

Pres Life

BI-MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF QUEENSLAND

The Heart of God

God's Church in Qld:
Maroochydore
Chinchilla

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

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Michelle Martin

preslife@pcq.org.au

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State Moderator:

Rt Rev Mike O'Connor

Church Liaison Officer:

Rev Lesleigh Hall

Presbyterian Church of Queensland

Level 4, 19 Lang Parade

Milton QLD 4064

PO Box 1351

MILTON QLD 4064

P: (07) 3716 2800



www.pcq.org.au



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Briefly

Used Stamps

We can turn your used stamps into mission support

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

Time with God

Solomon's reign and wisdom

1 Kings 1:1-27
1 Kings 1:28-53
1 Kings 2:1-12
1 Kings 3:1-15
1 Kings 3:16-28
1 Kings 4:29-34

Prayer for destruction of enemies

Psalm 129

Building temple and palace

1 Kings 5:1-18
1 Kings 8:1-21
1 Kings 8:22-30
1 Kings 8:46-61
1 Kings 9:1-19
1 Kings 10:1-13; 23-25

Testimony of trust

Psalm 130

Controversy and teaching

Matthew 23:1-12
Matthew 23:13-24
Matthew 23:25-36
Matthew 23:37-24:2
Matthew 24:3-14
Matthew 24:15-25
Matthew 24:26-35
Matthew 24:36-51
Matthew 25:1-13

Matthew 25:14-30

Matthew 25:31-46

Humble trust

Psalm 131

A prayer for David

Psalm 132

The unmerciful servant

Matthew 18:21-35

Promises and persecution

Jeremiah 31:1-22
Jeremiah 31:27-40
Jeremiah 33:1-26
Jeremiah 31:27-40
Jeremiah 33:1-26
Jeremiah 36:1-32
Jeremiah 38:1-28
Jeremiah 39:1-18

Unity of God's people

Psalm 133

Jerusalem's fall and aftermath

Jeremiah 40:1- 41:3
Jeremiah 41:16-42:22
Jeremiah 43:1-13
Jeremiah 44:1-30
Jeremiah 51:33-64
Jeremiah 52:1-34

Praise the Lord

Psalm 134, 135

Instructions to Timothy

2 Timothy 1:1-7
2 Timothy 1:8-18
2 Timothy 2:1-13
2 Timothy 2:14-26

Praise the creator

Psalm 137

Last days

2 Timothy 3:1-9
2 Timothy 3:10-17

Paul's departing remarks

2 Timothy 4:1-8
2 Timothy 4:9-22

A song of exile

Psalm 137

Faith and conduct

Titus 1:1-4
Titus 1:5-16
Titus 2:1-15
Titus 3:1-15

Solomon's reign and the temple

2 Chron. 1:1-17

God's saving help

Psalm 138

We are currently updating our mailing list.

Please let the Editor (michelle@pcq.org.au) know by 31 December 2018 if you still wish to receive a printed copy of the magazine, including the number of copies and a current address. If no response is received by 31 December, your details will be removed.

Alternatively, If you wish to receive the magazine by email please provide a current email address.

Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2018

Praying, Speaking and Acting

by Robyn Bain - GiST Committee

What's happening in Queensland?

QLD Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk has announced a bill to decriminalise termination of pregnancy (abortion) based on QLD Law Reform Commission recommendations. The bill is currently being reviewed by a parliamentary committee before being debated in parliament (probably in October). The bill allows termination of pregnancy up to 22 weeks' gestation on demand. Terminations after that time would be legal with the approval of two doctors. Health practitioners would be allowed to conscientiously object to performing or participating in a termination, but they would be required to refer a patient to another practitioner who would be willing to perform the procedure. 'Safe access zones' would also be setup within 150 metres from abortion clinics to prevent any communication that might deter a woman from seeking an abortion.

What can we do?

Pray

- **Praise** our Lord who gives and guards life; who saves sinful people through Jesus' death and resurrection; who is able to change hearts and turn lives around in repentance; who will return to deliver justice; who is now working out His purposes even through the actions of governments, other institutions and individuals.
- **Lament** that the Lord is disobeyed and dishonoured as people pursue self-rule, that the lives of vulnerable people made in His image are destroyed in the process, and that women and their families endure the consequences of participating in abortion.
- **Confess** our own desire to self-rule, our indifference to others and our self-righteousness.
- **Repent** - ask the Lord to help us become more like Jesus; to vacate our thrones and submit to our Father's rule rather than rule ourselves; to trust in His goodness and obey Him when our life plans are derailed; to care for those who inconvenience us; to treasure the lives of those who are dependent on us; to make our churches places of welcome to sinners and the vulnerable.
- **Intercession** – Ask Him:
 - to protect the unborn in your local area.
 - to bring gospel hope and courage to vulnerable mothers and fathers.
 - for opportunities to show Christlike love to families with unplanned or complicated pregnancies together in our churches.
 - to bring gospel comfort and assurance of

forgiveness to those who have been part of a pregnancy termination.

