

# PresLife



BI-MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF QUEENSLAND

## Recovering the doctrine of the Holy Spirit

### God's Church in Qld:

Mitchelton

Central Church (Ipswich)

Charleville

Sharing the life of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland as we glorify God and proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to our communities, nation and the world.

VOLUME 22 APRIL/MAY 2018

# Pres Life

Magazine of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland

Cover Photo: Stock Image

Publisher:

Presbyterian Church of Queensland

Editor, Design and Advertising:

Michelle Martin

preslife@pcq.org.au

Printing:

Market2Market

Distribution:

HELP Enterprises by Australia Post and  
Fastway Couriers

*Pres Life* is published six times per year. It is a forum for people within the Presbyterian Church of Queensland to bring news about what is happening in the life of congregations, share ideas and encourage one another to glorify God by proclaiming and living out the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The publisher reserves the right to accept or decline any advertising or submitted articles and edit any submissions. There is no provision for 'Letters to the Editor'.

**Closing date** for editorial and advertising for the next issue of *Pres Life* is **15 May 2018**.  
**Date subject to change.**

The opinions and views expressed in *Pres Life* do not necessarily reflect those of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland or the Editor. While every effort is made to ensure the correctness of information, we do not accept responsibility for the accuracy or reliability of any advice, opinion, statement or other information contained therein.

State Moderator:

Rt Rev Greg Watt

Church Liaison Officer:

Rev Lesleigh Hall

Presbyterian Church of Queensland

Level 4, 19 Lang Parade

Milton QLD 4064

PO Box 1351

Milton QLD 4064

P: (07) 3716 2800

## Contents

Living for Jesus in the  
'new Australia' ..... 4

And then there were THREE.  
Recovering doctrine of the  
Holy Spirit (1) ..... 6

God's Church in Qld ..... 8

News from around the State ..... 12

QTC ..... 19

APWM ..... 20

PIM ..... 21

PresCare ..... 22

Vacancies with  
APWM Queensland ..... 23



www.pcq.org.au



Subscribe to receive Pres Life in your  
inbox



Find us on Facebook 'Pres Life'

## Briefly

### Used Stamps

#### We can turn your used stamps into mission support

The Presbyterian Womens' Missionary Union (PWMU) is collecting stamps to support our missionaries. Stamps can be left at Church Offices, Level 4, 19 Lang Parade, Milton Qld or call Carole on 07 3324 9309 or Margaret on 07 3285 6146 for other options or more details.



## Events around the State



### Be Creative Ladies Retreat

Is celebrating their 20th Anniversary.

Dates: 2-4 November 2018

Address: Watson Park, Dakabin

Register online at [becreative.pcq.org.au](http://becreative.pcq.org.au)

Enquires: [jlangbridge1@gmail.com](mailto:jlangbridge1@gmail.com)

Please mark it in your diary now to join in the celebrations! We'd love to welcome you for creative activities, fun, good food and fellowship, and hearing about Jesus.

Flyers will be available mid-August.







# Living for Jesus in the 'new Australia'

by Rohan Pieris - GiST Team

Last year's 'YES' vote and the subsequent passing of legislation allowing same-sex couples to marry in Australia, will have raised all sorts of questions for each of us.

Has our society now completely shifted away from 'Christian values' and does this even matter? Is religious freedom under threat? What will the consequences be for our children?

Given the plebiscite made Christians seem like haters, should we avoid speaking out on moral issues and just focus on evangelism?

Now that our gay friends and family members can marry, what do we do when they invite us to their wedding?

How do we keep making our churches welcoming for all people, same-sex attracted or otherwise, while still faithfully teaching God's good design for sex and marriage?

In the face of these kind of complex questions it's easy to be overwhelmed or fearful about the future as a Christian in our nation. But instead, we surely want our response to be first shaped by the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and how the Scriptures teach us to live faithfully for Him in this world.

A helpful starting point is the book of 1 Peter, a letter written to 1st century believers under pressure from surrounding cultures that were hostile to Christian belief, dominated by alternative worldviews and ethical norms (including the realm of sexuality). Into that situation, the Apostle encourages them (and us) about how the Gospel has re-shaped our **identity** and **calling**:

*But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.*

*Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us. 1 Peter 1:9-12*

## 1. How the Gospel re-shapes our identity

How incredible to think that whatever our past, whatever our failures to live God's way, however unloved we may have felt from other people, if the Lord Jesus has given us new birth into a living hope (1:3), we belong to God. By grace, we have become: ...*a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession* (2:9).

This is our secure identity in Christ. And it means whatever 'new Australia' we might find ourselves living in, even if life becomes more challenging as a Christian here, there's no need to react with fear. For our God remains on the throne and as His dearly loved people, we live in the confidence of His declaration that, trusting in Christ, [we] *will never be put to shame* (2:6).

Grasping how the Gospel re-shapes our identity will also help us approach our fellow unbelieving Australians with humility and grace, rather than pride and antagonism. For however morally corrupt or depraved

our society becomes, we must remember that's what we all once were. We speak into our world not as morally superior 'do-gooders', but as those who've been called *out of darkness and into his wonderful light* (2:9); those who deserved God's rejection but have received his compassionate acceptance.

The Gospel declares that in Christ we have a new identity that has nothing to do with being better than others, and everything to do with the mercy of God! And it's that gospel-shaped identity which motivates our thankful allegiance to Christ above culture, and provides the foundation for a humble stance of love, instead of fear, towards the world.

## 2. How the Gospel re-shapes our life calling

So how then does God call us to live out our new identity as His people?

Well Peter says that God's intention in making us his special possession is: *...that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness and into his wonderful light* (2:9).

Further on, Peter urges us not to fear persecution (3:14), *But in your hearts revere 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...* 1 Peter 3:15

On this basis, the introduction of same-sex marriage or any departure from Christian ethics in wider society shouldn't cause us to hide away. Instead our trust in Jesus as Lord gives us boldness to live our Christian lives before a watching world, *...among the pagans* (2:12), being ready to answer questions and explain the story of hope that underlies our apparently unusual behaviour. Providing we don't adopt a defensive mentality, the fact our nation might become increasingly secular, should only provide new evangelistic opportunities as we engage openly and graciously with our neighbours, and find them curious about what we believe.

Another part of that new calling we have as God's 'holy nation', is to live distinctively, according to His wise commands, as 'foreigners and exiles' in the world (2:12). We should actually expect that our values and decisions will be so different from the people around us that it might almost seem as if we're from another planet!

Negatively, living in holiness will require us to abstain from the sinful desires which *'war against your soul'* (2:11). Of course this means continuing to avoid all kinds of sexual immorality, but equally greed, jealousy, drunkenness, gossip and anything else that is out of step with our new identity as God's holy people.

However more than just being called to abstain, we are also urged positively by the Apostle to 'live such good lives among the pagans', that they might one day praise God as well! For a range of reasons, many of our fellow Australians don't have a particularly high opinion of Christians at present. It might even be said they "accuse you of doing wrong" (2:12)!

