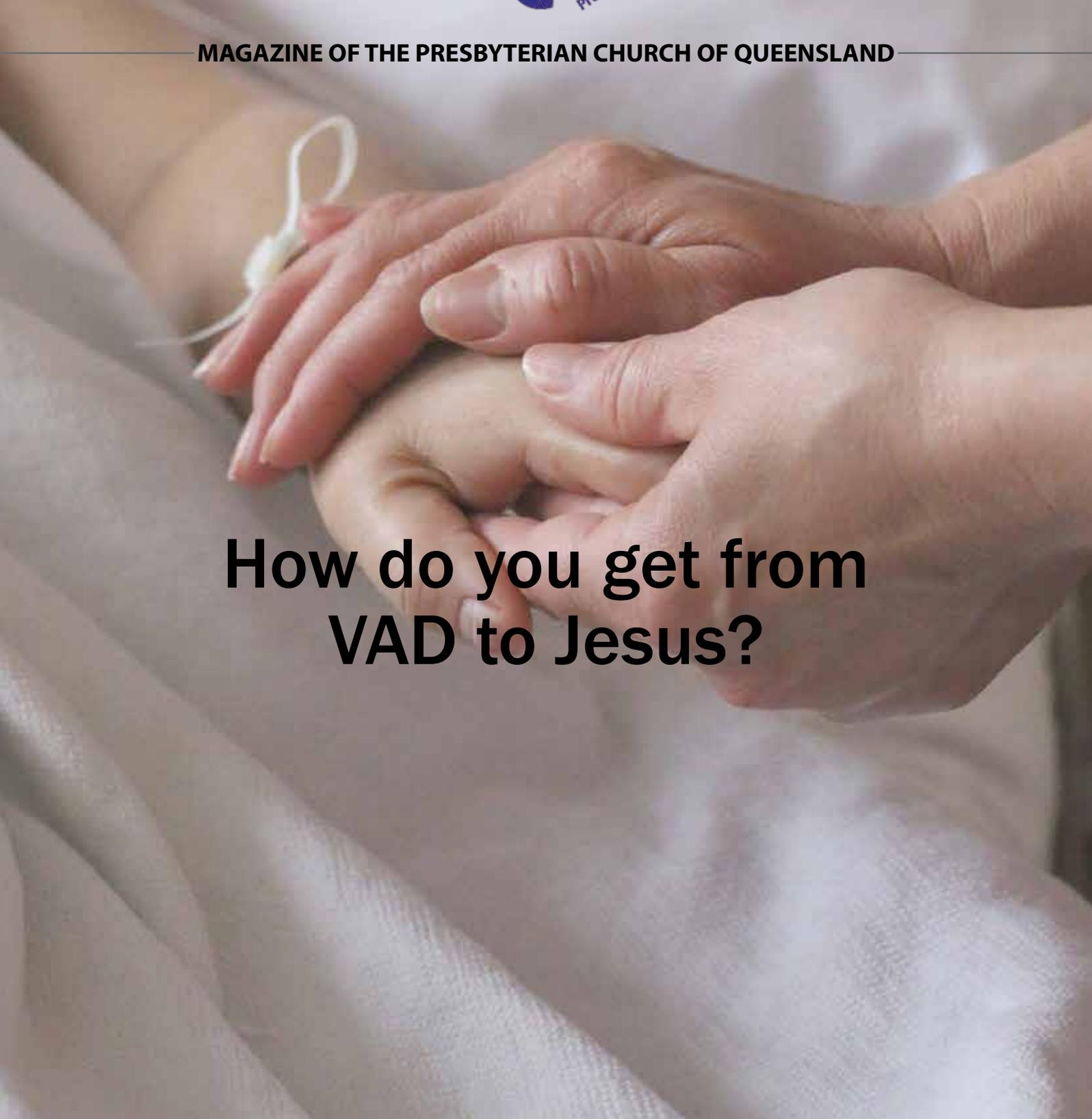


Pres Life

MAGAZINE OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF QUEENSLAND



How do you get from VAD to Jesus?

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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Thanks

Presbyterian Womens' Missionary Union (PWMU) thanks everyone who has collected stamps for Missions over the years. Sadly we will not be collecting stamps any more, rather we will be having morning teas throughout Queensland to raise funds for Missionary support.

 www.pcq.org.au

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Time with God



Babylon and its fall

Rev. 17:1-18

Rev. 18:1-24

Teaching in Judea

Luke 13:1-9

Luke 13:10-17

Luke 13:18-21

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Psalms 30

Exiles return and revival

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Ezra 5:1-17

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The blessing of forgiveness

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Haggai 2:10-23

Sing for joy

Psalms 33

Call to repentance

Zechariah 1:1-6

Visions

Zechariah 2:1-13

Zechariah 3:1-10

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Zechariah 7:1-14

Zechariah 8:1-23

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The fullness of God's Kingdom

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Kingdom and death

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Luke 17:11-19

Luke 17:20-37

Luke 18:1-18

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Luke 18:31-43

Luke 19:1-10

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Triumph and controversy

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The God who preserves

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Proverbs 23:10-28

Proverbs 24:1-22

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Proverbs 27:1-17

Evil men ... and trust

Psalms 37

Controversy and preparation

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Luke 20:27-40

Luke 20:41-47

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Luke 21:5-28

Luke 21:29-38

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Psalms 38

A fall and a wedding

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Christ's return and judgment

Rev. 19:11-21

Rev. 20:1-15

My fleeting life

Psalms 39

All things new

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Rev. 21:9-27

Rev. 22:1-21

The coming of the Christ

Matthew 1:1-17

Matthew 1:18-25

Matthew 2:1-12

Wait patiently

Psalms 40

Preparation

Matthew 2:13-23

Matthew 3:1-12

Matthew 3:13-17

God's faithfulness; Israel's unfaithfulness

Malachi 1:1-5; 2:10-16

Announcing the Lord's coming

Malachi 2:17-3:5

Malachi 3:6-18

Malachi 4:1-6

Praise to the Lord

Psalms 41

Hope in the Lord

Psalms 42



How do you get from VAD to Jesus?

by Robyn Bain - GiST Team

This short article provides a taste of the VAD resources page available on the GIST website. Visit www.gist.org.au for more ideas on talking, praying and acting on VAD in the Gospel.

