunteer in Tanzania with CMS-QLDNSW, she recounts:

"Aside from adjusting once again to thick heat, the unusual taste of tree root potato chips and the crazy lack of road rules, I found that seeing the genuine humility and joy of the Tanzanian people amidst the hardships they endure daily had left a permanent spot in my heart. On returning I was overwhelmed by what God is doing through CBM Australia.

"Nation-wide 'Day of Miracles' raised enough funds to perform 18,500 cataract operations and I simply can't express in words how much this transforms individual lives.

"Having met with patients and gone in to see a cataract operation performed, I'll never forget the story of Abdallah. He told us his life was like living in a dark prison at the mercy of his family. His little granddaughter is charged with the task of helping him move about. This means she cannot go to school, so the cycle of poverty continues.

"Being with Abdallah when his bandages were removed for the first time and seeing his thankful smile was truly a rare blessing, knowing how much this meant to his family.

"We just don't realise how well-off we are in Australia. It's so ridiculously easy and quick (12 minutes in fact) to release someone in poverty from darkness.

"If we took the time to give up just eight cups of coffee each year, someone like Abdallah would no longer have to live in fear of never seeing another human being again or being a burden to their family.

"In James 2:14-20, God teaches us the mark of a Christian is faith, but that faith without helping others is dead. While I wanted to stick it out for another week to help, I had to remind myself that telling people's stories is important too.

"These people are just like you and me, but they're often left without a voice and without hope. Even in these small things we can show the love of Jesus and tell everyone their lives DO matter. My prayer is that God would never let me forget their plight."



Abdallah after his bandages were removed and Richelle Wenham



Richelle Wenham with another happy patient who's looking forward to seeing and playing with her grandchildren.

If you'd like to know more about CBM Australia, simply visit [www.cbm.org.au](http://www.cbm.org.au). Catch Richelle on Vision radio's breakfast show, Rise&Shine weekdays from 6am. See [www.vision.org.au](http://www.vision.org.au) for details of Vision's 600+ stations nationwide.

## Equipping Refugee leaders on the Thai-Burma Border

by Sharyn Tidswell

Serving refugees, not riding elephants, was the top reason Sam McGeown, from Redlands Presbyterian, and CMS Church Liaison and Missionary Development Officer travelled to Thailand recently.

For the last five years, Sam has coordinated a team to provide solid Bible training for church leaders on the Thai-Burma border.

The 2014 team served in October with the School for Biblical Training (SBT), in conjunction with Crosslinks UK and CMS Queensland with Northern NSW.

Sam trained 35 lay leaders, including school teachers and village elders. His team members, two ministers from churches in Queensland and northern NSW, trained 25 pastors and theological students who serve parishes of 50,000 people in Karen refugee camps and villages on the Thai-Burma border.

"The training programme is meeting a huge need in communities which are often forgotten when it comes to equipping people in ministry," Sam said.

"When we suggested that we didn't have to come anymore, one of the leaders said, 'Please keep coming. We have no other way of accessing the kind of training you deliver'."

The six-day programme provided training for ministers and Bible college students in understanding the pastoral epistles and developing their preaching skills, and equipped lay leaders to grow spiritually, from reading the Bible for themselves and with others.

All participants also explored leadership topics such as effective discipling and pastoral care, and managing conflict and change.

"A lot of the challenges faced by the pastors of churches on the Thai-Burma border are the same as what many churches wrestle with in Australia, but without the access to a wealth of courses, books and conferences," said Sam. "Added to this are challenges unique to Christian leaders on the border."

Invited by the Karen pastors, the SBT team provides crucial training at a time of transition for Myanmar (Burma) and Karen refugees.

The Church has been a source of strength and peace for the Karen people who have lived with fear and uncertainty for nearly three decades. New challenges now face Christian leaders serving their communities.

"The changing political context in the region means increasing uncertainties for the 200,000

refugees living along the border with Thailand.

"Many refugees have been in this position before and are concerned as things could change very quickly.

"Church leaders need to be not only well-grounded in what the Bible teaches but also equipped to meet the growing pastoral care needs," Sam said.

"As NGOs pull out, it is imperative that the church in Australia doesn't follow suit. We need to stay to the end as a reminder that God and his people have not forgotten them."