- to bring gospel conviction to health professionals and policy makers.
- to give courage and wisdom to Christian health professionals and policy makers as they seek to obey the Lord and speak about His saving Word.
- that the thousands of submissions made to the committee will be fairly assessed and the petition opposing the Bill considered.
- to prevent the Termination of Pregnancy Bill from being passed in the QLD parliament.
- that health practitioners be legally able to express the full scope of conscientious objection to participation in termination of pregnancy.

Speak and Act

- Encourage fellow believers to respond to current events in light of the Gospel.
- Think about how you might point to the Gospel as you speak to unbelievers about termination of pregnancy.
- Consider how your church might show Christlike love to families with unplanned or complicated pregnancies.
- Work out how to clearly convey the Good News of forgiveness, repentance and hope in Jesus to those who have participated in an abortion.
- Speak or write to your local MP about termination of pregnancy.

See our GiST Abortion Resources page

<http://www.gist.org.au/2018/07/26/abortion-podcast/> - for:

- ideas on speaking and acting on abortion in response to the gospel
- a sample letter to your MP
- GiST/PCQ submission to the Committee re: Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2018

Also have a look at these helpful books:

- Dr Megan Best, *A Life Already Started*, CEP, 2013 (a practical book designed to help women with unplanned pregnancy see the way forward - and to show Christian friends how to support her).
- Dr Megan Best, *Fearfully and Wonderfully Made*, Matthias Media, 2012 (a comprehensive guide to beginning of life issues from a Christian point of view).



Urgent...The Coming Judgement

by Mike O'Connor, State Moderator

In September, I visited Darwin Presbyterian Church. The church in Darwin has recently come under the jurisdiction of the Presbytery of North Queensland. As Moderator of Presbyterian Church of Queensland (PCQ), I went to Darwin in the hope of encouraging this small but important congregation to think about different ways they might reach the people of this very strategically located city, and to put evangelism and disciple making firmly on their church's agenda.

Darwin is a fascinating and frightening place. Apart from being rebuilt four times because of three cyclones and a bombing, nearly everything in and around the city can kill you. This place screams danger! They love their crocodiles in the Northern Territory (NT), but even their birds aren't the common suburban or subtropical avian fauna. The birds (Kites, Hawkes and Eagles) in Darwin don't seem to live in trees, but hypnotically circle the skies looking unceasingly for their next victim. Birds of prey that continually swarmed the overhead skies prompted me to pray for strength against my phobia of them. It's also frighteningly warm all of the time in Darwin and only getting warmer, and of course you can't go swimming because of the stingers, the crocodiles or the sharks. The rising temperature valve over the city won't release until the inevitable torrential rain or a potential cyclone arrives, possibly sometime around Christmas.

While Darwin is a four and a half hour plane trip from Brisbane, and literally at the other end of the country, strategically Darwin serves as a gateway to South East Asia. A problem for Border Force to be sure, but what a stunning opportunity this little church in Darwin presents for reaching the peoples of the Northern Territory and South East Asia with the Good News about Jesus.

There's no question Darwin is a city of 'all nations'. Almost everyone in Darwin, certainly the people I met, were originally from somewhere else. Mostly from other parts of Australia, but Darwin is home to a range of people of different nationalities: Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia, China, West Timor, East Timor, Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka and Madagascar! Added to the list of 'All Nations', while I was there was an international naval exercise, 'Kakadu 18'. Darwin was playing host to 27 international Naval Forces, as well as Mike and Corinne O'Connor from Rockhampton. People from the ends of the earth have come to Darwin, and if 'all nations'

are not represented then at least some of the neighbours have turned up at our place.

Every night in this multicultural crucible of flavour and humidity, Darwin serves up a mouthwatering smorgasbord of Asian cuisine and some amazing seafood, best savoured while watching the sunset from the Stokes Hill Wharf (Thanks Josh and Sybille Bouzanquet!)

However, it is the story of the Japanese bombing of Darwin that I found most disturbing and confronting. Of course, I had heard that Darwin was bombed during WWII by the Japanese, but I was uncertain as to any specific details. It's a confronting story too, not only because it was the first time Australia had come under attack, but also because the number of casualties could have been lessened had the city heeded earlier warnings.

Early on the morning of 19 February 1942, John Gribble, a coast watcher located on the Tiwi Islands, reported incoming Japanese aircraft over Melville Island. I can't imagine John Gribble saw many notable things in his occupation as a coast watcher, but perhaps the unmistakable sight of 188 Japanese military aircraft flying in hostile formation towards Australia's mainland was among his most memorable. Father John McGrath, a Roman Catholic Priest and Missionary to the Tiwi Islands then relayed the message of the impending Japanese air raid to Darwin from a humble radio shack (that still stands proudly at the old Catholic mission in Wurrumiyanga on Bathurst Island as a testimony to Australia's inability to respond to warnings). Needless to say, Darwin ignored the warning from the Tiwi Island missionary and subsequently 292 people (civilian and military) lost their lives.