Voluntary Assisted Dying (VAD) refers to a practice in which a doctor intentionally ends the life of a person or helps them commit suicide by the administration of drugs at that person's voluntary and competent request. The wave of support for VAD has been gathering across Australia for many years. Now that wave is breaking as bills for legalised VAD are rapidly introduced. The Queensland government inquiry into end of life issues is due to report its findings in March 2020.

While VAD is a current political issue, VAD discussion, at heart, grapples with the intensely personal experience of suffering, dying and mourning. It's a discussion that pushes us to think about how we show love and hope in Christ to those around us confronting death. VAD promises a 'good death', a compassionate 'way out' to those who are fearful and suffering in the face of death. But in the Gospel, we possess an infinitely better vision of a 'good death'.

Thinking hard about VAD is also an opportunity for disciples of Christ to do some healthy self-reflection. VAD runs downstream from centuries of developing cultural thought on death and suffering. Even while we profess our faith in Jesus, we can quietly, subconsciously breathe in the cultural air. In what ways do we need to wake up and breathe in the hope of the Gospel? Are we facing our own deaths with our hearts soundly invested in Christ?

Why VAD Seems a Good Idea

Think about your friends and family. What frightens them most about death? How do you feel about facing death?

1. The Terror of Suffering and Dying

Our community usually flees from death. But for more and more people, the process of dying has come to hold greater terror than death itself. We rarely hear about those who die well cared for, knowing the love of family and friends. We rarely hear that the dying generally desire more time not less. While there is enormous fear of unbearable physical suffering in dying, what increasingly drives the desire for VAD is the emotional suffering of an irrevocably changed sense of self, hopelessness and the loss of independence. A sense of being forgotten and without value in others' lives magnifies that hopelessness.

Many of our neighbours also believe there is no greater story that extends beyond our present life. We simply make the best of now. If life is all about quality of life now, then it must end comfortably before the pain becomes too much. Compassion demands that the only thing to be done with suffering is to get rid of it, whatever it takes. If death is vaguely conceived as a 'better place' or simply a retreat into nothingness, it seems a 'way out' from the terror of dying. A 'good death' means to finish a comfortable life with minimal 'dying'.

2. The Terror of Dependence

The desire for VAD is also driven by the fear of needing someone else to feed us, clothe us, communicate and make decisions for us. We dread having our ability to choose what we do limited. We also dread limiting someone else by being a burden on them. In the hearts of all people beats a desire for the kind of freedom to decide what we want to do without anyone else imposing their values or restrictions—to rule ourselves. It's completely natural, then, to feel we should be free to die when and how we choose. As one VAD slogan says, 'My Life, My Death, My Choice'.

3. Human Dignity and Choice

'Dignity' speaks of an inherent quality that sits at the heart of what makes each person precious and worthy of respect. For many, dignity is closely wedded to self-rule. That means we can lose our dignity if we lose our thinking abilities—our life seems less worthwhile. This also means that choosing the way we die is a way of expressing our dignity.

What can we say to our friends in their fear? And to ourselves? Could it be that independence is overrated in our dying? Would you feel differently about death if you knew you would be loved and valued no matter what state you are in? Are you sure you know what is beyond death? Who is most worth listening to on matters of life and death?

A Better Story – A Good Death in Christ

1. We Depend on a Giving God—Who Gives us Christ

We are not the independent people we may think we are. We are deeply, fundamentally dependent on the God who made us and gives us life with lavish generosity (Acts 17:25-28). God's most lavish provision for us is his Son Jesus who came to release us from suffering and death—'to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death' (Luke 1:79). Dependence on Jesus for truth, comfort and hope makes such a meaningful difference to coping with suffering and death in this broken world.

Since we are God's dependent creatures, our dignity, our true 'selves' are crafted by Him. We are not merely material beings seeking material comfort in the now, but spiritual beings designed to be in intimate relationship with our Creator. His design is that we grow to trust and respond to Him as Jesus does (Romans 8:29-30). The dignity of that blueprint is not cancelled by our rejection of Him (Genesis 9:5-6; 1 Cor 11:7). It can't be stolen away by illness. To honour the dignity of a dying woman is to honour her as God-made, no matter what her condition, tending to both her body and spirit, trusting that her premium good and hope is found in Christ.

2. God Gives us Bigger Vision in Christ Jesus—Humanity at its Best

In Luke 4:1-13, Jesus, the perfect man, endures a dire situation in terrible isolation. After forty days alone and hungry, the devil suggests that Jesus should take things into His own hands in this seemingly God-forsaken place. But Jesus holds fast to a vision that extends far beyond present sensations. He knows His Father can be trusted to deliver Him at the perfect time. He refuses to take matters into His own hands, even in desperation, because He knows His Father's love and He loves Him. He knows that the devil's promises are dead ends. He knows there is infinitely greater comfort in the Lord's long-term purposes than in a shortcut 'fix' for suffering.

Jesus explodes our vision. He shows us there is something worse even than suffering and that is abandoning the Lord. He shows there is something better even than immediate relief and that is being in the Lord's eternal care.

3. Self-Rule—Humanity at its Worst

Jesus is freely able to obey God's voice with a consistency and passion that eludes us. We are not like Jesus. We don't respond to God's voice with wholehearted obedience. We intuitively take matters into our own hands. And like the prodigal son (Luke 15:11-21), we enslave ourselves to any number of unworthy, deceitful human masters and the entangling web of sin in the process. Death is not nothingness. It is the ongoing penalty for our catastrophic grasp for self-rule. Death in and of itself delivers no mercy or relief from pain. VAD does not work. The real terror of our lives is that we cannot escape the death we deserve.

