

# Pres Life

BI-MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF QUEENSLAND

## What the Spirit Gives



**God's Church in Qld:**  
Roma

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.

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# Pres Life

Magazine of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland

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### 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.

# Time with God

## ***Heresy and church groups***

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## ***Promise of Israel's future***

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Philippians 1:12-26  
Philippians 1:27-30  
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Philippians 4:1-9  
Philippians 4:10-23

## ***Blessedness of the godly***

Psalm 128

# 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: [jangbridge1@gmail.com](mailto:jangbridge1@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.





# The King, Abortion and Us

by Robyn Bain - GiST Committee

*This article provides a taste of the Gospel and Abortion podcast interview. For more on speaking and acting on abortion, including ideas for showing care to vulnerable families and children in our churches, and engaging politically, listen to our podcast at:*

<http://www.gist.org.au/2018/06/25/abortion-podcast/>

A Presbyterian minister commented recently how heavily, a sermon on abortion weighed on his congregation. More people than usual wanted to talk seriously afterwards. There was palpable discomfort in the room, a sense that the issue exposes something frightening about the human heart.

This short article will explore how abortion does indeed expose something frightening about the human heart—including our own. It shows us where self-rule leads. It shows us how much we need God to rule our hearts, and how much we need mercy. But the frightening reality of the human heart also helps us look beyond ourselves to the glorious heart of the King who deserves to rule, desires mercy and cares deeply for the vulnerable.

## **Abortion – Some Facts**

Let's start with some facts about abortion. First of all, it is very common. Approximately one in three women in Australia will have an abortion at some point in their lives. Although it is currently illegal in Queensland, thousands of pregnancies are still terminated here every year on the basis of legal exceptions regarding the mother's physical, mental and social need. So, it's not surprising to find that there are

many Christian women, men, families, friends and health workers who have experienced abortion up close.

Most people find abortion procedures too disturbing to watch or even hear described. The experience of abortion is often one of horror, regret and grief for both believers and unbelievers. Many find it to be an ongoing burden carried silently and alone for years afterwards. We can easily be oblivious to how much sadness lies behind the faces of those around us, including our Christian brothers and sisters.

And yet despite this painful reality, we find many in our community publicly championing easy access to abortion as a positive social good, especially for women. At the time of writing this, QLD Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk has announced that a bill to decriminalise abortion will be tabled in August, as foreshadowed following QLD Law Reform Commission recommendations. The bill would allow termination of pregnancy up to 22 weeks' gestation on demand. Abortions after that time would be legal with the approval of two doctors. A campaign to remove the negative stigma of abortion, #ShoutYourAbortion, has taken twitter by storm.

There is something, at the very least, astonishingly confused about human hearts that hold this devastating and destructive practice aloft as good, normal and essential for guaranteeing the freedom of women. What mental gymnastics allow abortion to be considered an acceptable course of action? A woman in the frightening situation of an

*Continued from page 4*

unplanned or complicated pregnancy in our community will likely hear messages that don't seem that shocking. In fact, they sound caring and reasonable. Messages like: 'Choose what is best for your welfare'; 'When life goes wrong, take whatever way out you can'; 'No one should stop you doing what's right for you'; 'There is no greater purpose or meaning in this hard situation, no good or comfort to be found in continuing this pregnancy, no point in sacrificing any part of your life'; 'An abortion may be a sad thing to do, but it will take this problem away and get your life back on track'; 'It may even be the kindest thing for the baby'; 'Abortion is OK because your unborn baby is not yet a person like you and me'.

Moreover, many women feel considerable social pressure to have an abortion when they soon find that their partner, family, employer and doctor will not support any other 'choice'.

Ultimately, in a society that encourages worship of the sovereign self at all costs, we hear the message that abortion is a reasonable path to take. When protecting the sovereign self is non-negotiable, it makes sense to remove another who threatens that self-rule. It makes sense to say that the lives of the youngest, most vulnerable people in the womb are less valuable than the needs and desires of the adults around them. And so, a child's life is lost, and a woman is left carrying the burden of that decision for the rest of her life.

However, it's not just women and those around them who are involved in abortion. We are all complicit in the values that drive it. We are all guilty of wanting to be worshipped and to rule our own lives; of using others for our own purposes; of devaluing those in the way of our desires, especially when we do not directly know or see them; and justifying ourselves as we go. The essence of self-rule has not changed since Genesis 3:4-5, when Adam and Eve believed the serpent's message: 'Don't worry about God, do what's right for you. Be your own sovereign self'. The Bible and human history show the sovereign self will always be hostile to God's kingship and find ways to justify violence. Our hearts are indeed, frighteningly sick.

### **The King**

Against this backdrop, how striking it is to see the heart of Jesus, the true King who deserves to rule. The heart of this King condemns self-rule, desires mercy, changes self-ruling hearts, and cares deeply for the vulnerable. There are three things to notice about Jesus as we think about abortion.

Firstly, nothing can stop God's infinitely more powerful Kingdom through His Son. As we weep for the children lost to abortion and the devastation to those involved, we also

hope in the King whose Kingdom of love and righteousness has already begun, and will be fully realised when He comes a second time. The sovereign self and its deathly schemes will not have the last word in this world—the true King will! Abortion does not provide a 'quick fix' without consequences. Jesus will judge unrepentant self-rulers who choose to 'terminate' the vulnerable.

Secondly, however, this King overwhelmingly desires to show mercy to the guilty. Jesus is the physician for those who are sick. In Matthew 9:13 He says to the self-righteous Pharisees '*I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.*' As communities that gather together the true King's people, our churches are hospitals for sinners. Our message to those who have experienced abortion up close is the same as it is for all self-rulers—bring your heavy burden of sin to the King, and find forgiveness and rest in His sin-bearing death for you. No child of God should need to hide their past from their Christian brothers and sisters for fear of rejection. We need to do better at ministering God's Word of abundant grace and forgiveness to those who have been involved in abortion. Furthermore, when our church communities are shaped by the grace we've found in Christ, no unmarried man or woman should feel they need to hide an unplanned pregnancy and resort to a 'quick way out' for fear of rejection at church.