The way we counter that perception isn't to fight back, but to ensure our lives are characterised by the good deeds that flow from the Gospel. Some Peter mentions, which seem particularly relevant in our present context include: suffering without retaliation (2:19-25), submitting to civil authorities (3:13), prayer (4:7; 5:6-7), compassion (3:8), love and hospitality (4:8-9), humility (5:6), and loving marriages between godly husbands and wives (3:1-7).

In any society, there will always be issues where a Christian point of view is out of step with the wider community. But at a time in Australia where that cultural dissonance feels particularly strong around marriage and sexuality, we pray that God might help his church to faithfully live out our holy calling in these ways; that somehow, in His mercy, God might use our witness to lead many to Jesus.

So how do we live faithfully for Jesus in the 'new Australia'? Whilst there may be many new issues to be worked through, our response to any future challenges must continue to be grounded in the unchanging gospel of our Lord Jesus and how it shapes our identity and calling as his servants in this world.

Here's a prayer you might like to pray for the church and our nation at this time:

*Heavenly Father,*

*Thank you for who you've made us to be through the gospel of our Lord Jesus. That by his death and resurrection, we share in a new identity as your chosen people and special possession; those who've been called out of darkness and into your wonderful light.*

*At a time where many of us feel under pressure and fearful for our future as Christians in Australia, help us to take hold of this new identity and allow it to shape our response to what happens around us. Confident in who we are before you by grace, enable us to approach our neighbours with an attitude of love and humility, rather than hostility.*

*We pray for the church, that in response to your astounding love in Christ, we might be faithful in living out our calling to be a holy people, abstaining from worldly immorality of every kind, while at the same time practising good deeds in the pattern of our Saviour so as to adorn His Gospel.*

*We pray especially during this season of increased tension with our wider community around issues of sexuality and marriage, that you would provide many opportunities for us to share the story of hope we've found in the Gospel. Have mercy on our nation, pour out your Spirit, so that many more Australians come to saving faith in the Lord Jesus, in whose name we pray.*

*Amen*





# And then there were THREE. Recovering the doctrine of the Holy Spirit (1)

by Gary Millar, Principal at Queensland Theological College

This article is part one of a three part series on the Holy Spirit by Gary Millar. To read the article in it's original context please go to the website of The Gospel Coalition Australia.

Even though I'm Irish, I have known Don Bradman's Test batting average is 99.94 since I was a kid. I knew that he was out for a duck in his last innings, when he only needed four runs to secure a career average of 100. I knew that Eric Hollies was the bowler, and that the match was played at the Kennington Oval in London in 1948. But what I didn't know was that Arthur Morris—batting at the other end—went on to score 196, and helped Australia secure victory in three days.

If I were Arthur Morris, I'd be a bit sore to be forgotten like that! And I suspect that if I were the Holy Spirit, I'd be similarly sore about the way people overlook my role in God's work today.

I suspect that if I were the Holy Spirit, I'd be sore about the way people overlook my role in God's work today.

Of course, I'm not the Holy Spirit, and as we'll see, the Spirit loves nothing more than to direct our attention to the beauty, power and holiness of the Father and the Son. But that doesn't mean it's okay to neglect the Spirit in our thinking, conversation and church life. We need to re-examine the Bible, repent and change.

Over the next three posts I want to present seven big ideas about the Spirit and what he does for us:

1. The Holy Spirit is God;
2. The Holy Spirit lives in us (bringing us life);
3. The Holy Spirit enables us to speak;
4. The Holy Spirit is making us like the Lord Jesus;
5. The Holy Spirit brings us to the heart of God's family;
6. The Holy Spirit equips us to serve to the glory of Jesus;
7. The Holy Spirit brings us joy.

## 1. The Holy Spirit is God

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity, yet many Christians act as if the Spirit were little more than an impersonal 'force'—like the Star Wars 'Force'.

*Continued from page 6*

When we speak of the Spirit as a person, of course, we don't mean exactly the same thing as we do when we speak of a human being. As the carefully nuanced wording of the Belgic Confession (one of the earliest Reformed Confessions) puts it:

Scripture teaches us that the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit each has his own subsistence distinguished by characteristics—yet in such a way that these three persons are only one God. It is evident then that the Father is not the Son and that the Son is not the Father, and that likewise the Holy Spirit is neither the Father nor the Son. Nevertheless, these persons, thus distinct, are neither divided nor fused or mixed together. (*Belgic Confession, Article 8*)

Here we have a clear acknowledgement that the Spirit is personal, and that he is equal with the Father and the Son. And this is a faithful summary of what Scripture teaches.

From the beginning of the Bible, there are strong hints that there is more to God than simple 'oneness' (see Gen 1:2; 6:3; Prov 8:12-31).

In the major Prophets, we find clearer pointers to the Spirit's 'personality'. Ezekiel, in particular, makes it very clear that the Spirit is not simply the 'power' of God, but one who acts and speaks with the initiative and creativity of God himself (see Eze 1:12, 20; 2:2; 3:12, 14; 8:3; 11:1, 5).

The personality of the Spirit then becomes unavoidable when we come to the New Testament. Throughout Jesus' ministry, from baptism to last supper (John 14-17), we see the Spirit revealed as God in the same way that the Father and the Son are God (so, for example, John 7:39; 15:26).

It's surprising, in light of this, that so many of our gatherings make little or no reference to the Holy Spirit. It's not that the Holy Spirit wants to be front and centre—he wants to direct attention to the Father and the Son. But there is a difference between respecting the self-effacing nature of the Spirit, and completely ignoring him. We must make a substantial and concerted effort to make sure that our thinking, speaking and gatherings are essentially Trinitarian. We worship a God who is Father, Son and Spirit.

## **2. The Holy Spirit lives in us, bringing us life**

In the Bible, the Spirit is depicted as the one who gives life—especially life with God:

in Creation (see Gen 1:2);

in the days of Moses, when the New Covenant is anticipated (Deut 30:1-10);

in the promises given to Ezekiel (36:24-30; 37) and Joel (2:28-29).

In the ministry of Jesus himself, one of the greatest encouragements and privileges held out to us is that God himself will come and live in us through the Spirit.

"It is the Spirit," living in us, "who gives life," (John 6:63). The gift of the Spirit, through Jesus is the antidote to human separation from God which goes back to the Fall. The Spirit makes intimacy with God possible once again. His presence anticipates the reconciliation of God with His people—and in fact the whole cosmos (see Isa 34:16; 42:5; 44:3; also Joel 2:28).

**This news that the Spirit is joining us to Christ, bringing us to new life, is powerful, comforting and energising.**

This reconciling and life-giving work of the Spirit features prominently in the ministry of the apostles. It is a central theme for Paul (see Rom 1:4; 8:11; 1 Cor 6:11; 12:13; 2 Cor 4:13; Gal 6:8; 1 Thess 1:5; 2 Tim 1:14; 2 Tim 1:4); and for John too (see 1 John 3:24; 4:13).