However, it is not the first warning that Darwin has ignored. Seventeen years before the bombing of Darwin took place, the 1925 committee of Imperial Defence recommended that artillery be installed for the city's defence and protection, namely two 9.2 inch calibre guns. This same call was repeated again six years later in 1931 with the then chiefs of Navy and Army calling for the installation of two 9.2 inch calibre and two 6 inch calibre guns at Darwin's East Point. However, in an attempt to save money, the committee later made the decision to install four 6 inch calibre guns instead. The construction of artillery at East Point, Darwin did not commence until mid 1941, and was not near completion

Continued page 6

when the Japanese raided the city on 19 February 1942. Work on the installation of the same artillery recommenced almost two years after the Japanese invasion took place and was eventually completed in 1945, but by then it was all too late.

I know this an interesting story but by now you are probably asking yourself what is the point of this article? Fair question too, and here is the answer. One of the reasons our churches need to reengage with evangelism, and why Christians need to be equipped to share our faith with others is because of the complacency of our culture towards warnings. More than this, not only is our culture complacent towards warnings, but the church has become complacent too. We've adopted the mindset of our culture, and in so doing have lost our sense of urgency in evangelism. We don't take warnings seriously... at all.

Know this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires. They will say, "Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation". 2 Peter 3:3-4

When it comes to warnings, no matter where we are from, ours is a nation of scoffers. We live each day as if it is the same and that tomorrow will be no different for us. We make our plans and we go about our business, we have our church meetings and we organise our rosters, but we forget, or worse still, we deny that God has set a day when he will judge the world with justice.

However, for those of us who belong to Jesus, awakened from our complacency to scoffing at judgement; for those disturbed from the pattern of following our own sinful desires, confronted by the reality that a life of sin leads to the wrath of God, our culture's lack of alarm, our family and friends who are yet to be alerted, should be both disturbing and confronting for us. For we are the people God has entrusted with words of eternal life.

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but for everyone to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare. 2 Peter 3:9-10

But God has set a day for judgement.

In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead. Acts 17:30-31

The coming judgement of God is as sure and certain as the Resurrection. If you believe one then you must be persuaded of the other and therefore compelled to warn others. Without the resurrection there is no eternal life or forgiveness of sins and without the coming judgement there is no Good News. The good news of Jesus Christ is only good news because it saves repentant people from God's judgement upon them. The good news of Jesus comes with a warning and an opportunity for everyone to respond rightly before it's too late. It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the Living God, but Jesus saves us from the coming wrath of God - that's the Good News of the Gospel.

As Father John McGrath walked into the shed at Wurrumiyanga to warn Darwin of the impending attack, not only was his warning ignored by Darwin, but it was also intercepted by Japanese aircraft who opened fire upon the Tiwi Island missionary.

The coming judgement is not a popular message in a culture that values tolerance and prizes acceptance, but the urgency of the message that God has set a day for judgement is one that must compel us from our own complacency to speak to our neighbours, even if that means they ignore us, even if it means they become hostile and fire upon us.



Photos

Heading: Stokes Hill Wharf, Darwin

Above: Radio Transmitter Shed, Tiwi Islands and a propellor from a 1942 Japanese aircraft



The Heart of God

by Ben Swift, writer of Escape the Box blog

It's no secret that Christians hold firm to the belief that God is love but how does this translate in the minds of those drowning in the depths of tragedy?

The heartfelt cries of human loss have echoed ceaselessly through time asking, "Where is God in the natural disaster; where is God in the midst of genocide; where is God when disease mercilessly attacks its undeserving victims?"

"The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away." This almost throwaway line has become somewhat cliché in modern conversation but I suspect its origins are more closely tied to a place of great suffering. Deep down, it probably speaks to some of our greatest fears. As we naturally come to deeply love the people and things of this life, doesn't the potential of losing them sometimes become more emotionally crippling than even the fear of death itself?

Does God Really Care?

When things go wrong and they always will at some point in our lives, we often seek to blame someone or something for the injustice that has taken place. The ultimate blame however, is often directed at God himself.

As if by some divine right, mere human beings often stand in judgement of the Judge; accusing little clay pots finding fault in the work of the Master Potter.

Surely if God were a God of love he would end our suffering and bring about peace and prosperity for us all? How can a God who really cares appear so withdrawn from the cries of his creation?