4. God Gives Us True Freedom in Christ

In our dying, who better to entrust ourselves to than Christ? He is the only one who can bring us freedom from the horror of death. A 'good death' in Christ is to die knowing that death and judgement will not have the last word over us; that He has suffered and bled to pay the penalty of our sin and risen to give us life, leaving the terror of death behind; that He has inverted death into a means of securing our eternal joy in His company.

A 'good death' in Christ is also to die in the embrace of His people. God's Spirit empowers us to gladly enter into the wearying work of loving the dying with sincerity and patience, bearing one another's burdens, no matter how tiring or inconvenient (Gal 6:2; 1 Tim 5:3-8). We show love for a person as God-made when we hold his hands, rub his feet, mix his food and keep his mouth moist. We show love when we support good palliative care in our community and the health professionals who provide it. We show love when we sacrificially care for one another in interdependence. We show love when we help brothers and sisters of every age prepare for death by embracing dependence on our Father.

How can you show Jesus' love in word and deed to those around you confronting death? How can you trust more deeply in Jesus as you confront death yourself?

News | Congregation

Crown Road (Gympie) Presbyterian Church



Location

Gympie is a growing regional town, located just north of the Sunshine Coast.

Ministry Team

Daniel Saunders (Minister), Daryl and Tom (Elders), and all the members.

Demographic

We are a multi-generational church with a mix of people aged from not yet born to 90 plus, in all kinds of life situations.

Prayer Points

That we would be people who know God. That we'd be known by our love for each other. And that we'd reach our region with the gospel of Jesus.

What is the church excited about making followers of Jesus?

Currently, we're excited about raising up a team of disciples of Jesus who are making disciples—equipped to do evangelism and follow up.

Meet the People



Ruth Roche

How long have you been attending Crown Road?

4 years

What do you do during the week?

Teach primary school children three days a week on average. Help my husband Tim on our small Brangus Stud. I also make the odd quilt, enjoy cooking and a good walk.

What is the best thing about being at Crown Road?

The Bible is preached faithfully and truthfully. I love that the Word of God is my recipe for life.



Paul & Roslyn Newell

How long have you been attending Crown Road?

Almost 30 years

What do you do during the week?

Ros has a physiotherapy practice. Paul is retired from local government in building inspecting and management, but still retains his builder's licence. We travel to see our children.

What is the best thing about being at Crown Road?

Preaching of Biblical truth, varied worship, Bible studies and fellowship



Nick & Crissy Zaccardi with Levi

How long have you been attending Crown Road?

18 months

What do you do during the week?

Nick grows vegetables and fruit trees to sell at markets on weekends. Crissy and Levi spend their time playing, also with Nick and the animals on the farm, and going for walks.

What is the best thing about being at Crown Road?

Being Christ-centered and able to fellowship with likeminded people, and continuing our relationship with God.

Manly/Lota Presbyterian Church



Stock image: Manly Harbour, Queensland

Location

Brisbane's Bayside. 137 Oceana Terrace, Lota

Ministry Team

Jeff Keighley (Minister), Bethany Fraser (Ministry Assistant), Glen Perkins (Student Minister) and Ian Carbine, Jeff Searle and Peter Young (Elders)

Demographic

We have a good spread of ages ranging from young to old—think 9 months to 90 years old!

Prayer Points

Thank God for growth in numbers in the last few years and seeing new people 'step-up' to serve in a variety of ways.

What is the church excited about making followers of Jesus?

With a good group of families joining us, we've had the opportunity to run kids church for pre-school age kids. We've also been able to start a youth group in 2018. These are small beginnings, but we're excited about what God is doing in the hearts of our children and youth.

Meet the People



Valda South

How long have you been attending Manly/Lota?

Around 70 years ago my family came to live behind the church. My siblings and I went to Sunday School and various other activities there.

What do you do during the week?

I like walking, daily Bible reading, talking on the phone and watching television, among other things.

What is the best thing about being at Manly/Lota?

Our pastor has gently and wisely led our congregation in a vibrant mix of younger families with Bible teaching suitable for young children.



Nathan Sullivan

How long have you been attending Manly/Lota?

My wife grew up here and we have been attending as a family for six years.

What do you do during the week?

I work as a pilot, my wife is a high school teacher and we have two girls.

What is the best thing about being at Manly/Lota?

Gospel-centred teaching and the bringing together of a diverse group of people as a community to know God.



Ben & Trish Robson

How long have you been attending Manly/Lota?

4 years

What do you do during the week?

Ben - Head of Maths at Bellbird Park State Secondary College

Trish - A writer of fiction by day, and working as a tutor from home in the evenings.

What is the best thing about being at Manly/Lota?

Gathering with Christ-minded people who work together as a small, yet vibrant community, eager to hear God's Word preached with depth and clarity.

News | Congregation

Goondiwindi/Inglewood Presbyterian Church (GPC)

Location

We meet each Sunday at 29 Herbert Street, Goondiwindi and every second Sunday at 15 Regent Street, Inglewood.

Ministry Team

Brad Dewson (Minister) and a crowd of servant-hearted volunteers!

Demographic

Our church is made up of country folk with a spread of ages.

Prayer Points

Pray as we move into our next season of ministry, seeking to expand our leadership team, to develop our evangelism engine and launch a children's program.

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

We're working to make our Sunday service more welcoming and accessible for those who don't know Jesus yet. We've also loved investing in our Growth Group ministry.



Meet the People



Hannah Macartney

I have been attending GPC for almost three years.

I moved to Goondiwindi for work and have felt loved, accepted and welcomed in this church ever since.

During the week I teach my lovely class of prep age students.

I love being a part of the GPC community because I can be myself and feel loved as I am. I feel included and the members of this church really care for each other and the community.



Tom Gibson

I'm a sheep and cattle farmer, in my early seventies and I have been a part of GPC since the day I was born, with my grandparents and great-grandparents being involved as members and elders.

What I appreciate most about GPC is the good, solid Bible preaching and teaching. We have had a number of good ministers in the past, and our current minister provides us with very sound Scriptural teaching. It is solid and yet challenging, growing us in our faith and our walk with God and each other.



Ron Stiller

I have been attending GPC for 18 months.

During the week, and always I am a husband, dad to three girls, and work for a local agribusiness.