This news that the Spirit himself has taken up residence in our lives, joining us to Christ and bringing us to new life, is one of the most powerful, comforting, energising aspects of the truth of the Gospel. Indeed it is the Spirit who brings dead people to life through the preaching of the Gospel. As the Westminster Confession of Faith puts it:

The grace of faith, whereby the elect are enabled to believe to the saving of their souls, is the work of the Spirit of Christ in their hearts, and is ordinarily wrought by the ministry of the Word ... The clear and comforting teaching of the Bible is that God pours out his Spirit into our lives, and the Spirit both brings us to life through faith, awakened by the gospel, and then takes up permanent residence in our lives. (*Westminster Confession, 14*)

These are just two of the amazing things the Bible has to tell us about the Spirit and his ministry. In our next post we'll look at how the Spirit enables us to speak about Jesus, live like Jesus, and share in Jesus' relationship to God the Father.

This is the first article from Gary Millar's 2015 three part series on Recovering the doctrine of the Holy Spirit. This series was originally written for The Gospel Coalition Australia.



# God's Church in Queensland

## Mitchelton Presbyterian Church

Mitchelton Presbyterian Church has a long history of faithful gospel witness on Brisbane's northside. Our mission statement, "Growing Followers of Jesus", keeps us anchored in the key goals of evangelism (growing new followers of Jesus) and edification (growing as followers of Jesus through hearing His Word). While we're a church with a contemporary edge, we're thoroughly sold on the importance of clear, Christ-centred Bible Teaching as the heart of our ministry.

We've been encouraged through the years to see the fruit of that, as God has grown us year by year, sometimes through the painful process of planting new congregations like Christ Central at Eatons Hill and Village Church at Kelvin Grove.

### What happens during the week

Every Sunday there are four main services. Our two morning congregations meet at 9 and 10:30 and are made up of a combination of retirees, families, young adults and kids. Youthchurch meets at 4:15pm, followed closely by our young adults service (Latechurch) at 7pm. Through the week over 25 Growth Groups meet in homes to grow under God's word.

### The Ministry Team

Senior Pastor Phil Campbell with his wife Louise joined us almost 20 years ago, in 1999.

Doug and Marike Wannenburg and their family have recently joined the team from Stellenbosch, South Africa. Doug is Assistant Senior Pastor, with a primary focus on our morning congregations.

Louise Fairhurst and Simone Gately are our two part-time childrens' workers.

Pete Kutuzov is our Youth Pastor

Dan Wilton is the Young Adults and Latechurch Pastor.

Micah Gibson joined the team last year as a Ministry Trainee under



the MTN program, and Luke Peterson is our Field Education Student from QTC.

Owen Richmond, Viv Burns and numerous other capable support and administration staff complete the MPC team.

### Looking Ahead

Since the Ferny Hills rail line sliced through the middle of our original block of land decades ago leaving us with an awkwardly shaped triangle, we've faced endless challenges with our buildings and facilities. We're currently redesigning the complex to fit more adults, kids, staff and cars into our limited footprint. Over coming months, we'll be working to resolve final design decisions and funding for the project.

### Prayer Points

Please pray for us during this time. In all of that, our priority remains to grow as followers of Jesus and grow new followers of Jesus.

## Market Church

Located on the edge of the Mitchelton business precinct, we've been thinking through ways to engage with the local community. Through the fourth quarter of 2017, we trialled an early morning monthly "Market Church" service to engage with the buzzing Sunday morning Blackwood St markets. A team lead by ministry students Ryan Holmes, Luke Peterson and Chris Hogbin co-ordinated leafleting (both midweek, and through the market crowds), a coffee and raisin toast tent, mood-setting pre-service music, followed by a brief semi formal service on the grass area adjoining the street. At times the weather was challenging, but overall the trial gave us opportunities to chat with passing market-goers, a new opportunity to invite friends, and a very visible way to proclaim Jesus in our community. With the end of the trial, we're investigating a new regular early-morning service later in 2018.





## Meet the People



### The Williams Family

My name is Esther Williams and I am married to Matt, and we've been married for 19 years!

**How long have you been attending Mitchelton?**

Since 2005

**What do you do during the week?**

I'm a Mum with my two kids, Harper (left) and Amos (right)! My other occupation is a nurse.

**What is the best thing about being at Mitchelton?**

Getting to experience a beautiful church community and fellowship. This community helps you to experience Jesus in many different ways and through many different people. It's a great blessing.



### Ron & Jan Gibson

**How long have you been attending Mitchelton?**

Since 1974

**What do you do during the week?**

We're retired, we enjoy travelling around the country caravanning, and we spend a lot of time around people enjoying their company, providing help and support when we see the need. Jan loves to do anything craft-wise, and Ron is involved in a community choir and loves to sing.

**What is the best thing about being at Mitchelton?**

We think the teaching is fantastic! It's always been a church where Jesus' Name is kept in the forefront and that's something that we're really thankful for. The faithful teaching has been experienced by four generations in our family, our parents, our children, and now even our grandchildren. We also find great company with our friends here who love Jesus as well.



### Hannah Brereton

**How long have you been attending Mitchelton?**

Almost 2 years

**What do you do during the week?**

I have just graduated as a dietician and I have been doing a lot of extra study to work specifically as an eating disorder dietician. Other than that I love art and exploring new perspectives and places.

**What is the best thing about being at Mitchelton?**

Mitchelton has really been my family here for the past couple of years, and that is really special to me. I really value the people who care about how I am going in all aspects of my life, especially in my faith. I really appreciate when people care for me enough to challenge my thinking. I'm an all-in or all-out person, so when I set out on endeavours that aren't focussed on God I can crash pretty hard and fast. I really value the people from Mitchelton who have been there to point me back to God, and help realign my desires and perspectives with His.

## Central Queensland Women's Convention 2018

Our God is so great yet we often live believing He is not active in our world and in our lives. Although we may not express it like this, our God has become small! Come to CQWC18 and rediscover God's promises to His people, how He saves those who trust Him and is just in all His ways.

Join us as we see God reveal Himself to us in the book of Joshua.

CQWC18 is on Saturday 21 April at Rockhampton Presbyterian Church.

### SPEAKER



Lesley Ramsay is married to Jim and they have 4 children & 11 grandchildren. She became a Christian as a teenager and loves encouraging women to follow Jesus. She works as an evangelist, trainer and Bible teacher, and has had the great privilege of working alongside Jim in pastoral ministry. In the last few years she's been travelling with Jim to encourage young church planters and their wives as they pastor congregations in sometimes isolated spots.

**PURCHASE TICKETS NOW – CQCC.NET.AU**

## DETAILS

**Saturday 21 April, 930am-300pm**

Rockhampton Presbyterian Church  
51 Denham Street (doors open at 9am)

online early-bird prices (closes 15 Apr)

\$30 adults

\$20 concession (pensioner, student)

last minute/at the door prices

\$40 adults

\$30 concession (pensioner, student)

Tickets include lunch and other refreshments.

Visit [www.cqcc.net.au](http://www.cqcc.net.au) to purchase your tickets.

Contact the registrar for more info –  
[registrar@cqcc.net.au](mailto:registrar@cqcc.net.au) or 0412 738 318



# God's Church in Queensland

## Central Church (Ipswich)

### Location

On the corner of Limestone and Gordon Streets in the CBD of Ipswich.