"I cry out to you, O God, but you do not answer; I stand up, but you merely look at me." Job 30:20

But have we really humbled ourselves enough to really consider the answers to these types of questions? And what of the consequences? For if God really was to eliminate all suffering he would have to eliminate sin and consequently all of humanity. There would be no one left to enjoy the peace.

For these are human questions and like Job we need to hear God's answers, even when they stand far apart from the opinions of the world. We need to draw closer to the heart of God.

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A Father's Love

God's ability to relate to his people and the depth of his love are infinitely greater than we can ever comprehend. He does however, place in our possession, powerful, historical and scriptural accounts that through the work of His Spirit, can take us to a place of understanding; a place where our heart strings may become entwined with his, if even only for a moment, as we come to grasp just a little of the sacrifice he has made for us.

A powerful lesson can be learned about the depth of God's love for us when we consider the story of Abraham and his beloved son Isaac. For a parent, the thought of losing a child and for some the experience of losing a child is as devastating a blow that life can deliver. So when Abraham is asked by God to sacrifice his precious son we can come to understand the mental torment this would have brought about.

A.W. Tozer in his book, 'The Pursuit of God', expresses Abraham's torment on the night before he would sacrifice his son: The sacred writer spares us a close-up of the agony that night on the slopes near Beersheba when the aged man had it out with his God, but respectful imagination may view in awe the bent form and convulsive wrestling alone under the stars.

Interestingly, it's at the point when we come to empathize with Abraham in the sacrifice he was willing to make for God that we can truly understand a little of the depth of love God has for his people, including us. When all seemed lost for Isaac and his final heart beat was fast approaching, God intervened.

"Do not lay a hand on the boy," He said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son." Genesis 22:12

Surely as God provided not only a ram in place of Isaac, but also his one and only Son with whom He is well pleased, we can start to comprehend the true sacrifice made by him, an act of love so profound that while our hearts were far from him he was crucified for our sin.

Yet it was the Lord's will to crush him and to cause him to suffer, and though the Lord makes his life a guilt offering, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the Lord will prosper in his hand. Isaiah 53:10

And so it is that the Triune God shows love for his image bearers in that the Father has given the Son with whom he is well pleased, the Son has given his life for the ransom of many, and the Holy Spirit has been given so that we may grow in faith through the life changing grace offered to us.

A God of Intimacy

The truth is that God is far from being removed from the lives of his people. He knows all about suffering because he knows all about relationship. After all, the three persons of the Trinity have been living in a perfect love relationship eternally. While many aspects of God will remain incomprehensible one thing is clear: God is a God of love, relating to himself in perfect love and therefore suffered greatly while the Son was cruelly sacrificed under the weight of humanity's sin.

While pain, suffering and loss will continue to rear their ugly heads throughout our lives, it should bring us comfort to know that when we need a God who is bigger than ourselves and who can relate to the anguish that so often accompanies loss and grief, our God understands and loves us. Not only does he want what's best for us but he's already taken care of it; as Jesus said on the cross, "It is finished".

Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away. Revelation 21:4

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.

Ministry Appointments



Rick Zylstra

Wife: Rachel

Children: Brayden, Logan, Ayran, Callan, Lachlan

Position: Outreach Pastor for Maroochydore and Campus for Aura church plant

What excites you most about working at Maroochydore?

God seems to be at work! He has brought together a great leadership team, an enthusiastic congregation, and He is giving us a range of wonderful ministry opportunities.

Why did you feel called to this work?

It was really a matter of God weaving a whole bunch of circumstances together, opening a door, and then gently, but firmly, pushing me through it. I'm excited, and thankful, and kinda nervous, all rolled together, but very much feel that this is where God wants me to be.

In what way has God changed you the most significantly?

With me, it has not been so much about radical life changes, but more about God's Spirit slowly chipping away at me, convicting me, humbling me, teaching me, growing me. I'm a work in progress and will be till I die.

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

It's technically not a social issue, but I think that one of the biggest hindrances to the Gospel on the Sunshine Coast is 'affluenza'. So many people are wealthy and healthy, and wholeheartedly believe that they are living the good life. The challenge is to convince people that life on earth is really short, but eternity is really long!

What is your favourite book in the Bible and why?

I'm a big fan of a Habakkuk! I can relate to the big "Why, Lord?" questions that he asks throughout the book, and I love the way the book ends with such a confident declaration that God plus nothing equals everything!

When are you happiest?

At the end of a productive day, sprawled on the lounge, Rach and kids all around me, doing family devotions. I'm also very, very happy at the beach.

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

Ha! I don't get to control the playlist in our house. Hang on while I ask one of my boys.

What would you tell your 15 year old self?

a) Blink and you'll be 41! b) Stop planning to serve God tomorrow, and start serving God today! c) Pray more, analyse less! d) You are so privileged to be growing up in this Christian home! e) Prank calling your minister will not end well for you or your cousins.