Thirdly, this King is able to liberate our hearts and wills to choose to care for the vulnerable as He does. We know that He sympathises with our weakness, comforts us and works for our good in every life derailment and unexpected turn. As brothers and sisters in Christ, we can sacrificially care for women with unplanned and complicated pregnancies, and embrace the young life that has already started. Amidst the bleak landscape of abortion, we can display the power and compassion of King Jesus to forgive and care for the vulnerable.

*Are you a believer who has experienced abortion? Have you ministered to those who had abortions? I would love to hear your stories to help equip Presbyterian Church of Queensland churches to deal with this issue (your privacy will be respected).*

Contact Robyn Bain at:

<http://www.gist.org.au/contact/>

*As the bill to legalise abortion comes before the QLD Parliament, consider writing to your local MP about protecting the vulnerable. See GiST's sample letter:*

<http://www.gist.org.au/2018/06/25/abortion-podcast/>



## What the Spirit Gives. Recovering the doctrine of the Holy Spirit (3)

by Gary Millar, Principal at Queensland Theological College

This is the final article in a three part series on the Holy Spirit by Gary Millar. To read the article in its original context please go to [The Gospel Coalition Australia](#).

This is the last of our three part series on the person and work of the Holy Spirit. In our first article we examined the Spirit as a divine person and life-giver. In the second article we explored the ways in which the Spirit enables us to speak about Jesus, live like Jesus, and know God like Jesus. In this article we'll find out what the Spirit wants to 'give' us.

### **6. The Holy Spirit equips us to serve for the glory of Jesus**

It is stated explicitly in several places in the New Testament that the Spirit's great delight and preoccupation is ensuring that the Father and the Son are glorified. This is terribly important, particularly when we come to discuss the whole issue of 'spiritual gifts', or 'the gifts of the Spirit'.

For, as I touched on in my last article, even these terms are problematic! Paul's language in 1 Corinthians 12-14 (and notably in 12:1-11) is deliberately chosen to emphasise the fact that God equips believers through the Spirit to serve Christ by serving his church purely out of grace (in fact, a better word than 'gifts' to describe them would be 'graces'). And in every case, the purpose of God's gracious equipping is to bring glory to Jesus. This explains why God equips people in such vastly different ways. It also explains why even people whom God has equipped to do the same task (say, evangelism), do it in such very different ways! The point is not that they have received identical 'gift packages' from God, but that God has graciously equipped them to serve Christ by serving his church in highly individual ways.

# “The first question posed by the New Testament is not “What gift has God given me?” but “Who has God given me to serve?”—and then, “How can I serve them?””

This is why the Corinthians’ attitude is so reprehensible (and inexplicable). God has graciously equipped them to honour Christ—and they have tried to construct a league table! The Corinthians have forgotten that everything they are and have, is from Christ and for Christ. And we, despite being able to see the Corinthian error, often repeat their mistakes.

For the Bible’s focus is not on ‘gifts’, but their goal. The first question posed by the New Testament is not “What gift has God given me?” but “Who has God given me to serve?”—and then, “How can I serve them?”

## **7. The Holy Spirit brings us joy, peace, hope and love**

A final, and often neglected function of the Spirit is his work to bring us the existential and experiential benefits of being joined to Christ. In particular, the Spirit works to bring us joy and peace. He enables each of us to ‘taste and see’ that God is good (so, for example, see Rom 8:15-16; 15:13; Gal 5:5; Eph 3:16; Phil 2:1; Col 1:8; 1 Thess 1:5; 2 Tim 1:7; Heb 6:4).

It’s important, of course, that we don’t overstate the emotional payout of enjoying a relationship with God through the Spirit. We continue to groan (Rom 8:23), and to experience the limitations of living in this age, even though the age-to-come has broken in. But it’s not as if the only change wrought by the Spirit is forensic or positional. When the Spirit moves into our lives he changes us internally too.

He changes the way we feel about Christ and the truth of the Gospel.

He enables us to speak about, and to love, and become like Jesus.

He equips us to serve one another for the glory of Jesus.

These changes cannot be achieved without changing the way we feel—at least to some degree!

We shouldn’t confuse sober realism with grim stoicism. The same Lord who tells us that we will have trouble in this world (John 16:33) also says: “my peace I give you. And this peace flows from the work of the Spirit”. (see John 14:26-31).

## **Conclusion**

So here are the seven great things that we have seen concerning the Holy Spirit:

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.

Let’s think deeply about these things!

The Holy Spirit doesn’t want us to make him our sole, or even chief focus. But we mustn’t ignore him. It’s a tragic mistake to ignore the clear teaching of the Bible regarding the Spirit when it promises assurance, beauty and power. To ignore the work of the Spirit in these areas is to consign ourselves to a joyless, arid, powerless, silent, grumpy Christianity. Let’s work to ‘keep in step with the Spirit’ and discover the delight, the equipping, the hope, the joy, the peace, the love and the strength that God has so mercifully poured out on us through his Spirit.

This is Gary Millar’s final article on Recovering the doctrine of the Holy Spirit. To read the article in its original context please go to [The Gospel Coalition Australia post](#).



## The Humans Must Be Crazy

by Ben Swift, writer of Escape the Box blog

*"I know what you're thinking. I am proposing a sane world — I must be crazy."*

— Swami Beyondananda

One of my all-time favorite open scenes to a movie is in an old, but continually relevant film, *The Gods Must Be Crazy*. The writers of this scene perceptively compare the contrasting life-styles of an isolated, ancient tribe of the Kalahari Bushman and that of the so called modern, civilized man. Within a few minutes it becomes obvious beyond a doubt that the social and cultural progress of the modern man has in fact led to the evolution of a higher order of insanity. Let's be honest. Humanity in all its wisdom has consistently made life more complicated, fast-paced and self-serving with every passing decade.