For the past five years, CMS Queensland with Northern NSW has provided trainers to the School of Biblical Training (SBT) to equip local leaders of the Karen people to handle the Bible with care and preach well.

If you want to learn more about the work of CMS in equipping church leaders throughout the world, visit [www.cms.org.au](http://www.cms.org.au) or phone 07 3112 6530.



**Left:** Christian leaders on the Thai-Burma border with Sam McGeown, CMS Church Liaison and Missionary Development Officer (centre).



**Right:** Equipping lay leaders on the Thai-Burma border in reading the Bible for themselves and with others.



**Left:** Sam McGeown (centre) and School of Biblical Training team members with Karen leaders being equipped in ministry and leadership.



**Right:** Sam McGeown (centre) with members of the School of Biblical Theology team and Karen Christian leaders.



## Fun and Adventure has gone 'Viral'



For those who are still grappling with the world of Facebook and online media, the word viral may not be overly familiar to you, but this year Fun and Adventure Camp (FNA) nearly sold out within 10 hours!

Online registration was announced via the Fun and Adventure Facebook page and BOOM, kids from far and wide were signing up in a flurry.

What an exciting time to see young, enthusiastic high schoolers frantically registering to come to a camp whose primary focus is a series of Bible talks on the book of Mark.

And with that the camp was full. Ten weeks later, 144 campers arrived at beautiful Moogerah Lake for a week of fun, adventure, Gospel-driven Bible talks, relationship-building activities and a 40m piece of builders plastic doubling as a wickedly slippery water slide.

Brett Middleton flew up from Sydney to bring us six talks on the Gospel of Mark. The word Gospel means 'Good News' and 'Good News' is designed to be shared. And this is what a group of 25 enthusiastic and experienced leaders did over the course of the week.



Campers know that FNA is a camp where leaders will sidle up alongside and ask, "How are you going? How is your walk with God? Are you hooked into a church or youth group?", and this is why they attend so enthusiastically.

With a whole bunch of fun games and activities such as the water slide, mini World Cup, dancing and our first ever 'COLOUR RUN', complementing our main activities of tubing, kneeboarding, rock climbing and jet skiing, the campers were quickly into the flow of camp.

On just the second night some were even commenting on how much they'll miss camp when it's finished. This is a group of campers that has the potential to be extremely influential in our churches in the years to come.

With not a single behavioural issue, and campers putting themselves to bed from the second night onwards, it was an absolute joy and pleasure to watch this group of youth grow together in unity and in the Word.



At the time of writing this, camp has been finished for a few weeks now, but the follow up has only just commenced. Stories are filtering through of youth groups like Central Church and Acacia Ridge Church having extra kids join them post camp.

The FNA/Central Bible Study Group 'Monday Night Gathos' had an additional eight kids show up for Bible Study after camp. Kids are still trying to get their hands on the three books we were promoting at camp (Crazy Love, Jesus > Religion and Do Hard Things), and leaders are still posting these to campers.

The momentum is greater than ever. The leaders were encouraged on camp to remember that we are NOT the Vine, we are the Branches – what branch tells the vine what to do? For fruit to grow on a branch, a branch needs to CLING to the VINE! And that's what we did; committing each and every component of camp into the hands of God, the vine, and enjoying the sweet, sweet taste of the fruit which he has blessed us with.

A massive thank you to Troy Wilkins for cooking for the camp with help from Rachel Kirkby, Jonathan Ting and the legendary boys from Acacia Ridge Presbyterian Church: Mike, Prathee and Javed!! Those boys were dishwashing machines!!! (Note: There were many others that also helped...)

Thank you also to Murray Whiting, Stewart McGregor and the boat driving team. What a joy to celebrate 30 years of 'MAD MURRAY' with a dinner, a plaque and a badly backfiring prank. It was great to walk down memory lane with former Camp Director Peter Barson also visiting us on this night.

We would love to continue to offer campers discounted books, Bibles and other resources – if you are interested in helping us with some money please email John Mansfield (johnm@pcq.org.au). But please pray. Pray that our youth groups and churches would be encouraging and helping the many campers who are walking through our doors to know Jesus more. Pray that the campers might be 'ALL IN' for Christ.