I enjoy the blessing of community and getting to build relationships with Christians through the midweek small group Bible studies. I am loving hearing the wisdom of fellow brothers and sisters in Christ as we study God's Word and grow together.



Darwin Presbyterian Church

The first six months of 2019 has been one of excitement and stabilisation for the church in Darwin. After approximately 18 months without a minister and having various visiting preachers from Queensland, and other lay people from Darwin serving and caring for us (which we were very grateful for), we welcomed Richard Riley and his family to our church family as our minister.

We now feel more stable as a church and are ready to begin discovering ways in which we can better reach the people of Darwin (and the many who visit us) with the Good News of Jesus. We are in the process of growing the community and establishing strong growth groups for spiritual growth and pastoral care. We have enjoyed having regular lunches together each month and especially a recent picnic lunch at Berry Springs.

We have been thankful for the support of the Presbytery of North Queensland as they provided guidance and support to help us establish ourselves as a church within the Presbyterian Church of Queensland. Particular thanks to Jason Smart (amongst others) who has directed and shown us what we needed to do to become a church, setting up our own accounts, having a CoM, and now looking to appoint local elders for our church.

In the interim, people from Townsville, and now Cairns have acted as our Session and provided support and encouragement, letting us know the things that are required as a Presbyterian church, and importantly praying for us and keeping us accountable. It has been great to know that all of these people have only been a phone call/email away when we have not known what we needed to do.

Please continue praying for us as we look to grow and establish ourselves in Darwin, and become a welcoming and outreaching church. Pray that we can raise up Godly local elders who will lead us as we seek to make Christ known. Thank God, who continues to be faithful to his people in Darwin.



Picnic at Berry Springs



Richard Riley

Wife: Jenny
Children: Jack, Nicholas, Caitlin & Matthew
Position: Pastor

What is your role at Darwin Presbyterian?

Pastor the church by teaching and equipping people for works of service that God has prepared in advance for them to do.

What excites you most about working at Darwin Presbyterian?

Talking to people about God and encouraging them from His Word.

Why did you feel called to this work?

I enjoy working with people and helping them grow in their love for Christ.

In what way has God changed you the most significantly?

Over time I have come to understand more about what He has done for me in and through Christ, and His

ultimate Sovereignty in all things. I have stopped relying on myself and what I can do, and devoted more time to Him, and serving Him.

What social issue concerns you the most? (in Australia)

In the age of social media we seem to be lacking connection with people and the ability to have real and caring relationships with each other.

What is your favourite book in the Bible and why?

Psalms – because in them we have hope and encouragement, and ways how to handle things when we are down and God feels distant.

When are you happiest?

Surrounded by family and friends playing some board games and having a laugh together.

What song/s are you currently listening to on your playlist and why?

Don't listen to a lot of music, but songs that take me back to my childhood, like ones from U2 or Crowded House are always good.

What would you tell your 15 year old self?

Read your bible and get into the habit of praying regularly now. It is harder to do when many other things can crowd it out later on in life.

Ministers, elders and other ministry workers from around the State of Queensland—even some from New South Wales, Western Australia, South Australia, Northern Territory and Tasmania—gathered together for the 178th State Assembly at the Brisbane Boys' College, Toowong to discuss matters concerning our denomination, and to encourage, uplift and partner with one another in sharing the Gospel throughout our State and beyond.

The Assembly week commenced with the Induction of the new Moderator, Rev Phil Strong at Living Church (Creek Road).

Michelle Martin, Editor

Induction of the Moderator

Rev Phil Strong's theme for his Moderatorial Year is 'Fellow Workers'.

Three things we took away from his message on Romans 16 at his induction:

1. People who are leaders in the world of work, education and business are potentially key fellow workers. It's worth investing time into these people, that they might be generous with what God has given them. Phoebe, Priscilla and Aquila, and the leaders of the households Paul greets in Romans 16 were such people Paul had invested time into.
2. When you as a leader in your church drive into the church carpark, ask about everything your church does, "How does this look and sound for a person turning up here at church for the first time? How can your church become a diverse team of people from all the segments of your community, who as fellow workers can take the Gospel to your whole community?" Value each person who has a heart for the Gospel. They can reach people you cannot. Like those two women, the dynamic duo of Tryphena and Tryphosa could reach people Paul could not, the vast slave population of Rome.
3. Let's commit ourselves to express more of Paul's generous 'fellow workers' approach in all our gatherings, at the State Assembly, in the oversight of the Assembly's various ministries, in our Presbyteries, in our Sessions, and in our staff teams. Let's not perpetuate divisions between gospel-hearted people, or put obstacles in each other's way. Let's be more like Paul, generous in our gospel unity and more than that, let's actively take obstacles out of each other's way.



Phil Strong
State Moderator

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

As a young adult I was going my own way in life without God. God, in His kindness, put a committed Christian in the same workplace. His living out the Good News of God's grace in Jesus pointed me to the truth of the Gospel, and God moved me to trust in Jesus. This redirected my life path from where it would otherwise have gone.

What were you doing prior to becoming a minister?

I grew up on a dairy farm between Sydney and Newcastle, I then worked in the metal fabrication industry, and I then studied for a Diploma at Sydney Missionary and Bible College.

At that time I was aiming to start an engineering business in regional NSW, and be useful in the life and ministry of the Church. After a number of ministers recommended that I become a Candidate for the Ministry, I worked for a year in the NSW Public Service to experience the 'white collar' world of work. I then commenced studies at Moore Theological College and the Presbyterian Theological Centre in Sydney.

When are you happiest?

When people are working well together in Christ-centred care for each other.

Why did you feel called to become the State Moderator?

I was persuaded by fellow ministers and elders that this was the right time for me to take on the role.

What will you be doing as the State Moderator?

I will be aiming to contribute well in the various committees and boards of the Assembly, and I want to encourage ministers, elders and congregations in their ministries in their local communities.

What are the main issues you see Christians facing in Queensland?