### The Ministry Team

**Snr Pastor:** Scott Muir

**Connect Pastor:** Jason Budden

**Families Ministry Worker:**

Philip van't Spyker

**Ministry Co-ordinator:** Natalie Newell

**Ipswich Assist:** Troy Wilkins

**CAP Debt Centre Outreach:**

Tim Parslow

**KidzCentral Team Leader:** Keryn Hall

**MTN (Country Churches):**

Richard Shannon

**Church Planter (Ripley):** Pier Franchini

### Demographic

Central Church is a diverse church overflowing with children and families and enriched by many older believers, refugees, and friends who are marginalised in society. Everyone is welcome to hear the gospel of Jesus.



### Prayer Points

- That we would be as salt and light in the community.
- For Ipswich Assist as it gives help, hope and support to people who are struggling.
- For unity around our mission of making followers of Jesus by being followers of Jesus.

### What is the church excited about doing to make followers of Jesus?

We are excited about four things. Firstly, our people are a mission force whom we train and encourage to be sharing Jesus where they live, work and play. Second, we are kicking off a church plant in the brand new area of Ripley. Third, we have begun a renewal work in our regional churches at Coominya and Forest Hill. Finally, with such a large number of children we love teaching and equipping them to be passionate followers of Jesus.

## Meet the People



**Tosin Adeyemo  
& Tunde Oyedepi**

**How long have you been attending Central Church?**

8 months

**What do you do during the week?**

Every day of the week before bed we have our devotions. We also attend the bible study every Wednesday. Also, we have a one to one bible study with other members of the church, as work and time permits.

**What is the best thing about being at Central Church?**

The unity and the aura of love is what we cherish most. The love of God is evident in Central Church as well as the love for fellow people/neighbours. We love Central Church as it is a church where we are all family.



**Lance Kahler**

**How long have you been attending Central Church?**

5 years

**What do you do during the week?**

During the week, I volunteer for different groups. One day I help out with ex-prisoners and another day with street kids.

**What is the best thing about being at Central Church?**

The best thing about being at Central Church is that I like being with all the people. I mix with people from all three services and have good friendships here. I love God and being here helps me keep loving Him.



**Elizabeth Jeffrey**

**How long have you been attending Central Church?**

12 years

**What do you do during the week?**

I enjoy Craft group and Evergreens on Wednesdays and love gardening.

**What is the best thing about being at Central Church?**

It's great to have Christian friends around all the time and know that there is support when needed—love the security of being here. Love to serve the Lord at church and participate in ministry where new people can come and meet the Lord.



# Charleville Presbyterian Church

## Location

We're in the South-West Queensland Outback, at the intersection of the major highway north-south and the Warrego Highway east-west. (about nine hours west of Brisbane, halfway across the State).

## The Ministry Team

Preacher: Les Penrose (Senior School Chaplain) is conducting most of the preaching Sunday to Sunday. We are also supported from Dalby by Rev Ross Pethybridge (Moderator) and Elder Greg Cripps (PIM). Jeff Parry and Rob Johnson are the other elders.

## Demographic

A regular congregation of 12 mature age members and two grandchildren.

(The 2016 Census reports 72.8% of the Murweh Shire (our local shire) identify as Christian!) Murweh Shire population (2016) was 4391.



## Prayer Points

Praise the Lord for providing elders who can preach and the support from other Queensland churches who help us in our ministry when needed.

Pray for opportunities to share our faith and for each of us to see God's hand already at work.

## What is the church excited about doing to make followers of Jesus?

Joining with other Christian churches to run Kids Club in the School Holidays and meeting with the travellers who come to the morning teas we host after their town tour on Sundays.

## Meet the People



**Glen-Christine (Glen) Hunter**

### How long have you been attending Charleville?

Since November 2016

### What do you do during the week?

I am retired; I care for my three grandchildren, two months to five years old;

I participate in the school and church activities.

I love gardening and quilting.

### What is the best thing about being at Charleville?

The people, how friendly and accepting they are. Mixing with mature Christians and being involved in the 125 year Anniversary celebrations.



**Jerry Francisco**

### How long have you been attending Charleville?

13 months and lived in the Philippines before.

### What do you do during the week?

I look after the refrigeration systems at Charleville Meat Exporters.

### What is the best thing about being at Charleville?

I enjoy the solemnity of the worship, worship songs, warm hospitality and fellowship with the leaders and members of our church.



**Margaret Maris**

### How long have you been attending Charleville?

Since 1953

### What do you do during the week?

I am involved with Red Cross; Hands on Care at the Nursing Home; attend the nursing home service regularly; Home Duties; visiting people in the community. I volunteer with church activities and am on the Committee of Management.

### What is the best thing about being at Charleville?

Worshipping God and having fellowship with fellow Christian brothers and sisters.

# News from around the State



## Village Church: Village Mosaix

### Did you know?

Over 20% of Australians were born in another country—half of whom are from non-English speaking backgrounds. Combined with their Australian-born children, they constitute 40% of the population.

Annually, there are over 400,000 international students studying at Australian universities. In Brisbane, 1 in 5 uni students are from overseas. Many of them have never been in an Australian home.

75% of the young people in youth detention are from an indigenous background.

A recent study reported that depression levels amongst some refugees in Australia are twelve times higher than the national average. Anxiety levels are fourteen times higher. The study discovered that depression and anxiety only increased over time, not decreased.

Some people in our local communities never hear someone ask them wholeheartedly, "How are you going?"

### So, how can we help?

On 28 June 2017 Village Church launched Village Mosaix at the Garden's Club in Brisbane. Village Mosaix is not looking to replace government or non-government organisations in their effort to support these groups of people. Rather, we are hoping to bridge the gap between their services and each individual by providing the practical care and support that is sometimes lacking. We seek to:

**CREATE:** We want to build, organise, and utilise a trusted network of groups and individuals who are willing to offer their skills and support to help the most vulnerable in our community.

**PROVIDE:** We wish to extend practical care where needed, whether through the giving of food, clothing, blankets, white goods, furniture, job seeking or immigration support or any other help individuals might be needing.

**MAINTAIN:** Our aim is to sustain these relationships by giving holistic care, whether through friendship, community integration, emotional or spiritual support.

The weekend after Mosaix launched we received a request which we think typifies what we are about. A young woman needed to be relocated while her husband was in custody for physically abusing her. A house was provided by social services for her, but she had no way of moving. A group of Mosaix volunteers rented a truck, helped her pack up and then moved her to her new location. As we were helping her move in, we discovered another woman in the building who was in a similar situation. We helped her move in also, and provided her with some much needed furniture. She had been sleeping on the floor with no mattress, bed or any kind of bedding. In both situations we continued to provide ongoing relational, emotional and practical support, and gave them the opportunity to be involved in the church community.

Since its launch, in the name of Christ, we have been able to furnish 10 houses, helped other women in domestic violence situations, provided emergency support for families going through tough times, sent mobile phones to asylum seekers on Nauru, helped asylum seekers seeking employment, provided support for students and refugees facing ongoing visa issues, facilitated the screening of the movie *Chasing Asylum*, helped run a holiday program for Congolese young people, fed the homeless, taught English classes and networked with other similar groups.