I find it interesting that particularly in the workplace, research has shown beyond a doubt that we as human beings need to rest. For those in Christian circles, it's not uncommon to begin the morning with a devotion in relation to taking time out of the world's frantic pace and resting in Christ. While this might be a good thing, it often seems that the Amen ending the reflection is synchronized with the downloading of the daily agenda on what needs to be achieved. Surely we can all see the irony of such a practice.

Human beings have not been created with stupidity in mind. In fact, as recorded in Genesis 1:26, God said,

*"Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."*

But it seems from the moment humanity took a bite from that metaphorical, forbidden fruit—seeking to be their own gods and going their own way—self-serving insanity has led the way.

When God warned human beings from the very beginning that if they were to turn their backs on Him they would surely die (Genesis 3:3), did we ever conceive that our wisdom and sanity would be a part of the dying process?

We as people don't need to travel far into our past to find classic examples to highlight the insanity of humanity. The tobacco industry and its assault on our species is a case in point. It would be fair to say that for some time the effects of smoking on health were not completely understood but as time passed and suspicions were confirmed by science, insanity kicked in to its highest gear. In the knowledge that the tobacco industry was a death machine in motion, the response of so called civilized and sophisticated man was to

continue to support the industry as it continued to support the economic desires of the collective self. The statistics of this insanity are mind-blowingly sad. "Globally, tobacco use killed 100 million people in the 20th century, much more than all deaths in World Wars I and II combined. Tobacco-related deaths will number around one billion in the 21st century if current smoking patterns continue."<sup>1</sup>

The insanity of humanity could be explicitly demonstrated from a number of angles. We could analyse our part in global environmental issues such as climate change or zero in on our obsession for fashion and celebrity as they dictate the new black for our lives. But if we just take the time to step back and reflect on our insanity, what will we find? What drives us to take up residence in such an unquestioning world of blind insanity?

The answer can only be found in the One who knows us because He created us; in the Creator in whom our purpose needs to be regrafted. We as humans have surely lost our way, but thanks be to Christ who is 'The Way'—the narrow path to sanity.

It is in Christ that we are able to see clearly just how intertwined with the insanity of the world we have all become, but it's also in Christ that we receive in grace the gift of hope—a way to walk in truth.

*But everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for it is light that makes everything visible. That is why it is said: "Wake up O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you". Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise. Ephesians 5:13-15*

Of course we must be prepared for the fact that to the insane, sanity will always appear to be insanity; wisdom to appear foolishness. Christ warned us of such things. The path of following Christ may be illuminated to the illuminated mind, but will remain hidden to the mind of those who continue to walk in the darkness. Christianity does not provide us with a smooth ride in this life and will not allow us to live as one with the world. Insanity and sanity living side by side in a human mind will only lead to conflict and breakdown. There can only be two choices. We must take on the mind of Christ or take on the mind of those who have rejected Christ. No new, easier way can be constructed that exists in reality. C.S. Lewis knew this well. Consider his words:

<sup>1</sup> The Tobacco Atlas (<http://www.tobaccoatlas.org/topic/smokings-death-toll/>)

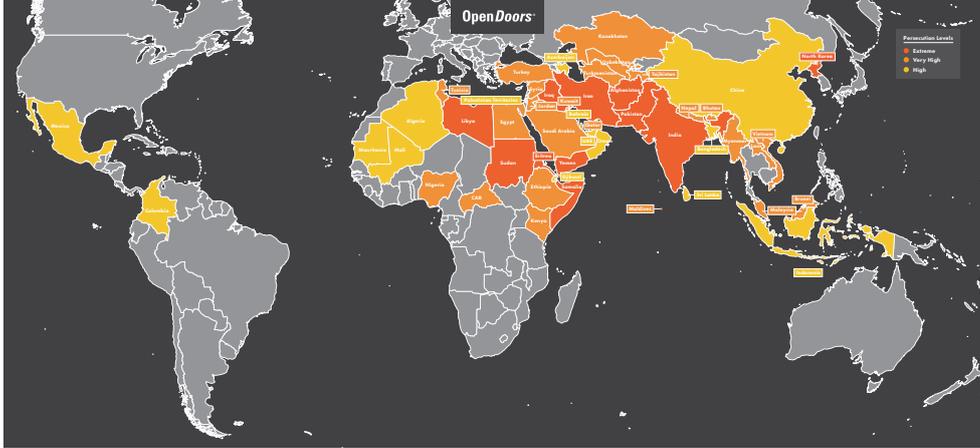
"If Christianity was something we were making up, of course we could make it easier. But it is not. We cannot compete, in simplicity, with people who are inventing religions. How could we? We are dealing with Fact. Of course anyone can be simple if he has no facts to bother about."<sup>2</sup>

It turns out that it's actually not the gods who must be crazy, but rather the ways of humanity. But without the Holy Spirit to expose our futile thinking, we cannot and will not, fully comprehend the insanity with which we live. Ultimately, to live outside of a relationship with our Creator is insane. It is to walk a path that leads us away from our very purpose in being and away from life. To gain life, we must be prepared to lose it; to live as fools for Christ in an insane world.

*Do not deceive yourselves. If any one of you thinks he is wise by the standards of this age, he should become a 'fool' so that he may become wise. 1 Corinthians 3:18*

<sup>2</sup> Lewis, C. S., *Mere Christianity*, (C. S. Lewis Pty Ltd, 1952), p90

Ben Swift is a Freelance Writer of Christian Apologetics and Philosophy for the blog 'Escape the Box' (<https://escapethebox.blog/>). Teacher of Science and Mathematics working for Lutheran Education Australia. Husband and Father of three amazing girls and owner of a food-obsessed beagle cross.