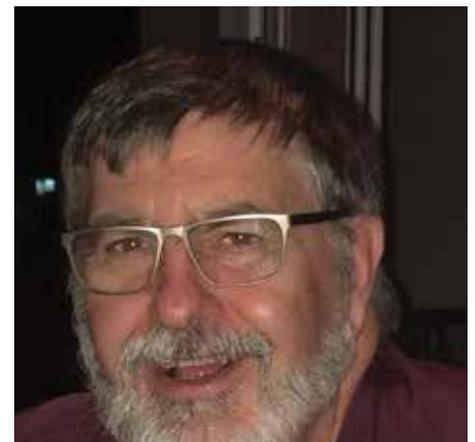
The challenge of understanding and engaging with the rapidly changing culture in which we live whilst remaining faithful to the Gospel as we do that.

What do you see as the most important things the Presbyterian Church of Queensland needs to do to share the Gospel with non-believers and nurture/grow followers of Jesus?

Being and becoming congregations that take the Gospel to our surrounding communities in ways that really do connect with them and understand them.

Being and becoming congregations that are accessible to newcomers from the community.

During Assembly week two new appointments and one reappointment were made. Rev Phil Case was appointed as Business Convener and Rev Peter Barson as Clerk of Assembly, and Rev Lesleigh Hall was reappointed as Deputy Clerk of Assembly. We asked Phil Case to share a bit about himself and what he will be doing as Business Convener.



Phil Case
Business Convener

What will you be doing as the Business Convener?

As Business Convener I will focus on making the Assembly an event which completes the business of the Church efficiently, but does not forget that the business of the Church is to be about making disciples. Thus I would like to see those attending being challenged in their walk with God and encouraged in their ministry. It would be great if the Assembly was an event all ministers and elders look forward to attending.

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

It's hard to point to any one area in which my life has changed. I am very conscious of the fact that our Lord

has been moulding and shaping me to become the person he desires me to be. I have not always (if ever) been a cooperative willing partner in this process of change.

Bryan Chappell said once that 'the reason we sin is because we love it'.

Christ effects change in us by bringing us to love him more than our sin. He has used trials and tribulations to shape me and change me. He has used his word to directly confront me with areas in my life which needed to change.

As I was studying Philippians I distinctly remember him challenging me over one area in my life asking me if I loved him more than the behaviour I needed to change. I concur with John Newton when he said "I am not what I ought to be, I am not what I want to be, I am not what I hope to be in another world; but still I am not what I once used to be, and by the grace of God I am what I am". I know that He will complete the work He has begun in me.

What were you doing prior to becoming a minister?

Immediately before I trained for the ministry, I ran my own company Access Data Pty Ltd. We sold and supported computers, networks and accounting software to small businesses. Before that, I was involved in the civil aviation industry in the area of electronics and communication, then with medical imaging computers and then I branched into the personal computer industry.

When are you happiest?

I know the happiest time in my life will be when I see my Saviour face to face. Until then, I am happiest when I see Him working in people's lives, especially the people I am closest to.

What are the main issues you see Christians facing in Queensland?

I think the issues facing Christians in Queensland are much the same as those facing all Christians in the West. That is overcoming our being conformed to a very comfortable culture in which we live. It is extremely hard to do because we eat drink and breathe the culture around us. Generally, I don't think we are aware of how much we are conformed to it. Sometimes, we think that if life in heaven is better than in Australia, it cannot be by much. We can only overcome this as we read God's Word together, and challenge one another to really take seriously what it says.

It won't take a great change in the prevailing culture for Christians to become regarded very negatively by the community around us.

Without, a strong grasp of God's Word and the strong support of God's family it will be difficult to survive and live christianly.

What do you see as the most important things the Presbyterian Church of Queensland needs to do to share the Gospel with non-believers and nurture/grow followers of Jesus?

We need to live the Gospel. We need to love one another and we need to love the unsaved in the way Christ welcomed sinners—without condemnation, but with a demeanour that draws people to our Saviour. It will be our lifestyle that gives us credence to share the Gospel. When people see Christ in us, they will either be drawn to him or they will attack us. If we do not love one another and love the unsaved, they will, at best dismiss us as irrelevant, or at worst rightly accuse us of hypocrisy.



Peter Barson
Clerk of Assembly



Lesleigh Hall
Deputy Clerk of Assembly

Also during the week a seminar was presented by Peter Mayrick from Sydney on 'Growing Healthy Churches'; afternoon workshops were given by Peter Mayrick on 'Leading effective small group networks', Scott Muir and Rohan Pieris on 'Understanding Church sizes - increase church health and reduce frustration' and Stuart Hoadley on 'Elvanto'; and four Biblical Expositions were given by Alistair Bain from St John's Presbyterian Church in Hobart on Luke 9 and Isaiah 65:17-25.

We asked a few of the Assembly members to share their thoughts about the week.

'Growing Healthy Churches' was the topic for our Queensland Assembly seminar this year, with guest speaker Peter Mayrick from Partners in Ministry and the Centre for Ministry Development, Sydney. We were hit with a tsunami of statistics drawn largely from National Church Life Surveys that confirmed the decline of the Western church, but also gave some hope. 44% of people still believe that faith or spirituality is important in shaping life's decisions. 35% believe the resurrection of Jesus is historical. He confirmed that engaging with the Bible is the strongest factor in spiritual growth. Incredibly, 10% of people would say yes if they were invited to church. So, we should expect nine rejections before each yes!

Peter Evans, Minister, Dalby

Church Planting Workshop by Scott Muir and Rohan Pieris:

My elder and I attended this workshop. It was his first Assembly. He was struck by just how much trouble is so widespread in our churches. Together we were both struck by how common are many of the problems faced in the early years of such a revitalisation work: familiar patterns of upheaval as the old culture either changes or dies; grief, loss and lashing out as things change; deliberate sabotage by those wanting to retain old habits of power. And other patterns too—space made for newcomers, healthier habits of dealing with conflict, people becoming Christians, hardened hearts unexpectedly softened, other generations being welcomed in, new elders and managers being raised up, and a recovery of a church's deep desire to bear the costs of abiding, ongoing spiritual transformation.