We recognise that there is still so much to do in our community and this is only the beginning. We would love to connect with other interested groups, churches and individuals.

**LIKE** to follow the Facebook page to be kept up with the latest news and to get in touch.

**DROP US A LINE:** Head to [vc.org.au/Mosaix](http://vc.org.au/Mosaix) where you can:

- Become a Village Mosaix Volunteer;
- Request assistance for you or a friend;
- Assist us if you are in a position to help; or
- Give to the work.





# Browns Plains Presbyterian Church

## Ministry to the Arabic speaking people

### The Babel Principle

God's Babel principle is still active today: people who speak the same language are drawn to each other. This is one of the reasons why the efforts of Elder Mamdouh Ghobrial, a Session member of the Browns Plains Charge, and his dear wife Samia's to coordinate an Arabic Bible study group have taken off with a bang.

Every fortnight a regular group of 30-35 Arabic speakers from various countries meet at the Community Church at Coopers Plains to study God's Word, with numbers swelling to 40-50 on occasions.

A recent, special all-day event saw 77 friends gather at Mueller College, Redcliffe to dive into the Scriptures with Amgad Kaliel, a gifted Bible teacher who seems to have the Bible engraved in his heart and head. In spite of the rain they came to hear and share in the fellowship around delicious Arab food.

### Questions and Answers

Openness to questions and answers has opened the door for Miranda, one of our members with a passion for the Lord and a Masters in counselling, to have special sessions on family and social issues. And the solution to the issues in focus always comes from the Bible. Feedback has been very positive.

All this, however, comes with a cost—lots of visitation and phone calls to encourage people personally. But one lady's recent comment during a ladies' Bible study, and her evident change of life makes it all worthwhile: "For my whole life I never knew the Word of God; until I came here to learn from Miranda and Samia". Now she and her husband are reading the Scriptures together, and he is becoming more and more aware of the errors of their previous 'church'. Another lady said a similar thing.

### Help needed

Of course, beyond the physical cost there is always the financial burden. Thus far, much of it has been carried by Mamdouh and Samia, and the local congregation in Browns Plains. A foundation has been laid, and now there is a chance to build upon that foundation. There is an ever growing community of immigrants from the Arab world arriving upon the shores of Australia, and perhaps for the first time in their lives they have a chance to have the Gospel presented to them—in their own tongue. Mamdouh, Samia, and the other helpers wish for nothing less than the spread of the Gospel message to every single person who steps off the aeroplane. They cannot do it by themselves, and are in need of others to help share the load and cost.

If you are able to help in any way please contact Rev André Schwartz of Browns Plains Presbyterian Church.

Mobile: 0403 599 390

Email: [admin@bppc.org.au](mailto:admin@bppc.org.au)

How grateful we are to the Lord for all He has done and has planned for the future. To Him be all the glory!





## Bargara Presbyterian Church

This year we celebrate our second birthday since launching as a church plant from Bundaberg Presbyterian Church. We meet on Sunday afternoons (4:30pm) in the Bargara State School—which is an excellent location! Two years ago we were setting up 50 green IKEA chairs for the Sunday gathering, now it's over 100. We continue to pray that God would use us in His work as we proclaim Christ to each other and those around us.

We praise God for Bundaberg Presbyterian Church and their continued support of us. They are faithful in prayer

and in visiting us. We are thankful too, for a growing leadership team in Bargara, which is crucial for the health and development of this new church.

A real highlight for our 'Church Family' has been our regular outdoor gatherings. We've found them to be accessible to those not used to attending church. We thank God for the individuals and local churches that regularly commit this work in Bargara to Him. We praise God for your partnership in the Gospel!



## Central Queensland: Training for Children and Youth Leaders

In February we were blessed to have a Kidswise training seminar run by Sandy Galea at Rockhampton Presbyterian Church. People travelled from as far away as Emerald and Mackay to come to the training, and it is our hope that they will be able to put into practice many of the things they learnt over the weekend.

The training was for anyone involved in kids or youth ministry—whether teaching Sunday School or RI, or running a local youth group. Sandy Galea presented to the leaders of childrens and youth ministries from across our region on how to build effective leadership teams. Other sessions

she presented included 'How to Grow Servant Hearted Kids'; 'Getting Connected and Staying Connected – with kids and youth'; and 'God's Purposes for His People and the Implications for Children's Ministry'.

We are particularly grateful that Sandy was prepared to travel to Central Queensland to host this seminar, and to Thom Lowther and Matt Stewart who did most of the organising and preparation. Also a special thanks to Rockhampton Presbyterian Church for the use of their venue and their great hospitality. For more information about what Kidswise have to offer, you can visit [www.kidswise.com.au](http://www.kidswise.com.au).





## Goondiwindi Presbyterian Church

Being the hub of five highways, it's possible you've travelled through or stopped for a bite to eat in the border town of Goondiwindi in the State's south.

However, Gundy (if you don't want to sound like an outsider, you need to know it is pronounced 'Gundiwindi' and often shortened to just 'gundy') is more than a place just to get lunch on the way through to your destination. Nestled on the Macintyre River, Gundy is a buoyant town, home to around six thousand friendly and very community-spirited residents. It is the largest town within a strong agricultural region and prides itself on blending innovation with tradition, and hard work with a good sense of humour.

God has been incredibly faithful to the two Presbyterian Church congregations within the region, one in Gundy itself and the other 98kms away in the neighbouring town of Inglewood. Goondiwindi Presbyterian Church (GPC) has a long heritage in the town—dating all the way back to 1875!—and both churches can give testimony of the difference the Good News of Jesus makes in shaping and changing lives over many years.

Recently a new chapter of ministry has unfolded, as the congregations welcomed the arrival of a new minister at the beginning of 2017.

This new season has brought with it no small change, with the congregation working together to adjust the Sunday gathering, seeking to make it more contemporary and accessible to a broader range of people, all the while still retaining some of the richness of what has been.

We've appreciated interviewing various people from inside and outside our congregation and hearing a bit about their journey with Jesus, enjoyed learning new songs, and have undertaken learning together the new city catechism, which we've nicknamed the 'big cat'.

Throughout this time it has also been a great encouragement to welcome in new people to our community.

The future for GPC involves working on a few fronts:

Firstly, to continue clear Bible teaching applying the good news of Jesus to everyday life; secondly, is to become better known and recognised as a church community with our broader community; and third is to keep working towards welcoming others into this gospel community, keeping in mind and praying for those who have not yet joined us in following Jesus.

Please be praying for us, that we'd grow in the Gospel, share it freely and be keen to change in order to reach others (even when that is uncomfortable). Pray that God would send and raise up more people to serve and speak the Gospel, taking up the many opportunities that lie before us here.