Emmanuvel Jhonly

Wife: Christobel

Children: Jason and Shammah

Position: Minister at Sandgate

What excites you most about working at Sandgate?

It excites me to work with wonderful people who want to continue being a witness of Jesus Christ in their area.

Why did you feel called to this work?

God opened the door for me in Sandgate, secondly my heart is towards church planting and strengthening the small churches. I believe that God has called me into a right place.

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

I grew up in a Christian family—my parents were missionaries—but I never wanted to become a minister; I always wanted to be a businessman and earn lots of money. God changed me significantly, now I am proud to serve our God being in a full time ministry.

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

According to 2016 ABS census we can see one in three people do not believe in any religion. It shows as a nation we are becoming more ungodly and going after materialism. It really concerns me a lot.

What is your favourite book of the Bible and why?

Ephesians; It tells me my identity is in Christ Jesus.

When are you happiest?

Usually I am really happy when my wife is happy (happy wife happy life), more than that when a person comes to know the Lord.

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

I am listening to traditional Christian songs in my mother tongue Tamil. It gives me joy.

What would you tell your 15 year old self?

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

God's Church in Queensland

Maroochydore Presbyterian Church

Location

One and a half hours north of Brisbane, on the beautiful Sunshine Coast. MP Church is one church with soon-to-be five congregations in three locations: Eumundi, Maroochydore and the city south of Caloundra called Aura.

The Ministry Team

Alongside a healthy session of 10 men, MP has three paid Pastors: Lead Teaching and Vision Pastor Jens Norved, Associate Pastor Shane Wright and Evangelism and Church Planting Pastor Rick Zylstra.

Demographic

Across our congregations there is a wide variety of demographics. For example, our 9am Classic Church follows a traditional format and attracts an older demographic. Whereas our contemporary services at Maroochydore and Eumundi have ages from one year to the over sixty and our evening congregation sees more Uni students as well as people on the fringes of society.

Prayer Points

- As a Church we know that Jesus Changes lives, and therefore would love to continue to see the power of the Gospel transform lives across the Sunshine Coast.
- With rapid population growth here on the Sunshine Coast we pray that we might be equipped and ready to share Jesus and see gospel growth that exceeds population growth.
- Please pray for our newest congregations as they start to get established—in particular, our Aura Church plant that commences public meetings in 2019.
- Pray that amongst the growth, that MP church remains humble and growing in godliness.

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

- Our new church and congregation plants have been our main avenues for reaching the lost.
- We are also this year providing evangelism training to our church family, looking at our road blocks to sharing Jesus and some simple questions that can open a conversation up talking naturally about Jesus.
- Finally, with Christmas coming quickly, we will be doing our annual carols outreach at Maroochydore, but we have also been asked by Stockland to provide the community carols in Aura.

Meet the People



Jodie Walker

How long have you been attending Maroochydore? 4 years

What do you do during the week?

I am a full time housewife and mother of three beautiful and very active school age girls.

What is the best thing about being at Maroochydore?

To me the best things about MP Church is that, it 'Strives to...'

1. Be God honouring, by humbly serving God, the Church, and the wider community.
2. Uphold the true gospel in Christ Jesus.
3. Maintain Bible based preaching
4. Promote spiritual growth, by running a number of Growth groups catering for everyone's situation and availability.
5. Maintain fellowship and give opportunity to involve individuals in serving humbly with recognition of one's ability and gifting from God.
6. See God's kingdom grow in Sunshine Coast, having a humble heart for evangelism.

What excites you about the future of Maroochydore Church?

To be able to continue to be part of a church that aims to be a healthy, holy, and humble church now and in the future.



Lachlan Humphreys

How long have you been attending Maroochydore?

1 year or more

What do you do during the week?

I attend university several days during the week, as I am studying a Bachelor of Criminology and Justice. In addition to this, I regularly join the Bible study group on campus, and train in karate most week nights.

What is the best thing about being at Maroochydore?

Before attending MP, I bounced around a few churches on the coast. The best things about MP/or the things that set it apart, include the lack of internal conflict, the great leadership, and the biblically rigorous teaching.

What excites you about the future of Maroochydore Church?

The possibility of reaching young adults with the Bible.



Daphne Kennedy

How long have you been attending Maroochydore?

23 years

What do you do during the week?

I enjoy working in the garden, and doing my patchwork and I enjoy great family times as well.

What is the best thing about being at Maroochydore?

The quality of preaching and teaching, and the warm fellowship. Being part of a Growth Group and forming good friendships outside Sunday.

What excites you about the future of Maroochydore Church?

To see how God's vision for us as a church is being brought into action with the Eumundi Church reopened and the way in which the church is being able to make its presence known in the new area of Aura.



David Roelofs

How long have you been attending Maroochydore?