## 2018 WORLD WATCH LIST Top 50 Most Dangerous Countries To Follow Jesus

- |                |                  |                |
|----------------|------------------|----------------|
| 1. North Korea | 11. India        | 21. Jordan     |
| 2. Afghanistan | 12. Saudi Arabia | 22. Tajikistan |
| 3. Somalia     | 13. Maldives     | 23. Malaysia   |
| 4. Sudan       | 14. Nigeria      | 24. Myanmar    |
| 5. Pakistan    | 15. Syria        | 25. Nepal      |
| 6. Eritrea     | 16. Uzbekistan   | 26. Brunei     |
| 7. Libya       | 17. Egypt        | 27. Qatar      |
| 8. Iraq        | 18. Vietnam      | 28. Kazakhstan |
| 9. Yemen       | 19. Turkmenistan | 29. Ethiopia   |
| 10. Iran       | 20. Laos         | 30. Tunisia    |
- 
- |                                    |                |
|------------------------------------|----------------|
| 31. Turkey                         | 41. Bangladesh |
| 32. Kenya                          | 42. Algeria    |
| 33. Bhutan                         | 43. China      |
| 34. Kuwait                         | 44. Sri Lanka  |
| 35. Central African Republic (CAR) | 45. Azerbaijan |
| 36. Palestinian Territories        | 46. Oman       |
| 37. Mali                           | 47. Mauritania |
| 38. Indonesia                      | 48. Bahrain    |
| 39. Mexico                         | 49. Colombia   |
| 40. United Arab Emirates (UAE)     | 50. Djibouti   |

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### North Korea, Egypt and Pakistan all have a problem and it's affecting 215 million people.

For over 25 years, Open Doors have released the annual World Watch List. It shows the top 50 countries where it's hardest to follow Jesus. In these countries, it's estimated over 215 million Christians face high persecution for their faith. That's one in every 12 believers worldwide.

#### Where It's Most Dangerous To Follow Jesus

North Korea has ranked number one on the World Watch List for over a decade and this year was no exception. Since 2002, North Korea has been the worst place in the world to be a Christian.

However, the nation of Afghanistan has come in at a close second. It's the first country on the list with Islamic extremism as the main cause of persecution. With the Taliban and the Islamic State controlling over 40% of the country, it's incredibly difficult to be a believer. Christians are sometimes even thought to be insane for leaving Islam. They can end up in psychiatric wards.

Pakistan ranked fifth, but scored highest as the most violent place for Christians in the world. Nine Christians were killed recently in December 2017 when two gunmen wearing explosive vests stormed a church in Quetta City.

#### The Rise Of Persecution In The Muslim And Hindu World

Islamic Oppression is the main form of persecution for two-thirds of all countries on the World Watch List. Eight of them are from the top ten.

Iraq and Iran are included in the top ten hardest countries for Christians to live. And whilst many have returned to Iraq to rebuild, life is still far from easy for believers.

In the Hindu world, India has risen seven places in the last two years. A major increase in violence against Christians is set to continue. RSS, a Hindu radical group, has announced an end date for the church in the country. They have declared that by the end of 2021, they will remove Christianity from India.

Nepal didn't feature on the World Watch List in 2017. However, this year the country is ranked #25. Nepal is one of the only Hindu majority countries in the world. Radical Hindus are striving to see Nepal reinstated as a completely Hindu kingdom again.

#### 2017 In Persecution

The Islamic State has declared Egypt as its next target. Last year Egyptian churches were bombed on multiple occasions over Easter. There was also another attack during recent Christmas celebrations.

Christians in Iraq were able to return home for the first time since the Islamic State took their homes in 2014.

Closer to home, Islamic extremists attacked the town of Marawi in the Philippines. Nine Christians were killed. Buildings and a chapel were also burnt down.

In the 2018 World Watch List, there were also other popular tourist destinations for Australians – Vietnam, Indonesia and the Maldives. A very prominent case of persecution in Indonesia in 2017 was the case in Jakarta, of former Christian governor Ahok. He was convicted of blasphemy and sentenced to two years in prison.

#### The Western World And Radical Atheism

The World Watch List was started in 1991 as a response to the fall of communism and the Berlin Wall. It was developed as a tool to discover where persecution was, and where it was growing. The first list defined the next focus for the ministry: the Middle East and the Muslim world. This was a decade before others turned their attention to the Middle East in 2001.

Since then, as a ministry we've seen the rise of radical Hinduism and radical Buddhism. Now there is a new trend emerging—an anti-Christian secular world.

The Western world does not experience persecution anything like the church faces in the Middle East, Africa and Asia. However, Open Doors have been collecting data and watching this new trend.

The Western church has never had more to learn from our persecuted brothers and sisters on how to be bold, unashamed of the Gospel and quick to forgive.

The time has now come when the Australian church needs the persecuted church.

Continue to lift up the persecuted church. They need our support and prayers. We need to learn from and stand together in the Great Commission to see all people know Jesus, the Saviour of the world.

Open Doors is a Christian organisation that provides assistance to Christians in persecution. Open Doors began when Brother Andrew smuggled Bibles into Eastern Europe. Now we work in over 70 countries around the world, serving the persecuted church.

The full list of countries on the 2018 World Watch list is now available on Open Doors Australia's website

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

Used with permission from Open Doors.



## Moving regional? Think missional!

by Andrew Millsom, Minister at North Shore Presbyterian Church, Townsville

### You can make a really big difference in a smaller church

Many people get the chance at some time to move out of the 'big smoke' and into a regional or country area. Here in Townsville it's pretty regular to see people arrive in town for a few months or a few years. When you move regional though, how do you decide where to go to church?

We had a really positive experience of this not so long ago, with a young family who decided to think missionally. Louis and Kerrie moved to Townsville in early 2015 for Louis' work. Louis' company had won an 18 month contract in Townsville and he was relocated to work on it—obviously Kerrie and the kids came too.

When Louis and Kerrie arrived in town, they started the inevitable 'church shop'! Those who've had this experience will know it's not fun, and Louis and Kerrie were no different: asking yourself where you can best be fed by God's word, whether there is something for your children, etc. However the biggest question Louis and Kerrie asked themselves as they checked out each new church was: "Is this the church where I can make the biggest difference in God's kingdom?" Somehow in the churches they visited, which were relatively large, they just didn't feel like they would make that much of a difference.