David Bailey, Minister, Rose City

Continued page 12

Continued from page 11

This year was a very positive Assembly in which there was a great feeling of unity and encouragement. I was really encouraged by the individual Presbytery reports—seeing what is going on in ministry around Queensland. We enjoyed sound Biblical teaching from Rev Alistair Bain from Hobart, and the session by Peter Mayrick was very informative about the Australian culture we find ourselves ministering in today.

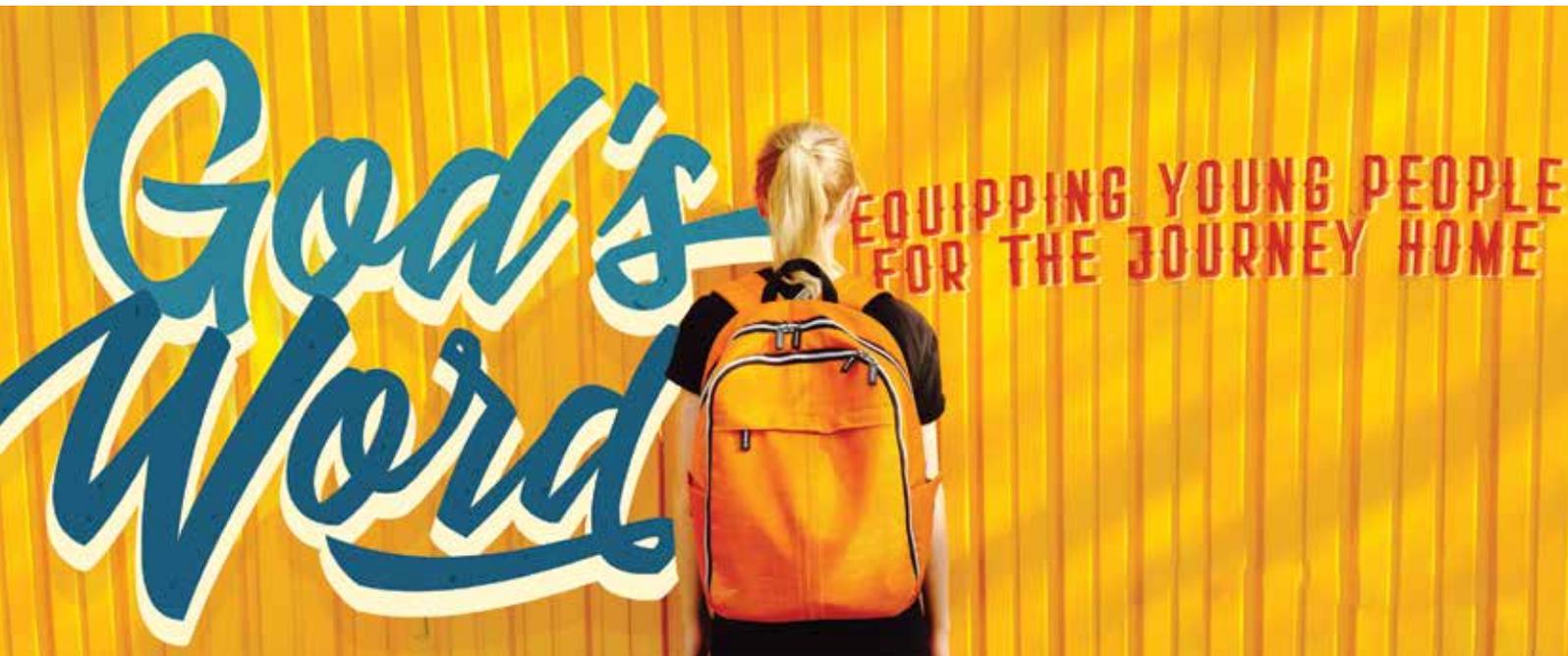
There were also several electives on offer at this year's Assembly. I found the elective by Rev Stuart Hoadley on 'Elvanto' to be a good reminder of what a powerful tool we now have available to all of our churches in the Presbyterian Church of Queensland. Not only can the system be used to keep track of Blue Card details and PresSafe training records, it also offers a wide range of features from tracking church attendance through to keeping records of risk assessments for church camps/youth group activities and the like. Our Elvanto system also has the functionality required to coordinate church services on a weekly basis, with the ability to email those on roster with their duties for that week. Thanks again to Stuart for reminding us of such a good resource that we have available to us.

Again we enjoyed the good hospitality of Brisbane Boys' College, providing accommodation, conference facilities and food for the duration of our time together.
Andrew Purcell, Minister, Callide Valley



Photos

- ◀ **Far left:** Rev Alistair Bain, St John's Presbyterian Church, Hobart, Tasmania
- ▲ **Top:** Members of the Assembly
- ▲ **Second from the top:** Representatives of Defence Force Chaplaincy with Rev Peter Phillips (Convener, Defence Force Chaplaincy Committee and Presbyterian RACS member) speaking.
- ▲ **Third from the top L-R:** Mr John Evans, Executive Manager of Mission, PresCare and Rev Dr J. Gary Millar, Principal of Queensland Theological College
- ◀ **Bottom Left:** Mr Bill MacRae, Moderator of Western Australia



YNET CONFERENCE 2019

This year at YNET Conference, the Bible was front and centre for leaders from around the State (including New South Wales and Western Australia) as we gathered at Tamborine Mountain on the May long weekend. Together, we looked at the 'Word of God' as foundational and vital in the reaching and discipling of young people.