Check out our Facebook Page – Fun and Adventure Camp – for more info, details and online registration date for 2015. If you have Instagram, check out the hashtag #keenforfna for pics of camp. And if you have teenagers, make sure they register early, as next year promises to sell out even quicker!

## Ever been to Egypt?

We have! Yes, more than 80 campers and nearly 30 leaders travelled back in time to Egypt on a great Egyptian adventure at the recent Kids Weekender Camp 2 held at Lake Moogerah (aka The Nile) in October.



Tour Guide Steve Hay and the rest of the Clubhouse leaders from Acacia Ridge Presbyterian Church joined together to create a wonderful series of Bible talks looking at 'Unearthing the Story of Joseph' and how it points us to Jesus.

With Duncan pouring all his money into archaeology and the Professor not having much luck, campers were taken on a journey through time as we looked at the story of Joseph, his dreams, his imprisonment, his perseverance, and his rescue. What a great joy to sing 'The Egyptian Rap' with noisy, friendly, colourful and happy campers:

'Will you stay strong? Will you stay true? Will you persevere in all you do? Stay strong in CHRIST! Stay true to GOD! Persevere... STAY STRONG!'

Thanks to Emily Barrett and Amelia Evans (Dalby Presbyterian Church) for teaching us some great memory verses and the rest of the



leaders for preparing their small group times so well. But of course, there is a little bit more to camp.

If you follow Kids Weekender Camps on Facebook you can be kept up to date with all the goings on of camp on a rolling basis, but for those who missed out, we played games, ran ourselves silly, played a strategy-style-board-gameish-building-game on Saturday night and enjoyed being towed around behind speed boats on Saturday afternoon.

What fun it is to see five campers come back to shore after a ten minute ride on the five seater sausage with their stories of pure enjoyment, heroism, heaps of good fun and 'the water sprayed me in my face!' Good times...

Of course the food was awesome and a special thanks goes to Troy Wilkins (Central Presbyterian Church) who along with his apprentices, Prathee, Mike and Paul (Acacia Ridge Presbyterian Church) and Kylie Evans (Dalby Presbyterian Church) ensured the kids and leaders were fed and fed well.

The only problem with the food is that the parents all complain that their kids expect bacon, eggs, hash browns, sausages and toast for breakfast the Monday after camp.

This concludes our Kids Weekender camps, and in fact all our kids camps for the year.

Thank you to over 100 leaders who joined us over the course of the year. We saw a massive number of kids join us on camp, who come back time and time again. Thank you to the churches who were praying for us and we would love for you to send along your kids next year. And speaking of next year, has anyone seen my monkey? I'd better go and search the jungle for him...

Check us out on Facebook!





# Thelma Jean Young

## 15 August 1915 - 19 October 2014

The Family and friends of Thelma Jean Young, nee Allison, gathered at the Presbyterian Church, Wynnum on 24 October to give thanks to God for, and to celebrate the life of, Thelma, who was called home by her Lord the previous Sunday.

Thelma was born at 54 Whynot Street, West End to Robert and Francis Allison, who welcomed their second child and a sister for Robert aged 6.

Her great grandfather Robert Allison had come from Scotland in 1863. When Thelma was 2, the family moved to Wynnum where Thelma spent the next 92 years.

Thelma was an independent spirit, an accomplished musician, an athlete, a naval officer, a strong member of the local church, a devoted family member, a wife, a good friend and a very gracious lady. She attended the Wynnum Central Primary School and completed her secondary education at Brisbane Girls Grammar School.

Thelma was born into a family where the gift of music had been showered down by God in abundance; grandfather and father alike were recognised singers. Her father Robert founded the Wynnum Choral Society and was their first conductor.

Francis, Thelma's mother, was an accomplished pianist and organist and played for church services at Wynnum North Presbyterian Church well into her 90s.

This background destined her to also become an exceptional pianist and organist. She studied music, was involved in concerts and eisteddfods, gained her LTCL teaching qualification, and taught many students during her life.

Thelma joined the navy in 1943 and served as a coder during WWII, being discharged from HMAS Harman in Canberra in 1945.

At the age of 29, Thelma married Robert Young on 19 May 1945 at Park Presbyterian Church, South Brisbane. They made their home in Walnut Street, Wynnum where they lived all their married life (57 years).