Then, having visited several churches, someone from one of those larger churches suggested they come along to North Shore—a smaller church.

Things were a little bit different at North Shore: fewer children for Louis and Kerrie's kids to be friends with; no

permanent facilities of our own in which to meet (although that's now changed). It seemed like there were almost as many jobs to do, as in a larger church, but just so many less people to do them.

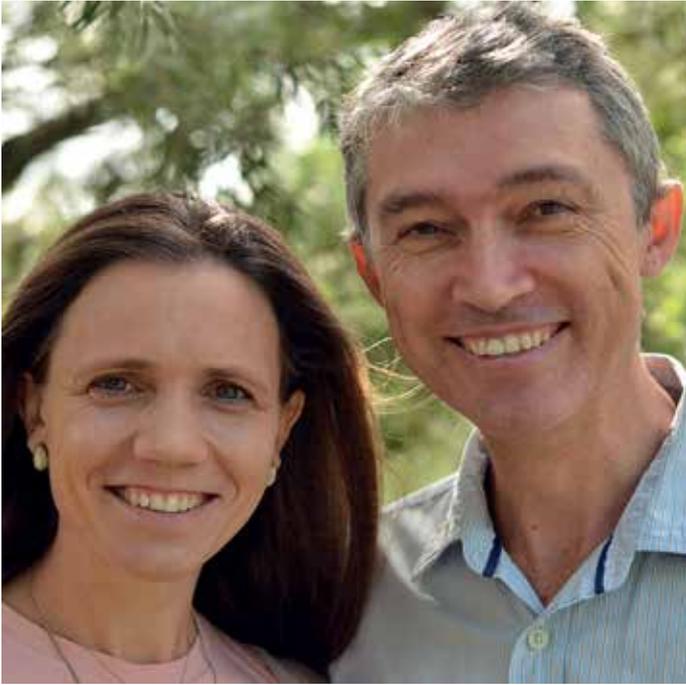
But Louis and Kerrie stuck to their question: "Is this the church where I can make the biggest difference for God's kingdom?" And their answer was "Yes". How did that work out? Well, in two ways. Firstly, Louis built some very good friendships with the blokes at church, greatly encouraging those who were Christians and challenging those who weren't yet Christians. He was a blessing to many.

Secondly, in God's timing there were a number of women at North Shore in need of a women's group, to meet together around the Bible, and encourage one another in their faith. Kerrie had been an assistant leader of a women's group in their previous church. And so in their first few months at North Shore she gathered together some women and started a group. Knowing she was not going to be in town for very long, she also trained an assistant leader to take over when she left.

Again in God's timing Louis' contract finished six months early; Louis, Kerrie and their children moved back to Brisbane after only a year. But they did so amidst many fond farewells, having made a very big difference for God's kingdom in their short time with us. It's more than two years since they left and the women's group Kerrie started is still going strong.

If you're moving regionally it's worth asking yourself, could God use you in a similar way?

# Ministry Appointments



## Doug Wannenburg

**Wife:** Marike

**Children:** Kyle, Luke, Lara and Dougie

**Position:** Associate Senior Pastor at Mitchelton

### What excites you most about working at Mitchelton?

Working with Phil Campbell and being part of a growing and gospel-hearted church family. And of course the laidback friendly people of Queensland who match their climate—sunshine.

### Why did you feel called to this work?

An open door—I received an email from Phil. I also wanted to work with a friend and there's plenty of gospel opportunities here.

### Other than Jesus, who is your favourite person in the Bible and why?

Jesus is the only real hero in the Bible. I look forward to meeting the woman who washed Jesus feet with expensive perfume. And I'd enjoy having a drink and catch up with Luke, amongst many others.

### When are you happiest?

Living, loving and laughing with my kids, usually around a meal or board game. A few four hour games of 'Settlers of Catan' linger in my mind's 'happy box'.

### What songs are on your playlist right now?

Two songs have meant a great deal to me over the past two years: *In the Valley* by Sovereign Grace and *Eye of the Storm* by Ryan Stevenson. I'm also a big fan of Paul Overstreet and Buddy Greene—prize to anyone else who listens to their music.

### What book changed you?

Too many, though as a teenager I grew up reading anything by John Stott. Other authors I've greatly enjoyed are Philip Jensen (& Tony Payne), David Wells, Don Carson, Craig Bartholomew, Larry Crabb, and of course Dr Seuss.

### What would you tell your 15 year old self?

Following Jesus requires great endurance. Persecution and pain are part of what we sign up for. Needless to say I am grateful for God's profound love and sustaining grace.



## David Kim (right)

**Wife:** Grace

**Children:** Joshua

**Position:** Minister at Brisbane Korean

### What excites you most about working at Brisbane Korean?

Seeing our church members change and grow more spiritually as their relationship with God deepens.

### Why did you feel called to this work?

While I was working in South Korea as a Pastor, I felt really passionate about going back to Australia to recommence my overseas ministry again. I felt like God called me out to the wilderness, a place out of my comfort-zone, but I still had the urge to come here because of the joy in overseas ministry.

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

I strongly believe that after I met God I began to understand the Word of God more clearly and felt His love.

### What social issue concerns you the most?

Since I haven't been here for long I don't really have a main social issue that concerns me at this moment. However, one thing that does concern me is seeing people putting materialistic things over God.

### Other than Jesus, who is your favourite person in the Bible and why?

My favourite person would be Daniel because when he was young he decided what he wanted to do with his life and followed it through. Another reason I would say Daniel, is because he was a man of prayer.

### When are you happiest?

I am the happiest when I see God answering my prayer requests and those of the members of Brisbane Korean.

### What book changed you?

*Preaching & Preachers* by D.M.Lloyd-Jones

### What would you tell your 15 year old self?

To study languages more and seek God.

# God's Church in Queensland

## Roma Presbyterian Church

### Location

Only 350 kilometres north-west of Toowoomba, Roma is sometimes referred to as the 'Gateway to the Outback'. Our church is situated in a town of about 7,000 people.