# News from around the State



## Nathan (Nat) Carse

Nat Carse has been supported by the Presbyterian Church of Queensland for a little over two years in his work with Krosswerdz to share Jesus with young people through hip hop culture. This has included running workshops and a 'hip hop church service' in Brisbane Youth Detention Centre. Krosswerdz Care has also provided opportunity for young people released from detention to start rebuilding their lives through stable employment. They also have the benefit of mentoring as they negotiate life outside of detention.

Most recently Krosswerdz has been approached to run their outreach program from Woodridge PCYC. These nights offer performances, testimonies, dinner and a Bible talk. It is a great way to meet with new people interested in the hip hop scene who also want to understand more about Jesus. In addition it means more opportunities to connect with young people from youth detention who have attended the church services and programs within the centre. About this development Nat says, "We want to build relationships and connect people with local churches in Logan. We want to be community shaped by the hope we have in Jesus as we look to share that hope with others."

It is a great blessing that this program has the support of the venue, for Krosswerdz to offer a positive alternative for young people in the area. Please pray for this ministry, for Nat to have opportunities to hold out Christ, for many young people to know and follow Jesus and be connected with churches who are ready to love them.

If you would like to find out more about this ministry you can contact Nat at [nat@ynet.org.au](mailto:nat@ynet.org.au)



## Farewell Joan Gregory

**What was your role at the Presbyterian Church of Queensland (PCQ)?**

Varied and many; mostly administration for the Camping Program.

**Why did you feel called to work at PCQ?**

I loved the idea of helping children to grow in the Lord.

**In what way has God changed your life the most significantly?**

When Jesus came into my life, He made me a different person; completely! Instead of loving myself I fell in love with Him and He has led me into a life I cannot fully comprehend sometimes. It is wonderful and fulfilling.

**How long did you work for PCQ?**

I am not sure; I first came to do the accounts while Dorothy was on long service. I met John Mansfield and we got talking about his camping ministry; the rest is history. I think it had to be 18 to 20 years.

**What were your tasks in your role at PCQ?**

Supervised registrations and paperwork for Kids Camps all year! Chased up payments, did banking; paid accounts, supplies, etc. I also took care of reports sent in from each Church, monthly or yearly, and collated them into reports for the Assembly—Plus! Plus!

**Do you have a favourite memory to share of your time with PCQ?**

There are so many! The fun and discussions at staff gatherings (i.e. morning tea) each Friday! Most of all I will remember the people; it was such a pleasure to work with every one of them. They are God's servants and I miss them all.

**What are your plans post-PCQ?**

I retired in December just before Christmas; I have had no time as yet to think about what I want to do. I appreciate the extra time for my church and family. I pray I can travel some more. I will continue with my craft, mainly crochet these days in front of the TV with my husband. God is good!





## PROPEL 2018

With a new year comes excitement, joy, and hope. For the young people of Christ Central, Dalby, Warwick, Goondiwindi, Stanthorpe, and West Toowoomba Presbyterian Churches, PROPEL Camp was an excellent way to kickstart their 2018.

Camping on the shore of Lake Broadwater in January is always hot, but so very worth it. We got to have fun, laugh, and spend time in the book of Judges together as Pete Kutuzov explained how God uses unlikely people to achieve His good purposes.

PROPEL was such an encouraging week, and we look forward to 2019. Please keep the young people and leaders in your prayers as they continue to join together in their youth groups throughout this year; that they may grow in their love and knowledge of God, and that they continue to make the Gospel known to all of those around them, so that we may see God draw many more young people to Himself.



## JUMPSTART SCHOOLIES 2018

*Jumpstart Schoolies* celebrated another year of graduates at Stradbroke Island's Point Lookout SLSC in November 2017. Against this spectacular back drop Danny Mitchell challenged us all to consider what the Bible says about true rest. It was great to be able to tackle this topic while 'resting' from school and looking ahead to 2018. We also managed to squeeze in some jet skiing, surfing, sand boarding, paddle boarding, snorkelling, golfing, daily gelato, beach sessions, and much more.

One of the great joys of *Jumpstart Schoolies* was seeing young people from all over Queensland gather as strangers, and leave as true friends in the faith. Most of the campers are Christians and it was great to see the connections made at previous YNET

camps, grow into real togetherness over the week. There were other campers that came to Schoolies seeking to know more about Christ, who consciously stepped closer to following Him.

Over the years since it began as an alternative to the typical schoolies week, *Jumpstart Schoolies* has continued to provide an opportunity to celebrate this important rite of passage in an unashamedly Christian way. This Schoolies week is one that inspires and edifies.

Please pray that the young people who attended will continue to grow as followers of Jesus and trust Him as they step into the next phase of life.



# News from around the State



## Reflections from Rev David Secomb on his ministry at the Gold Coast for the period of 1980-1986

In February 1980 I was appointed to the small Gold Coast Home Mission Charge, a congregation of about 35 who desired to remain Presbyterian when the former Gold Coast congregations had entered the new Uniting Church in Australia (UCA). I had just left the UCA, having been ordained five years earlier as a minister in the Methodist Church, and was awaiting reception into the Presbyterian Ministry. I was 32, and with my wife Margaret and two daughters had just moved into the manse that the Presbyterian Church of Queensland (PCQ) had provided.

We were encouraged by the determination of those who at the time of church union, took steps to see that this new charge was established. We were also grateful for the zeal of Nancy Finlayson in initiating this; for the active support of the Director and Committee of Home Missions, and the Moderators Rev'd John Campbell and Andrew Wilson; for elders from Camp Hill and Charlton Street, who served as an interim session; for the initial labours of Home Missionary Bob Whiting; and for the support of other charges, particularly Ipswich.

During the six years of my ministry we were privileged to see the Lord bless and prosper this work to the point where elders were elected; the Charge was sanctioned; I was inducted as the Minister; Sunday Schools were

started by Margaret (my wife) with our girls and a few other children; people from the Reformed Churches made a significant contribution to the work of the church; *Christianity Explained* groups were formed for those wishing to learn more about the Gospel. Many came to faith through this ministry.

I was working on the basic conviction that expositional preaching from the scripture, with prayerful reliance on the Holy Spirit as the God-appointed means, would strengthen believers and bring others to faith in Christ. Those fundamental convictions were often vindicated in weekly public worship, Bible study, fellowship and prayer meetings.

The solid core group grew in number in just a few years to over 100. Growth in prayer, love for one another and Christian service were evident. An Assistant Minister was appointed in 1985. There were three congregations each meeting at Burleigh Heads, Surfers Paradise and Biggera Waters. In His goodness God heard the prayers and honoured the people's efforts by granting the privilege of acquiring land for next to nothing at Robina—a story in itself.

Of course there were times of difficulty when faith was tested, but the faithfulness of God was never in doubt and was confirmed to us many times. Now 32 years on there are congregations meeting at Helensvale, Arundel, Robina and Mudgeeraba.

Looking back on 38 years of ministry we recall many evidences of God's blessing and providential care, but there was something special about the way the Lord worked during those years at the Gold Coast. Paul's words in 1 Thessalonians 1:4-5 would, to some degree, be true of those years: *We know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not simply with words, but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and with deep conviction* (NIV).