Nikki and I moved to the Sunshine Coast four months ago and have been attending MP since then. It was very hard to, tear ourselves away from, the faithful church we were attending; SCPC in Lismore, but we are very glad to have found MP.

What do you do during the week?

I am a builder, and my wife homeschools our two children.

What is the best thing about being at Maroochydore?

The best thing about MP Church is the commitment to Christ by being committed to and unwavering from His word the Bible, and by being devoted to the building up and sanctification of His people in the local church.

What excites you about the future of Maroochydore Church?

That it is a church planting church, desiring to see evangelism happen, and lives to be changed by the truths of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We have a commission from the King of Kings—let's dedicate our lives to it.



Mimi Petrusma

How long have you been attending Maroochydore?

Just over 3 years.

What do you do during the week?

Dylan works as a Data Analyst for an insurance company and I do admin work at a school. In our spare time we like to play board games and computer games together, as well as watch geeky shows and movies.

What is the best thing about being at Maroochydore?

The caring community and consistent biblical teaching. It's also been exciting to see how much God has blessed the church just in the last few years and to be part of a growing church community.

What excites you about the future of Maroochydore Church?

The way it will continue to grow and impact lives for Jesus through its various church plants and ministries.



Jeff & Shalene Dorr

How long have you been attending Maroochydore?

14 months

What do you do during the week?

Jeff is Co-Owner of ASV Audio Visual (Sound and Lighting Technician) and Shalene is a Primary Teacher

What is the best thing about being at Maroochydore?

The best part of MP is the bible based teaching and welcoming, genuine atmosphere.

What excites you about the future of Maroochydore Church?

The evidence of growth at MP to other areas such as Eumundi and Aura is wonderful to see, and keeping these all connected as one large family is evident.

God's Church in Queensland

Chinchilla Presbyterian Church

Location

Chinchilla is on the Darling Downs, two hours west of Toowoomba or an hour west of Dalby

The Ministry Team

The Congregation, assisted by David Knott (Minister), and the Session (Trevor Draper, Ken Gilmour and Noel Ellem)

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

Demographic

We are an elderly congregation of around thirty with some younger members, and a small Sunday School.

Prayer Points

That knowledge of the love of Christ would flow through one another and into the community.

That grandchildren in the Sunday School would translate to families in the congregation.

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

Without Jesus we are without God and without hope in the world. To have peace with God now and forever is more than anything else this world can offer. In Jesus we have both the gift of and model for life.



Meet the People



Anne Trebilco

How long have you been attending Chinchilla?

Since 1971

What do you do during the week?

We live on a property. Home duties and helping my husband, Ellis, and our family take up most of my time. Ellis and I enjoy a trip in the outback during the winter, meeting other travellers.

What is the best thing about being at Chinchilla?

The preaching of God's Word, Bible Study and the privilege of teaching the children in Sunday School, are some of the aspects of our Church life I value. I deeply appreciate the sincerity of our Church folk in worship and in relationships with each other.



Bill Mann

How long have you been attending Chinchilla?

Over 80 years. I shifted to Hopelands outside Chinchilla in 1944, got a car in 1950 and I could attend weekly then. Originally there was only an evening service.

What do you do during the week?

I reside in a nursing home now and have to get a maxi-taxi to come to worship.

What is the best thing about being at Chinchilla?

The best thing is having somewhere to worship continually, and I have enjoyed the fellowship more in recent years.



Philip Spann

I am married to Zena and we have three adult children.

How long have you been attending Chinchilla?

About 3 years

What do you do during the week?

I run our own calibration laboratory.

What is the best thing about being at Chinchilla?

The best thing is the whole-hearted sincerity of the congregation and minister.

News from around the State

South West Queensland Christian Convention

Sharon stood at the front of the 200-strong crowd at South West Queensland Christian Convention (SWQCC) 2018 to tell of her experience of starting youth ministry at Goondiwindi this year. As she spoke it became clear that the very convention she was speaking in front of, was instrumental in what she was speaking about.

You see, at the first SWQCC in 2017 Sharon went to one of the targeted seminars: youth ministry in the bush. It gave her and her church the passion and ideas to give youth a go.

People like Sharon are the reason SWQCC begun. It's a convention designed to gather people from smaller churches as one big family of Christ. This gives them the experience of more people, more training and more teaching than most might have time or resources for in their own towns.

This year Richard Gibson from the Brisbane School of Theology opened Romans 12-13. He challenged us to be church communities following the pattern of Jesus.

There were 9 seminars on topics ranging from dementia ministry to reaching your neighbours. The big hit of the weekend was the Sunday morning session. Several of the churches in Dalby cancelled their services to join in for the final part of SWQCC. Over 400 people gathered together.

Next year the convention has partnered with QTC to bring international speaker Thabiti Anyabwile. If you're in South West Queensland stay up to date at swqcc.org.au.