### The Ministry Team

The whole church. We are a vacant charge with at present no local elders, but we are supported by Dalby Presbyterian Church. The Rev Ross Pethybridge is our Moderator and we have an interim session made up of Ross Skerman and Glenn Pumpa (Dalby Charge).

Each week the congregation meets together and the preaching comes to us from Dalby Church via YouTube.

### Demographic

A regular congregation of between 12-20 adults plus up to nine children.

### Prayer Points

Praise the Lord for the help given to us by Dalby Presbyterian Church, who each month, try to send out a home group to encourage us.

Praise the Lord for Andrew Snars who has taken the bulk of the responsibility of organising the service each week.

Pray that God would bind us together and keep us focussed on the mission of making followers of Jesus.

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

Being a small church we have limited resources, however we are in the process of working on achieving a number of goals we have set for ourselves. First, we are striving to be a more prayerful church because this is where making followers of Jesus starts. Second, we are working at becoming a church that caters better for young families. Third, we are working on raising up a leadership within.

## Meet the People



### Don Snelgar

#### How long have you been attending Roma?

4 years

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

The wonderful thing about our church is that although we are small in number we are big on caring and fellowship.



### Angela Brady

#### How long have you been attending Roma?

6 months; we moved to Roma for my husband's teaching job.

#### What do you do during the week?

I am a stay-at-home Mum who looks after a 1 and 4 year old whilst the eldest is at school. Therefore I am a regular attendee of the local playgroups and library groups, etc., that Mums find themselves visiting throughout the week

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

I love attending firstly because it is a Christian, biblically based, Jesus centered place of fellowship. Also because I enjoy being around God's people. This service is full of beautiful God fearing believers who are caring and up lifting. It is a lovely church to attend!



### Andrew Snars

#### How long have you been attending Roma?

6 years

#### What do you do during the week?

I am the Eastern Qld Regional Manager for oil and gas company, Santos.

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

The congregation in the church is really close and caring. As a small congregation, everyone has a role to play, and everyone faithfully plays their part.

# News from around the State

## State Assembly 2018: Moderator's Induction



This year's State Assembly began Sunday evening the 24 June with the Induction of Rev Mike O'Connor as our new State Moderator. The service was held at the Queensland Theological College, and it was great to see our new training facilities first hand.

The service began at 7pm with a welcome by QTC Principal Rev Dr Gary Millar, and at exactly 7.30pm Mike was declared to be 'Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland'. In his address titled *URGENT: Therefore Pray*, Mike spoke from Matthew's Gospel, chapters 9 and 10, with a focus on the following verses:

*"The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest". Matthew 9:37-38*

Mike issued a passionate plea to the church, calling us all to prayer, and indicating that this is our first and most urgent task. Indeed the theme and focus of his moderatorial year is 'Evangelism', and Mike has already committed to several speaking engagements across the State on this subject.

The Moderator's Chaplains this year are the Rev Andrew Poyser and Rev Nathan Campbell, and the Moderator-Elect is the Rev Phil Strong from Creek Road. The induction service concluded with supper in the QTC Dining Room.

Each church family across the State is encouraged to pray throughout this year that God will send out workers into his harvest field.

**Rev Andrew Purcell**  
Minister at Callide Valley Presbyterian Church

## Assembly Meetings

Three and a half days of meetings....what on earth do you do?

It's the perennial question that people ask when they find out that there is even a thing called the Presbyterian Church of Queensland (PCQ) State Assembly and then what it entails. It's a question I've asked myself.

We sit through reports about schools, PresCare, Presbyterian Code and others... what on earth are we doing?

If you're not aware, that's what happens at the State Assembly. We hear reports from our regions and associated ministries, and then make important decisions about them. From how to publicly present our beliefs, to how to respond well to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Abuse, to how to help our churches be great at evangelism.

It's true that we could probably be more efficient at some of it. And plenty of people work hard to try and make that happen—no one lives for meetings.

But the type of church we are in—Presbyterian—has its greatest strength and greatest weakness in moments like Assembly. The great strength of a resilient doctrinal and organisational backbone that means local churches are free to get on with gospel ministry. They don't have to worry about lots of things independent churches do. The weakness of course at times can be a thick pool of processes.

There were two highlights for me.

The first was that the entire denomination has a positive growth story. Across almost every region the numbers of people turning up on a Sunday has increased. This is exceptional in an age of declining faith.

The second happens not at Assembly; it happens in the stolen moments between sessions over coffee, at cafes, Grill'd or the food court. Catching up with partners in the Gospel, sharing stories, bearing burdens and just encouraging each other to remember Christ. This is a profound and valuable part of the week.

That's the stuff to pray for, for our denomination, that whatever we are would be a resilient force for the growth of God's kingdom and an enabler for gifted gospel ministers—more of that would be truly great.

**Rev Mitch Smart**  
One of the Ministers at Dalby Presbyterian Church

# Reflections from a 15 year old Minister's Son on the State Assembly

It is on an annual basis that ministers and elders from the Presbyterian Church of Queensland gather together to participate in the festivities (legal proceedings) that is Assembly. After speaking to many of these kind men, I somehow got the idea that perhaps the business of Assembly was not considered by all of them to be an exciting or exhilarating experience. Many asked over the course of the three day event if I was yet bored to the point of insanity. Not once did I say yes—the proceedings and happenings around Assembly could not have interested me more!

One of the initial slides in a PowerPoint displayed during the First Sederunt (a Latin term for a sitting or session) read Presbyterian in Government, Reformed in Theology, Evangelical in Spirit. My attention was taken immediately by the line. This is not an official statement by the Presbyterian Church, but as I would discover, it was no less true of the nature of the Assembly.