By this time both had professed their faith before God and their local Presbyterian congregation, Robert joining the Church in August 1929, and Thelma on 4 September 1938.

They both became totally involved in the work of the church, Thelma serving particularly with her musical ability as well as in the Bible Studies, Sunday Schools and women's ministries.

She could fill in on the piano or organ at a moment's notice, and played whenever the PWA formed a choir for a special occasion.

Robert was ordained an elder in 1949, and served as Session Clerk from September 1958 to the end of 1992.

Their unwavering commitment to the work of the Gospel in Wynnum was evident for all to see over so many years, and there would be many around the state, and further afield, who would have experienced their fellowship through church gatherings.

Thelma was widowed early in 2002. She moved to PresCare Vela early in 2010, where she resumed her ministry not only amongst the residents, but also to the newly appointed Chaplain, Glenda.

Glenda received much encouragement, inspiration and confirmation from Thelma who obviously had much to offer due to her long and steadfast walk of faith.

The presence and fellowship of Thelma Jean Young amongst both the PresCare residents at Vela and the congregation at Wynnum Church will be sorely missed.



## VACANCIES

### POSITION VACANT

#### 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, a forward looking Session, strong outreaching PWA, Mission Committee and 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](mailto:marran@bigpond.net.au) or Session Clerk, Wayne McMaster on (H) 07 5439 7131 or [wayne.mcm@bigpond.com](mailto:wayne.mcm@bigpond.com).

### POSITION VACANT

#### QTC Events Coordinator

Queensland Theological College are seeking a dedicated, confident and capable person to fill the position of Events Coordinator. This casual position involves approximately 35 hours a week and may include occasional evening and weekend work during peak periods or at special events. The starting date will be the week beginning 30 March 2015.

#### Major responsibilities:

- Event administration, management and promotion of QTC events
- Producing promotional material for the college, including newsletters, ads and flyers
- Promoting the college through social media and managing website content
- Providing occasional general administrative support, as directed by the Principal

#### Essential criteria:

- Understanding of and commitment to the QTC ethos
- Organisational and administrative skills
- Communication, interpersonal and teamwork skills
- Technical proficiency in Microsoft Office programmes as well as general computer skills
- Design skills and familiarity with Adobe Photoshop (or similar)
- Ability to liaise effectively with graphic design and advertising professionals

#### Desired criteria:

- Employment experience in events management and/or public relations
- Ability to rapidly acquire knowledge and skills for new technologies and programmes
- General familiarity with the Bible and biblical concepts

For a full job description and further details of job criteria please email the QTC Administration Manager, Belinda Hoadley at [bhoadley@qtc.edu.au](mailto:bhoadley@qtc.edu.au). If you feel that you can meet the criteria, please submit your CV, cover letter, and a brief response to the selection criteria by close of business on Saturday 31 January 2015.

**Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.**  
**Luke 2:11**

We wish our readers a happy, holy Christmas season and thank you for your support and contributions this year.