**Above:** Gold Coast Home Mission Charge

**Top Left:** David and Margaret Secomb, Rachel and Elizabeth (daughters)





Queensland  
Theological College

Students, staff and families had an encouraging start to the year at our annual Retreat, this year at a new location: Tallebudgera Leisure Centre. It was a fantastic opportunity to grow gospel relationships as we look forward to

another year of learning from God's Word as we train gospel-driving leaders for a challenging world.

This year we're looking forward to having all six full-time lecturers on board, with none away on study leave!

We are also excited about our first ever overseas mission to Taiwan in June/July led by Wesley Redgen. We will also be sending Mission Teams to the Gold Coast during the Commonwealth Games.



## David Robertson

David Robertson is the minister of St Peters Free Church in Dundee, Scotland. He is also the associate director of the Solas Centre for Public Christianity.

He is a gifted apologist and will be in Brisbane in May (23-24) to visit QTC. He will be running a training seminar with QTC at Ann Street Presbyterian Church where people from the city (City Bible Forum) and universities (AFES) will join to hear the pastor and apologist.

All are welcome, please check out our website for further details.

[www.qtc.edu.au/events](http://www.qtc.edu.au/events)



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

# Australian Presbyterian World Mission

www.apwm.org.au 81 Shaftesbury Road, Burwood NSW 2134 (02) 8073 7490 national@apwm.org.au

## A STRATEGIC NEW BEGINNING FOR REFORMED THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION IN THE HEART OF AFRICA

*2016 saw a new beginning in the training of pastors for the Churches of Africa: the formation of African Reformation Theological Seminary (ARTS), a new theological college in Kampala, Uganda. This project has involved strong support from Australia, including the service of APWM Associate missionaries Ian and Norma McIver. Ian writes a remarkable story of people walking by faith into the works that God has planned for them to grow his kingdom.*

The vision of ARTS is both simple and strategic. The goal of ARTS and its parent company, African Reformation Ministries (ARM), is to develop a range of ministries to serve African churches. The establishment of ARTS is the first. As the Lord enables, others will follow, including an agency for a mission to Africa through the work of seminary graduates among people of their own tribes and nations: disciple-making and church planting "by Africans, to Africans, in Africa". Further out, we aspire to a print and book ministry, and even a radio ministry.

At the heart of our confessional life is a commitment to the Reformed and Presbyterian confessions. These traditions have been historically strong in east, central and southern Africa; but both have succumbed to the same theological modernism that has characterised other Presbyterian and Reformed denominations in the western world. We know that the only adequate response is a robust commitment to the sovereignty of God's grace as expressed in the creeds of the early church (particularly the Athanasian with its emphasis on the tri-unity of the Godhead and the deity of Jesus Christ), and the reformed confessional traditions of the Reformation.

Our mission is to restore a confessionally sound basis for the training of pastors for the Churches of Africa.



*Ian McIver with ARTS students from Rwanda and Burundi*

Amazing things have happened since the beginning of 2016. In February we had no seminary, no library, no facilities, no money. Nothing but faith. By April we had purchased a property for \$US 500,000, and renovated it for use as a residential seminary. By the end of 2016 we had 10,000 books in our library. We had gained accreditation as a graduate seminary. Classes commenced in January 2017. The student body now numbers some thirty to forty students from about twelve African countries, and a range of denominations: Presbyterian and Reformed, and also Anglican, Baptist and Pentecostal.

Our lecturing staff come from Uganda, Zimbabwe, Canada, the United States and Australia. I teach three or four subjects each semester in Biblical Theology and Biblical Studies, and Norma volunteers in the Library and assists students with the improvement of their English skills.

Norma and I have received extraordinary financial support from around the world: unsolicited donations amounting to \$AUD 300,000, including a pledge of almost \$AUD 120,000 over four years for student scholarships! Australian donors have also provided funds to purchase land and build a duplex home on the ARTS campus. We'll use one of these two bedroom units whenever we are in Kampala. Lord willing this will happen again in March 2018.

The Lord is raising a Reformed standard in the heart of Africa. We believe that God has a great purpose for this work as He builds the walls of Zion in the heart of Africa. With Nehemiah of old we would say, "we are carrying on a great project, we cannot come down (from the walls of God's Zion)" (Nehemiah 6:3). Please join us in prayer on the walls of Zion (Isaiah 62:6,7) that God will accomplish great things among us.

For further information please see the ARTS web site: <http://arts.ac.ug>



*Norma with Jean Desire (Burundi) for conversational English language together.*

## APWM

www.apwm.org.au

### APWM Queensland

Convener:

Keith Stewart [qldconvener@apwm.org.au](mailto:qldconvener@apwm.org.au)

Secretary:

Andre Schwartz [qldsecretary@apwm.org.au](mailto:qldsecretary@apwm.org.au)

### National Office

81 Shaftesbury Road Burwood NSW 2134  
(02) 0873 7490

National Director Kevin Murray,  
0421 366 720  
[kevinmurray@apwm.org.au](mailto:kevinmurray@apwm.org.au)

Sheryl Sarkoezy [national@apwm.org.au](mailto:national@apwm.org.au)  
Bruce Campbell [finance@apwm.org.au](mailto:finance@apwm.org.au)





## INTRODUCING 'CONGREGATION CONNECT'

For some time we have been grappling with how we might be able to develop a system to help small, country churches without a pastor connect with other congregations using internet technology. Along the way we discovered that the Presbyterian Church of Australia's Public Worship and Aids to Devotion committee (PWAD) have been exploring the same concept. So, we partnered together with them and have been exploring this challenge together.

Neither PIM nor PWAD wanted to develop a system where people would sit passively at home and 'watch' a church service. We wanted to find a way to help God's people to 'gather and participate' together in worship – even if they were not actually in the same location. To help us do this we engaged the services of Dennis Rayson, who also serves as the part time home missionary at Balranald, NSW.

Dennis explored many software options before settling on a video conferencing system that had originally been developed to run university tutorial groups. He then set up a basic system, including laptops, cameras and microphones, in the church buildings at Balranald and Tocumwal that allowed people in both those locations to participate together in Sunday morning worship. Because the system allows two-way participation, it means that people in both locations could actively take part in the service. Within a few weeks the congregations in both those places became comfortable with the system and the idea that some parts of the service, for example the sermon, might be delivered to them by a person standing in front of them, and other parts, such as a bible

reading, would be on the screen in front of them because it was being read by someone in the other location. Once the bugs were ironed out of the system, Dennis ran further experiments by connecting the small congregation in Mt Isa with Balranald, an arrangement that has been very successful and created fresh possibilities for the way services might be held in Mt Isa in the future.

To find out more, give Dennis a call on 0428 830 276.