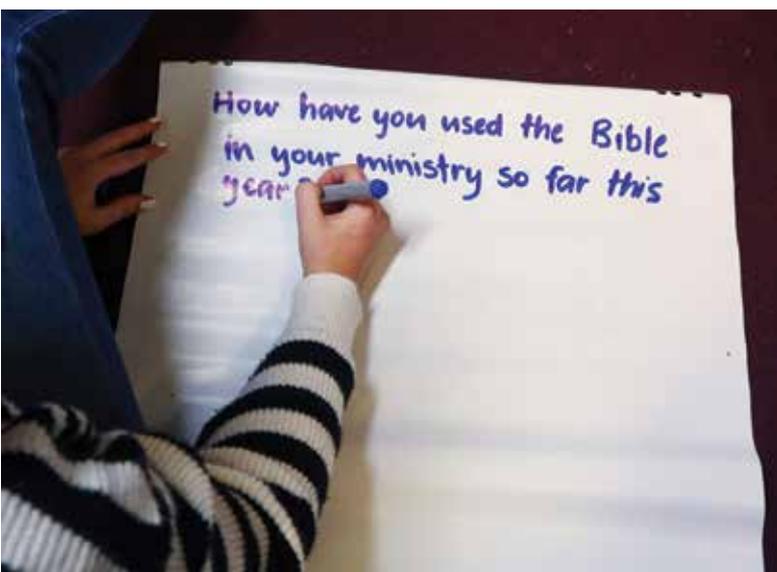
Malcolm Gill spoke to leaders from 2 Timothy to highlight the usefulness of Scripture and the delight of having God speak to us in His Word. This provided personal encouragement and refreshment for leaders, as well as clarity in understanding why we turn to the Bible in ministry, especially with young people.

Danny Mitchell and Emma Collett then provided evening sessions looking at how to use the Bible in ministry to teenagers, young adults and children, respectively. In addition, electives offered practical ministry ideas across the weekend, so leaders could consider further how to encourage young people to open up the Bible for themselves and with their friends.

The goal of this conference was to help leaders feel increasingly confident in God's Word in their own lives, but also as they walk alongside young people. This is also as they help young people read, understand and use the Bible for themselves.

It was a great weekend, and a strategic opportunity to help churches equip leaders to love and serve the next generation.

All Scripture is God-breathed, and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God might be thoroughly equipped for every good work.
2 Timothy 3:16-17





North Queensland

LAUNCH CAMPS 2019

In April and July over 60 teenagers attended both NQ and SQ Launch Camps. These camps are run in conjunction with local churches to help train and equip those in Grades 10-12 for leadership in ministry. They are given opportunities to write and share their testimonies and faith, care and serve others, as well as understand the big picture of the Bible, and how to read and understand a Bible passage.

This year, Danny Mitchell (NQ) and Matt Jacobs (SQ) gave Bible talks on each camp, and each day campers were able to share their reflections from what they were learning together. It is a great blessing to have leaders who give up time to be on this camp and walk alongside them. These camps provide a huge encouragement to see teenagers growing in maturity and seek what it means to follow and serve Jesus in their lives. Please pray that this investment in them might bear much fruit for the kingdom.



South Queensland



Stock image

Request for HELP!

Mission Interlink

What do missionaries do for wheels ‘back home’?

There are currently hundreds of Australian missionaries serving the Lord around the world today ... some in home support offices, remote parts of Australia, and in far-flung countries overseas. Most of them have a need to come back to their home territory from time to time, whether for furlough or home service leave, periods of deputation, the birth of a baby or other medical or family needs. On top of these Aussie servants, missionaries from other countries serving on fields close to Australia, such as Papua New Guinea or the Pacific Islands are sometimes evacuated to Australia for childbirth or medical treatment.

How do these folk and their families get around while they are here? Inevitably there will be a need to travel from where they are staying, whether to

doctors, hospitals, schools, churches or home groups, or just for the everyday needs of shopping, etc.

Rental cars are expensive, especially for missionaries on limited fixed incomes. Sometimes they may have family or friends here who can lend them a vehicle. Often they don't.

That's where the Christian community comes in. God has not only people who serve Him on the field, but thousands more who support them in a multitude of ways. Sometimes Christian families go away on holidays or on an overseas trip, and are happy to have their car put to good use while they are away; others have a second car which they can sometimes do without for a few days or a few weeks.

In Brisbane, *Missions Interlink*—the umbrella group for all the mission agencies in Australia—has for the last three years coordinated a scheme linking missionaries in need of a vehicle for a short term loan with people who have one to lend. Borrowers pay all their own fuel and running expenses, and usually donate \$50 a week to the owners to offset the cost of ownership. Since the scheme was instituted in late 2016 there have been 52 requests for a vehicle, of which 11 were subsequently withdrawn or satisfied in other ways. A few have had to be declined or are still pending, but 33 loans have been made, for periods ranging from a couple of days to several months.

Right now, though, the scheme is in trouble. One of the regular owners has had to sell their second car, and another is about to. Of the remainder, two are available only when the owners are overseas. Several requests have had to be declined recently, and unless more cars are found, the scheme is in danger of shutting down entirely. For larger families, there is a particularly urgent need for seven-seater cars, but vehicles of all types are needed to keep the scheme viable.

Anyone with a vehicle they might be prepared to lend from time to time is urged to contact Peter O'Loghlin on peter.ologhlin3@gmail.com or phone (07) 3892 3348.

Study Week for Gospel Workers

Save the Date

Monday 27th - Thursday 30th July 2020



We found the week excellent and pray that this type of event becomes a regular staple in QTC and pastors' calendars. - Shane Wright

Thabiti's preaching was a great example of handling the text well, revealing and encouraging, confident and joyous faith in Jesus. There was a lot in the week to evoke thought and ongoing consideration in getting the gospel to people and equipping those we shepherd to be active alongside one another in this. - Peter Whitney

It was a great time of mutual encouragement and growth. To spend a week with like-minded people focused on proclaiming the true gospel, founded on God's Word, was really refreshing. To also share stories honestly about the difficulties of pastoral ministry was very helpful. - Unattributed

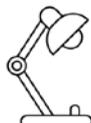
Enrol now for Semester 1 of 2020

Can't study full-time? Here are some of the flexible study options we offer:



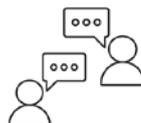
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Jesus and the Gospels



Evening

Theological Ethics



M2W

Ministry to Women Course



CCEF

Counselling Course



Queensland
Theological College

Contact our Registrar at registrar@qtc.edu.au.