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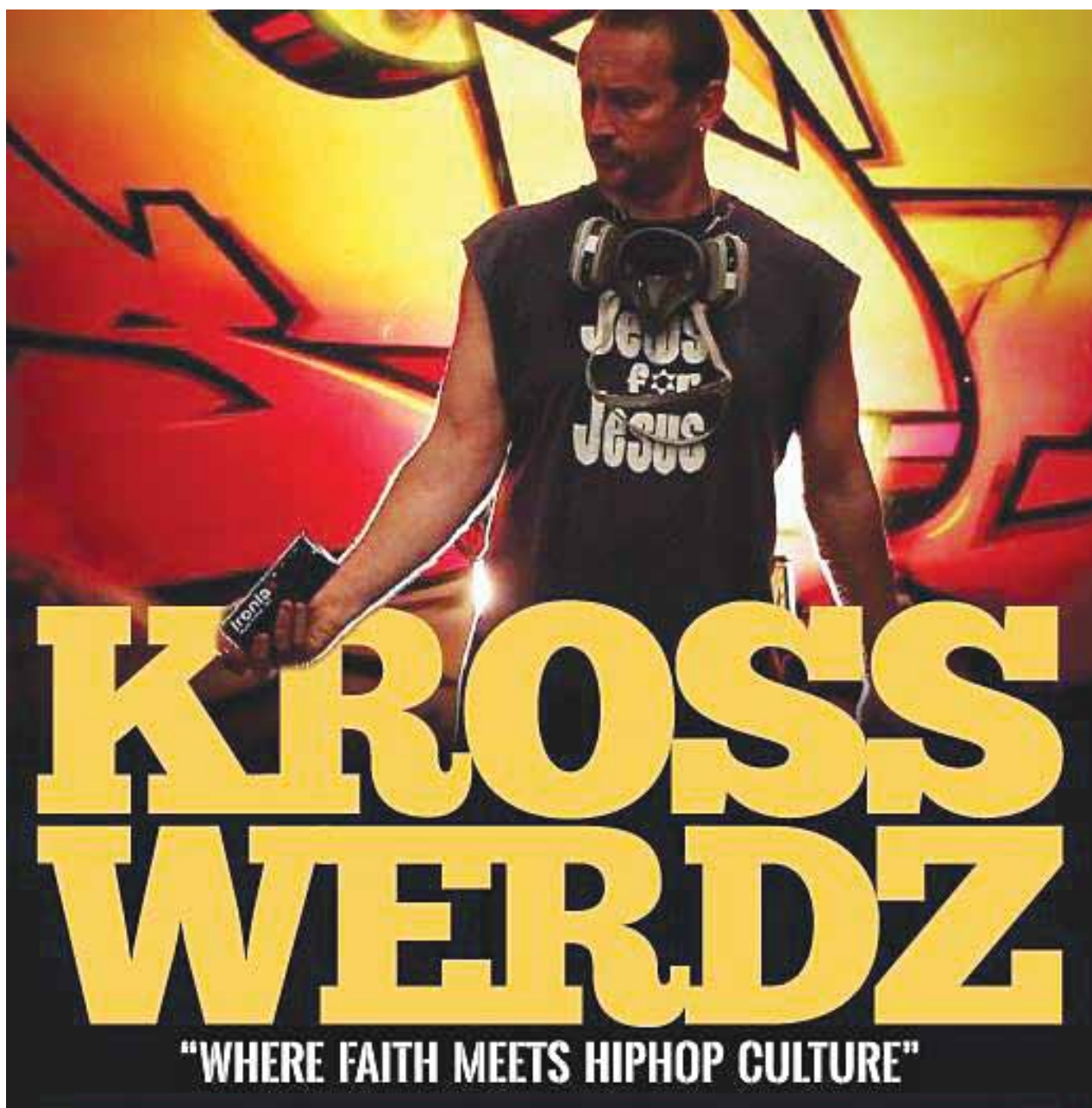
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Presbyterian and Methodist Schools Association [www.pmsa-schools.edu.au](http://www.pmsa-schools.edu.au) A ministry of the United and Presbyterian Churches, providing excellence in education in a Christian and caring environment.





Graffiti mural on Westside Multicultural Baptist Church building

## Rap

by Nathan Carse

**I've done it myself and I failed miserably  
I set sail and sailed forbidden seas  
Bailed that place to face God's Grace  
Only to reject love and chase what myself tastes  
I battled daily till the day God saved me  
My future's certain, there ain't no maybes  
I'm always learning about burden and sin  
But it's fuel for the fire, Christ burns within!**

Krosswerdz is a group of people who love Hip-Hop and love Jesus. What started in Sydney seven years ago has now seen church plants Australia wide and as far as Malaysia and South Korea.

For over four years Krosswerdz South East Queensland has been running church services, outreaches, Bible studies and weekly Hip-Hop workshops within the community.

Services are held at various locations including Mitchelton Presbyterian Church, Fortitude Valley, Forest Lake and the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre.

Krosswerdz held a community event in Inala at the end of October, combined with Forest Lake Baptist and Westside Multicultural Baptist Church.

People from all over the community attended the event, at which Mark Mackay (Forest Lake Baptist) gave a short Bible talk; a graffiti mural was painted on the side of the church building; Christians expressed their

faith through music and dance; and a free dinner was provided.

Nathan Carse is the co-founder of Krosswerdz SEQ and a Ministry Training Network trainee at Village Church, Kelvin Grove. "It's beautiful to see so many denominations join together with one goal, for young people to come to know Jesus," he said.