## Upon Presbyterian in Government

I am a high school student. My studies in the 10th grade have for me fashioned a great interest in the inner workings of organisations, more specifically that of nations, and the ideas surrounding Westminster concepts. Many of these ideas were prevalent in the Assembly which came as a slight shock to me because I thought Assembly was just some old men arguing over unimportant blokes like John Luther and Martin Calvin (I'm joking of course). The processes were at first confusing, but the calls of 'second' and various other cries slowly came to make sense. In this I was witnessing the way Assembly trundles (?) through the business of democratically governing the Church.

## Upon Reformed in Theology

The line that so took my attention was actually only an accompaniment to the more important part of the slide—a picture of John Calvin asking attendees to please mute their phones. A healthy irreverence capturing the nature of the Presbyterian Church, it showed a regard for him not as a holy man as such, but one deserving of respect. This is further testament to the reformed nature of the church, as it differs greatly to the worship of human figures—a characteristic of the Catholic Church perhaps? Once or twice the Westminster Confession of Faith was referenced, a document that is the basis of Presbyterian beliefs, to ensure that particular decisions adhered to this already established Code. The attention to detail was tantamount in this regard, so don't worry—the Assembly isn't plagued with heresy.

## Upon Evangelical in Spirit

Many of the reports presented by the different Presbyteries detailed their ongoing missions, and the triumphs and tribulations they have experienced as a result. In the end one could conclude that such work is bearing fruit; with many new congregations beginning as church plants, as well as the invigoration of already established churches. The official theme of the Assembly in 2018 is *URGENT: Therefore Pray*, and such urgent enthusiasm was clearly present in the Assembly. We were also treated to videos on work being done in other countries, being shown a montage of church leaders eagerly stating how many Bibles they need for their churches in countries less privileged than our own.

Some other themes present over the course of the three days were: the gradual encroachment of the State; the imposing of further religious institutional regulations; and the still-lack of protections for organisations such as the Church. These served to provoke the sad realisation that our country is becoming more and more secular. Though this is true, the steady witness that the churches provide gives me hope of more and more coming to Christ.

One other thing I noticed was that not all of the Assembly business was conducted within the big auditorium at the Brisbane Boys' College, at least not officially. Of course there were the usual conversations about the weather and the wife's health and what not, but there were also times in which men would discuss other important matters: "Have you nominated for this committee? For that one?"—as some conversations went—"I've read the notice of motion, thanks"; Pastoral discussions; Encouragement; Advice—all occurred and were shared between people, things loosely tying into or wholly about the Assembly. I also saw this over the dinners I shared with an assortment of fellows. Thai food, Indian, burgers and coffee—blessed coffee.

To ensure that the legalese and assorted other items didn't get too dreary, the Rev David Thurston gave some refreshing Biblical Expositions in Philippians at different intervals over the three days. Also presented were Bible readings, prayers and the singing of songs by other gifted men. These various items showed me that the Assembly is not just about making financial decisions, organising committees and the like, but the congregating of ministers and elders of the church to join together in remembering the wonderful duty that it is to minister Christ to our corner of the world.

Anyway, that's what I thought of it all.

**Joshua Bailey**



# Upcoming Events at QTC

To register or for more information, including prices, please visit our website [www.qtc.edu.au/events](http://www.qtc.edu.au/events).

## QTC Alumni Event

Monday 27th August 2018

If you're a QTC Graduate, join us along with many other past QTC students, for our second ever Alumni Event.

Contact [events@qtc.edu.au](mailto:events@qtc.edu.au) to be added to our Alumni mailing list.

## Taste of QTC Supper

Thursday 6th September 2018

Taste of QTC Supper provides an opportunity for you to find out more about studying at QTC. You'll get to hear about QTC from our faculty, staff, and students, all whilst enjoying a tasty supper. There's also an opportunity for you to ask specific questions that you may have.

## Understanding and Answering Islam

Friday 14th - Saturday 15th September 2018

What are the foundational differences between Christianity and Islam? Which is the real Word of God? The Bible or the Qur'an? Do you know what it costs a Muslim to consider Christ?

QTC, MST & RZIM bring you two days of seminars to help better understand your Muslim friends.

## Interpreting and Preaching the Gospel of John

Monday 8th October 2018

Dr Bill Salier will be leading us through key themes and passages in John's Gospel, and how we can most effectively preach on this key New Testament book.

## Life in Ministry: Three Things We Must Know with Kevin DeYoung

Monday 26th November 2018

Session 1: How Jesus Builds the Church  
Session 2: What is the Mission of the Church  
Session 3: What Success Looks Like in the Church

## Geneva Push's Building Leaders with Daniel Im

Monday 6th August 2018

One of the biggest challenges in churches is having enough leaders. If we're going to mature Christians and reach people with the gospel, we need to increase the leadership pipelines within our churches.

# TOGETHER

## for the GOSPEL

with Kevin DeYoung

Brisbane City Hall | Sunday 25 November 2018  
7:00pm | \$10 | [qtc.edu.au/event/together](http://qtc.edu.au/event/together)



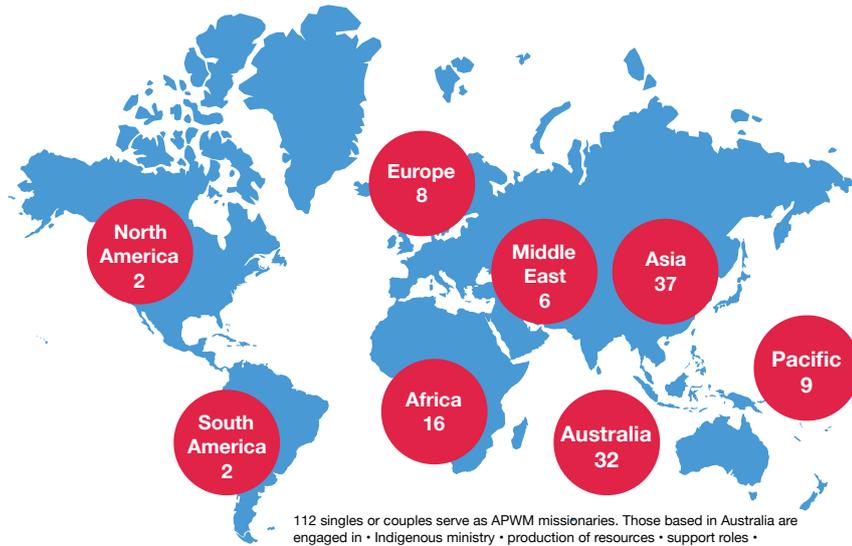


The Australian Presbyterian World Mission exists to glorify God by facilitating the spread of the gospel to people overseas and Aborigines within Australia.