SWQCC 19-21ST JULY 2019 – THABITI ANYABWILE



News from around the State

GROW Women's Conference

On Saturday 4 August, almost 800 women from across South East Queensland gathered to hear and rejoice in God's Word. What a sight! We were very thankful for GROW Women's Conference 2018.

What is GROW all about?

Our History - GROW has run yearly under the Queensland Christian Convention Association (QCCA) since 2010.

Our Desire is to strengthen local churches as they grow and reach the lost by: gathering together women of all ages and backgrounds face to face; to hearing Christ-centred expositional preaching; encouraging women, from the not-yet believer to the mature believer, to growing up into Christ; modelling godly relationships; and equipping women to encourage others to grow up into Christ too. We treasure our partnerships with a growing number of churches (including those in the Presbyterian Church) in Queensland.

What happened at GROW 2018?

This year Jennie Baddeley helped us marvel at the excellences of Jesus and the majesty of the God of Habakkuk. Keiyeng Nation pointed us to God's sovereignty over evil in Psalm 94. The day was filled with prayer, singing, interviews, book reviews and lots of talking. Every woman was encouraged to keep reading, talking and praying about the Good News of Jesus as she returned to her local church and a suffering world.

Watch out for GROW 2019!

Visit our website: <http://www.qcca.org.au/grow>

Follow us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/growwomen/>

Email us at grow@qcca.org.au

Robyn Bain (Chair) and Natalie Newell (Secretary/Church Liaison)

On behalf of the GROW committee



Church back at Moorooka:

Reaching in and around Moorooka for Christ

by Geoff Tacon, Church Planter at Moorooka Presbyterian Church

After 41 years, Moorooka Presbyterian Church has re-opened. The church has re-formed in 2018, and held its Opening Service on 12 August.

Evangelism and church planting are considered hard work, and they are. However, "Christ's love compels us", says the Apostle Paul, "because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who lived and died for them and was raised again". Knowing Christ's love, we too have been compelled to live for Christ, and to do our utmost that our community might also know and live for him. To this end, 'Christ' has been the purpose and theme of our re-opened church, and our desire has been to do all we can to prayerfully proclaim Christ together.

90 partners and supporters attended our Opening Service, to mark the restart. It was a joyful occasion. We taught from the Great Commission to set our evangelistic compass. Unbelievers joined us even on that first day, some continuing since, along with other new people desiring to investigate Jesus or to reconnect with Christ and the church.

It has been a joy to be holding out salvation through Jesus to a community who have largely turned their back on Christ. Moorooka now sits on the city fringe, where the majority of people are reporting 'No religion' on the Census.

Even the local media were intrigued by the restart. They wrote a generous article about us (see the full text at: www.moorooka.church/news), surprised that a church would re-open 'at a time when many mainstream churches are struggling'. To their mind, it was completely out-of-the-box that a church would re-start, and would do so by meeting in a local Lions Hall.

God has been generous, and we continually seek his help in all of this. Would you please pray with us that people in and around Moorooka would turn to Christ for the forgiveness of sins and for new life? Our gospel is Christ, and him crucified. Jesus saves. Please join us in our desire to see repentance for many in and around Moorooka!

The new Moorooka Presbyterian Church meets 9:30am Sunday mornings at the Moorooka Lions Hall, 131 Koala Rd, Moorooka. To support the new church, visit www.moorooka.church/support.



From Cottrill Road to City Heart

Earlier this year the sale of the property at 24 Cottrill Road, Caboolture to the Australian Christian College - Moreton next door was settled. (The school needed more land, and the Caboolture congregation found that a relocation back into the Caboolture CBD was possible from the proceeds of the sale.) A suitable property at 13 Hasking Street, Caboolture was purchased. It had previously been used as a careers college. As the building was classified for office space, the task began to have it reclassified as a building for public worship. No rezoning was required only a reclassification. This process has been continuing and we are hopeful that renovation works, such as the provision of a lift will be able to begin before the end of October. A group known as 'Grandad's Army' has been undertaking some of the demolition work required for the renovation. A date for the opening service cannot be set as yet.

With the relocation comes a new name: Caboolture Presbyterian Church will now be known as City Heart Presbyterian Church, Caboolture. Also with the new name and the relocation, a whole lot of new ways to connect with our community will become available to us. Here are some of them:

Children attending Caboolture State School and their parents pass our front gate on their way to school. The chaplain at the school runs a 'Brekkie Club' three days per week, and we are looking at providing a similar breakfast from our carpark on the other two days.

We are also planning to run 'Brekkie Church' initially on Sunday mornings, but possibly midweek as well. This is in addition to our regular Sunday morning church.

A Christians Against Poverty Debt Centre is currently in the process of being set up to assist people who need help with managing their finances. We regularly run the CAP Money Course and have already received six outside referrals.