APWM CHRISTMAS CATALOGUE 2019

This Christmas why not give gifts to your family and friends and at the same time help someone who doesn't have the basics that we take for granted? The items below can provide for the needs of Christians and others in our Overseas Partner Churches.

EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE (ETHIOPIA) A gift of \$10 will assist the Presbyterian Church of Ethiopia in the education of children from disadvantaged communities.

TRAINING CONFERENCE EXPENSES (TIMOR LESTE) A gift of \$20 will assist in sending a team from Australia to run a training conference for pastors and other leaders in Timor Leste.

TRAINING for Vijai Tagore (INDIA) A gift of \$25 will assist in training Vijai Tagore, a theological lecturer from India, as he studies for his PhD at Christ College from 2019 onwards.

APWM ABORIGINAL MINISTRY (AUSTRALIA) A gift of \$30 will assist in supporting Rick and Kayleen Manton in training and supporting Aboriginal ministry workers in Australia.

PRISON MINISTRY (MALAWI) A gift of \$30 will purchase much-needed blankets and other living essentials for prisoners in Malawi who live in very difficult conditions.

BIBLE TRANSLATION (TIMOR LESTE) A gift of \$40 will assist in the ongoing translation of the Bible into Tetun, the national language of Timor Leste.

TRAINING FOR REFUGEE PASTORS (ETHIOPIA) A gift of \$50 will assist in providing a short training programme for South Sudanese pastors in a refugee camp in Ethiopia.

APWM CHRISTMAS GIFT CATALOGUE 2019 ORDER FORM

HOW IT WORKS

1. Choose the item(s) on our list that you would like to purchase for your friends/family.
2. Send us your order, including payment. Please note that these gifts are **NOT tax deductible**.
3. We will send you the cards you have ordered. You are then free to give these cards to your friends/family for Christmas. The cards state which gift(s) you have purchased, on their behalf, for someone in one of our Partner Churches or for APWM Aboriginal ministry. There is no monetary value printed on the card.
4. APWM then sends the money to our overseas partners to purchase items locally, or uses it for APWM ministry as specified in Australia.

HOW IT WORKS

Complete this order form and send it with your payment (cheque or money order made out to 'APWM'). Please DO NOT send cash. Payment can also be made via Direct Deposit (details below) (www.apwm.org.au/supporting/finance).

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

For Direct Deposits, please write your name in the description box and send an email informing us of your deposit (finance@apwm.org.au). All order forms should be mailed to:

APWM Christmas Catalogue
1 Clarence Street,
Burwood NSW 2134



Item	Qty	Cost
Educational Assistance (ETHIOPIA) \$10		
Training Conference Expenses (Timor Leste) \$20		
Training for Vijai Tagore (INDIA) \$25		
Aboriginal Ministry (Rick & Kayleen Manton) \$30		
Prison Ministry (Malawi) \$30		
Bible Translation (Timor Leste) \$40		
Refugee Pastor Training (Ethiopia) \$50		
Total		

- I enclose a cheque / money order for \$ _____ or
- I have made a Direct Deposit of \$ _____
- Please tick here if you do not wish to receive cards and simply want to make a donation for these items.

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

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An opportunity for service

After five years of service, Surendra and May Wesley have decided to move on from Mt Magnet, WA at the end of 2019 and have accepted a call to Victoria.

This creates an opportunity for a suitably qualified couple to get involved in an exciting ministry that is bearing fruit in a unique location. Current activities include weekly church services, a well-attended Sunday school, town-based outreach and local patrol ministry.

If you have a heart for the lost and a desire to help God's people grow in maturity and you have skills in evangelism, one-to-one discipling, preaching and small group leadership then this might be a role for you.

A track record of effective service as an elder, home missionary or pastor in a Presbyterian Church is desirable, as is some formal theological training. The ministry work in Mt Magnet is a joint work of the Presbytery of WA, APWM and PIM. Please contact Andrew Letcher, CEO of PIM, by email to ceo@pim.org.au or phone on 0438 868 964 for an information pack or to express your interest.

What a joy it is to share the Good News of Jesus in some of the most remote areas of Australia. It really is Worth Driving For.

You can also join with us in reaching isolated people by praying for our teams in New South Wales, Tasmania, Victoria and Queensland, and by supporting them financially.

To learn more, follow us on Facebook, visit our website and subscribe to our quarterly 'On Track' newsletter.



2019 PresCare Chaplaincy Conference: Staying Fit for Ministry and Ministering to those Living with Dementia

by John Evans, Executive Manager of Mission

Being part of a team that is spread all over Queensland presents a number of challenges. The PresCare Chaplaincy Team ministers from Cairns in the north all the way to the Gold Coast in the south. Our team of 11 Chaplains (plus many volunteer pastoral carers) minister to older Australians in PresCare's Residential Aged Care Facilities (RACF) and clients in Community. Because of our geographical spread, having the opportunity to meet together for training, prayer and encouragement at our annual conference is a highlight for the team. This year we had Youth Detention Chaplain Nathan Carse join us for the conference.

The training sessions at this year's conference focussed on two areas:

1. Self-care and accountability for those in ministry; and
2. How to effectively minister to people living with dementia and their wider family.

Burnout (and stressout) is now one of the main contributors to those leaving the ministry. Specific training in this area at the conference was one of a number of mechanisms that PresCare Chaplaincy has now put in place to help avoid this phenomenon and the painful consequences this has on our bodies, souls, minds, relationships and ministry. At PresCare, we want to see our Chaplains develop patterns and rhythms in their ministries that will assist them to live gospel-focused and grace-paced lives that will enable them to reach the finish line with joy.

Dementia not only impacts the person diagnosed, but also those who care for them. Around 450,000 Australians now live with dementia (and it is increasing each year), and almost 1.5 million Australians are involved in their care. It can be devastating to watch loved ones lose their independence, personality, and abilities that once defined them, knowing there is no cure. This year's training provided both education on dementia and practical ministry skills training for ministering to people living with dementia and their families.

PresCare Chaplains are thankful for numerous opportunities that God provides to love and care for older people in our community and the Presbyterian Church of Queensland's partnership in this ministry.





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