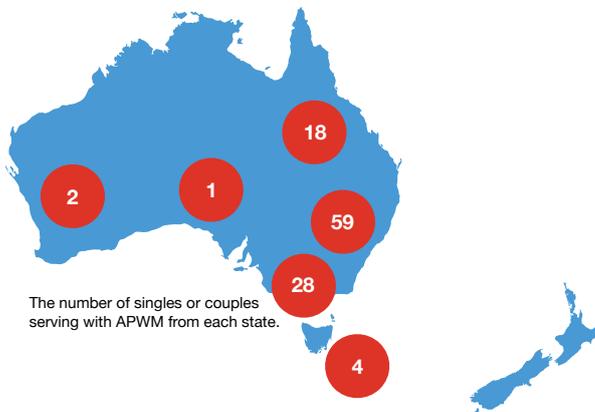
# Australian Presbyterian World Mission

www.apwm.org.au 1 Clarence Street, Burwood NSW 2134 (02) 8073 7490 national@apwm.org.au

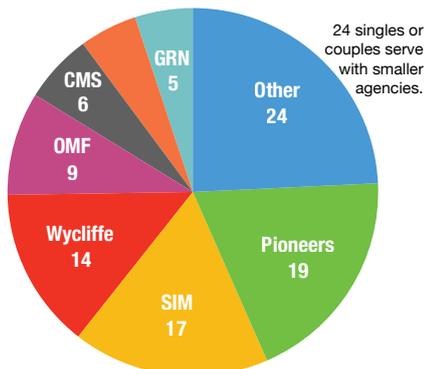
## APWM AT A GLANCE



112 singles or couples serve as APWM missionaries. Those based in Australia are engaged in • Indigenous ministry • production of resources • support roles • mission leadership • commuting overseas from Australia • refugee ministry



The number of singles or couples serving with APWM from each state.



24 singles or couples serve with smaller agencies.

The number of singles or couples serving with a partner agency.

## WORKPARTNERS

The next Workpartners team to carry out maintenance at the Talua Bible College, Vanuatu will take place from Sunday 18th November to Sunday 2nd December. The cost will be your return airfare plus approximately \$500 to contribute to team expenses (food and local transport). Interested in joining? Contact Sheryl Sarkoezy in the APWM National Office today — national@apwm.org.au or (02) 8073 7492. Note that another trip is planned for April 2019.



## APWM

www.apwm.org.au

### APWM Queensland

Convener:  
Keith Stewart qldconvener@apwm.org.au

Secretary:  
Andre Schwartz qldsecretary@apwm.org.au

### National Office

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Bruce Campbell finance@apwm.org.au

# IT'S RELATIONSHIP THAT DRIVES US

It's that commitment to relationship that always drives us – that sees us going the extra mile beyond the fringe. And that's to reach people who are often forgotten in some of the remotest regions of Australia.



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It's been our mission since 1912. And to us, it will always be worth driving for.

**Help reach the remotest regions of Australia for Christ. Give now.**



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Enclosed is my gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ by:

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(made out to "Presbyterian Inland Mission" enclosed)

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PO Box 287, Woori Yallock VIC 3139 T: 03 9005 8256 E: [admin@pim.org.au](mailto:admin@pim.org.au) W: [www.pim.org.au](http://www.pim.org.au)

## PresCare news

### PresCare at PCQ Assembly

Greg Skelton, PresCare's Chief Executive Officer, presented at the 2018 PCQ Assembly at Brisbane Boys' College on Wednesday 27 June.

During his presentation, Greg addressed the changes and challenges facing PresCare, the choices we are making, and PresCare's plans for the future.

The challenges facing the aged care industry as a whole and PresCare itself include:

1. Entering an era of ageing
2. Increased complexity of health conditions
3. Advancements in technology
4. Australians under 65 with disabilities living in nursing homes
5. Increased demand on the aged care workforce
6. The need for aged care skills and capabilities to adapt and change for consumer directed care
7. Financial constraints requiring Prescare and other organisation to do more with less

As PresCare focuses towards the future, we are excited to implement new and innovative solutions. These initiatives will ensure we become more efficient and drive the growth needed to support more Australians, now and into the future. This represents our commitment to the Ministry of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland in providing a diverse range of care and services that is responsive to people's changing needs.

### Update on PresCare's new residential facility in Townsville

PresCare's new Townsville Residential Facility has officially been named Protea by PresCare.

Protea by PresCare was inspired by the protea flower which holds positive connotations of flexibility,

versatility and adaptability. Combined with PresCare's values of Care, Respect, Discover and Deliver, the name symbolises how we give hope and transform lives through the people we help by giving them courage to keep moving forward.

Protea by PresCare is due to open in February 2019.

### Implementing new technologies

A recent focus has been deploying new technologies to improve the efficiency and quality of care given at PresCare's residential facilities.

All systems were moved to the cloud, desktops in nurses' stations were removed and replaced with tablets, and PresCare has moved to a virtual desktop system so that staff could work on the go – anywhere, any time.

Non-intrusive monitoring was also introduced into our facilities, and the stand alone nurse and care systems were amalgamated to enable nurses to receive information swiftly.

These new technologies will provide greater insight into PresCare's business operation to enable PresCare staff to deliver efficient and quality holistic care to our residents.



Sarah Clemence (Senior Business Analyst) teaching residential nurses the new Point of Care system.

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.



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Choose from four great PMSA schools in Queensland.

### Clayfield College

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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 Uniting Churches.

# Pres Life