Gareth and Dennis

**Congregation Connect is a system that helps make disciples  
– See what Gareth of Oxley says about it:**

Testimony from Gareth a member of Balranald Presbyterian Church

*I attend Balranald Presbyterian church in the Riverina of NSW and live 90km away in a two-horse town. Due to my eyesight deteriorating and the resident roo population I have been unable to attend the men's study Thursday nights. But with new technologies and the NBN I now attend via a face to face video conferencing application. What I write about now is the blessing it has brought upon myself in that I can fellowship with the blokes and talk about Jesus Christ without having to be there in person. First, I must say it will never replace that personal touch you get when you are with God's children meeting together and worshipping together but it is the way of the future for those isolated Christian communities that want to reach out or be reached. The hardest thing is the thoughts of "wish I was there" but it most certainly is winning hands down at the moment in my situation. The study we are doing is on Solomon and Chronicles and having to do it day by day is bringing a form of discipline to my life I otherwise would not have gotten living way out here. It's very easy to slip into laziness being isolated but this new study and communication form I pray will remedy this and bring blessings upon all who participate.*

*May our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ be blessed, known and honoured in all we do whether on the world wide web or in person.*

*In Christ's Love  
Gareth of Oxley*

## PresCare news

### PresCare Townsville – Coming February 2019

In December 2017, PresCare celebrated the commencement of construction of our stylish new aged care residential facility in the heart of Townsville, estimated to be completed in February 2019.

The 140-bed residential facility will create 130 jobs during construction and once complete, it will provide a further 150 jobs to operate the facility. The facility will have five levels including a rooftop garden and café, day therapy centre, private chapel and a hairdresser with the best view in town! There will be 20 secure beds available for those living with dementia.

PresCare's new facility will allow its residents to continue to do the things they love, supported by a team of highly skilled health and lifestyle professionals. They'll meet new people and live in a place their family and friends will love visiting.

Interested in finding out more? Head to [www.prescare.org.au](http://www.prescare.org.au) to register your interest in PresCare Townsville and we will keep you informed on any new developments and updates.

### PresCare in-home services

PresCare currently provides in-home services in the Townsville area. Our services range from home and garden maintenance to in-home nursing and dementia services. Let's talk about the ways PresCare can help families and their loved ones so that they can keep doing the things they really enjoy.

📍 1/178 Hugh St, Currajong QLD 4812

☎ 1800 773 722

@ info@prescare.org.au

Construction commencement ceremony



Architectural drawings of PresCare Townsville



PresCare is a Ministry of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland and we've been helping older Australians live the way they choose for almost 90 years. We provide a range of residential and community services that are tailored to people's specific needs. At PresCare, we understand that people want to have freedom to make personal choices about the way they live. We're not aged care, we're PresCare.





# APWM

## Australian Presbyterian World Mission Queensland

### Committee Members needed

The General Assembly of Queensland's Australian Presbyterian World Missions Special Committee (APWM-Q) is the State component of the National APWM Committee that handles all our denomination's overseas mission endeavours and indigenous ministries in Australia of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

In Queensland our committee handles a great number of missionaries and oversees their initial applications, processing, funding and ongoing care and support on and off the field. It is exciting to see people serving the Lord in these many capacities and to enable them in it. But we need help.

With such growth comes responsibilities and the need to adapt to many new changes that are occurring in missions around the world. To meet some of these pressing changes APWM-Q is reorganising itself into portfolios as a Committee. This allows for any one Committee member to focus on just one or two of the portfolios and gain expertise in them as they do their work there. They have the ability to co-opt others outside the Committee to assist in the tasks at hand, and then report on their progress at our monthly meetings.

We are looking for people to fill these portfolios, who have a heart to serve Jesus in enabling missionaries on and off the field. We are looking to match people who have specific skill sets that could be used of the Lord in accomplishing portfolio tasks. Here is a list of present portfolios we want to fill:

1. **Convener** - As outlined in our requirements: *APWM Partner in Mission Statement Regulation 180*.
2. **Secretary** - Minutes, correspondence, planning and development of the APWM-Q meal at annual assemblies.
3. **Treasurer** - Handling and reporting of the budget/ investments/finances of the committee.
4. **Candidates Application & Processing** - Receiving, processing and evaluating applications. Conducting initial interviews.
5. **Candidate Orientation** - Medical & Psychological evaluations, prayer cards/lists, raising funding, privacy & security, mission protocols and procedures

6. **Field Projects** - Handling requests for mission projects, seeking funding etc.
7. **Partner Missionaries/Agencies** - Developing and maintaining standards in all cooperative agreements.
8. **Home Missionary Assignment** - Coordinating with missionaries, home churches and presbyteries for visitation, accommodation and needs. Organising debriefings and re-entry strategies.
9. **APWM-Q Website** - Making sure content updates are regular, integrate any mission apps that may be developed.
10. **Short-Term Missions** - Handling applications, developing, organising short mission trips among churches, YNET groups and young adults.
11. **Pastoral Care** - Coordinating missionary prayer letters, organising pastoral care when required and if necessary communicating with home churches and presbyteries.
12. **Public Relations & Communications** - Disseminating authorised information of missionaries, church mission conferences etc., to the wider Church using relevant media outlets, email, FaceBook, Twitter, website and the like.

If you feel that you might be used of the Lord to contribute your spiritual gifts to one or more of these portfolios, then please contact our present Convener below. You may be a PCA ordained minister, or elder, communicant church member. We would like to talk with you about joining our dedicated missional team.

Contact APWM-Q Convener:

Mr. Keith Stewart

Mobile: 0411 705 516

Email: [qldconvener@apwm.org.au](mailto:qldconvener@apwm.org.au)

Rev C Scott Kroeger

Deputy Convener



**APPLY FOR A 2019 FAIRHOLME  
SCHOLARSHIP ONLINE TODAY**  
[www.fairholme.qld.edu.au](http://www.fairholme.qld.edu.au)

*Proudly a college of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland*

**85**

the percentage of girls accepted into  
their first or second preference for  
Tertiary study\*

**70**

the percentage of girls who received  
a single digit OP score\*

**30**

the percentage of girls who received  
an OP score  
between 1-5\*

\*based on a 5 year average from 2012



## Outstanding education. Values for life.

Choose from four great PMSA schools in Queensland.

### **Clayfield College**

[www.clayfield.qld.edu.au](http://www.clayfield.qld.edu.au) | (07) 3262 0262

Girls: Pre-prep to Year 12 / Boys: Pre-prep to Year 6  
Boarding: Girls from Year 5

### **Brisbane Boys' College**

[www.bbc.qld.edu.au](http://www.bbc.qld.edu.au) | (07) 3309 3500

Boys: Prep to Year 12  
Boarding: Boys from Year 5

### **Somerville House**

[www.somerville.qld.edu.au](http://www.somerville.qld.edu.au) | (07) 3248 9200

Girls: Pre-prep to Year 12 / Boys: Pre-prep  
Boarding: Girls from Year 6

### **Sunshine Coast Grammar School**

[www.scgs.qld.edu.au](http://www.scgs.qld.edu.au) | (07) 5445 4444

Early learning centre: 3 months to Pre-prep  
Co-educational day school: Prep to Year 12

Presbyterian and Methodist Schools Association (PMSA) [www.pmsa-schools.edu.au](http://www.pmsa-schools.edu.au).

Celebrating 100 years in 2018, the PMSA is a mission of the Presbyterian and United Churches.



**PMSA**

# Pres Life