Nathan has been blessed with numerous opportunities to share the Gospel through Krosswerdz outreaches.

"I love being a part of Church services in the Youth Detention Centre. We've had heaps of opportunities to rap in front of the young people and to share from God's Word. It's an incredible experience," says Nathan.

More information on upcoming events and opportunities for outreaches can be found on the Krosswerdz Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/krosswerdz.qld/>

## Christmas in Prison

by Jesse Caulfield

Christmas in Townsville is a charming time of year. As the hot summer sun begins to set, families flock to the water or begin cricket matches in parks and backyards. Christmas lights adorn roofs and patios, and decorated Christmas trees, surrounded by mountains of presents, can be spied through living room windows.

For Townsville locals, Wayne and Rhonda, Christmas also involves many activities at church. In Townsville many churches combine to put on a nativity scene along the Strand. There are animals (donkeys even). And, of course, Christmas carol services.

those incarcerated at Stuart (near Townsville) in the high security men's and women's facilities operated by Queensland Corrective Services.

On Christmas Day, the prison chaplains spend time eating fruit mince pies and being sniffed by security dogs. They spend time creating conversations with the in-laws and also fellowshipping with 'outlaws'.

It might seem extreme for the chaplains to spend part of their Christmas Day hanging out with people who often have reputations far worse than the most difficult relative. "But it is important," they say.

### Bring the Christmas Message Everywhere

Charles Dickens wrote in his famous novel 'A Christmas Carol' that "Christmas is a time where abundance rejoices and when want is keenly felt". Rhonda and Wayne say that this is true for prisoners.

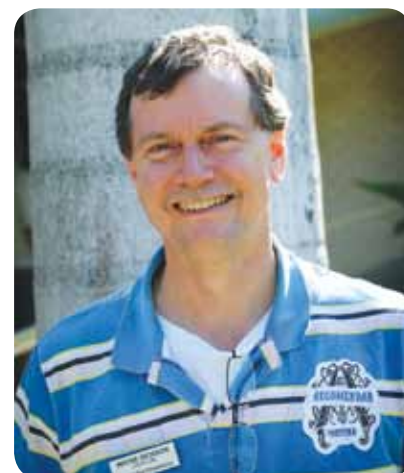
At Christmas many prisoners feel lonelier, more depressed and segregated than at any other time of the year. They hurt deeply; they know the enormity of what they are missing out on. This is why the chaplains think it is so crucial to go into prisons on Christmas Day. It is often when a prisoner is overcome with sadness and feeling most alone, that the Gospel of Jesus brings the most amazing grace and comfort.

On Christmas Day, Rhonda and Wayne find the energy to lead prison chapel services in the morning, have lunch with the staff, and then lead another service in the afternoon. As the chaplains enter the prison chapel they notice a sea of new faces. There's often an influx of inmates at services during Christmas – people who are longing for a sensitive message full of hope and redemption.

So in the most notorious of places, the chaplains tell the story of that very first Christmas in a dusty stable, in the obscure town of Bethlehem. To the prisoners who are so often spiritually poor and lost, the chaplains tell the story of a God who became flesh to save the lost.

This Christmas season please pray for Rhonda and Wayne, and all your prison chaplains, as they visit people in prison. Pray that they will be strengthened by God to proclaim the Gospel of God's grace boldly and clearly. Pray that prisoners will be able to see the joy of the birth of the Saviour Jesus Christ this Christmas. Thank you.

To find out how to intelligently pray for your prison chaplains, please visit [www.insideoutchaplaincy.org.au/insider-praying](http://www.insideoutchaplaincy.org.au/insider-praying) and sign-up for regular monthly prayer points, or alternatively write to us at PO Box 513, Red Hill Qld 4059.



Wayne Nickson



Rhonda Richens

Wayne and Rhonda say Christmas is about the coming of Christ. It's about the hope for humanity. So really it's only fitting that effort is put into celebrating this extraordinary event. It's a busy time of year for them, as it is for many people.

But Christmas Day for Rhonda and Wayne is far from typical. After the presents are opened and church is finished, they both jump in their cars and drive to the outskirts of town; to prison.

Rhonda and Wayne are prison chaplains. They frequently visit