A COACH family mentoring program has recently begun in Caboolture, and City Heart Church will provide the office space for the running of this program.

Discussions have begun with Central Church in Ipswich about setting up a 'Caboolture Assist' program for the homeless people who sleep around the Hasking Street property.

We are also in discussion with a Christian counselling centre with a view to having a counsellor working part time from the City Heart building.

With each and every one of these mercy ministries, we are looking to share the Gospel of Jesus with the people we contact.

As one member of our congregation commented, "It's exciting, but also scary how the Lord is leading us out of our comfort zone".



Camp Bunya Mountains

The Presbyterian Camp at Bunya Mountains provides accommodation for church and youth groups, community and school groups. Campers can enjoy spectacular views 1,100 metres up in the fresh mountain air amid 17,000 hectares of National Park rainforest, grassland and open forest featuring our very own majestic Bunya Pine. Recently the Campsite underwent extensive renovations with a large deck overlooking the property, a new kitchen and an improved layout for dormitories.

Location: Lot 30 Tolmie Street, Bunya Mountains QLD 4405.

Facilities: There are 60 beds in total in the form of double deck bunks. Separate facilities are provided for each dormitory, plus one handicapped unit (which may be used as a leader's bathroom if required).

The kitchen is well equipped with gas stove/oven, microwave, large commercial fridge, deep freezer, urn, dishwasher, teapots, boilers, baking trays, cooking utensils, crockery and cutlery. There is also an outdoor gas barbecue with several tables and seats outside the kitchen.

The dining area can be left permanently in place for up to 50 people allowing a meeting area for a similar number. This area includes a video player and 65-inch TV capable of supporting PowerPoint, videos and Google TV, whiteboard, lectern, blackboard and notice board fixed to the walls.

A tentative booking can be held for 6 weeks. The dates of hire are secured by completing the Booking Form and returning with the deposit of \$350 to the Presbyterian Church of Queensland.

Camp Fees:

- \$18 per bed used per night.
- \$7.50 per person for day visitor.
- Children under 5 years of age are free of charge.
- Presbyterian Church members can book room(s) at negotiated prices.
- The minimum charge for hiring the whole campsite is \$350.

Payment: Final payment is preferably made upon departure, unless prior arrangement has been made with us. Cheques and Direct Deposits should be made payable to the Presbyterian Church of Queensland.

For more details, and to receive a Booking Form, please contact the Caretakers and Booking Agents:

Email: campbunya@pcq.org.au

Phone: 07 4668 3146

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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) \$25 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.

GLASSES FOR PASTORS (ETHIOPIA) A gift of \$50 will assist in providing glasses for a South Sudanese pastor in a refugee camp in Ethiopia.

10 NUER BIBLES (ETHIOPIA) A gift of \$100 will provide 10 Nuer Bibles for Presbyterians in a refugee camp in Ethiopia.

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1. Choose the item(s) on our list that you would like to purchase for your friends/family.
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4. APWM then sends the money to our overseas partners to purchase items locally, or uses it for APWM ministry as specified in Australia.

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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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BSB: 032 260 **Account #:** 151207

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Training for Vijai Tagore (India) \$25		
Aboriginal Ministry (Rick & Kayleen Manton) \$30		
Prison Ministry (Malawi) \$30		
Bible Translation (Timor Leste) \$40		
Glasses for pastors (Ethiopia) \$50		
10 Bibles for Refugees (Ethiopia) \$100		
Total		

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Name changed for privacy reasons.

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PRESCARE NEWS

PresCare celebrates Queensland Seniors Week!

Celebrations were held across our residential and community sites for Queensland Seniors Week 2018.

Seniors Week is an annual event that focuses on coming together and celebrating the seniors in our local community and the valuable contributions they make.

At Lake Sherrin, thirty of our residents celebrated their amazing achievements gained by regularly attending the weekly 'Sit and Keep Fit' exercise group. Lake Sherrin's Lifestyle Assistant, Melinda Rutherford, has been leading 'Sit and Keep Fit' since its conception approximately three years ago. While the group was initially created to keep residents fit, healthy and socially active, Melinda believes the group does more than just that.

"It's more than just an exercise group, residents are able to interact and have fun with one another. Staff have also noticed positive impacts mentally and improvements on a residents' self-worth from participating and belonging to a group", said Melinda.



Our clients at Inala Place, Sherwood Place and the Day Therapy Centre celebrated Seniors Week in style throughout the week with music, dancing, food and other fun activities. Clients were visited by band 'Goggomobiles' and singer David Cheales and everyone sung and danced to classics like *Can't Help Falling in Love* and *It's Now or Never* by the King of Rock and Roll, Elvis Presley, as well as *You are my Sunshine* and Louis Armstrong's *When The Saints Go Marching In*.

Clients also enjoyed a pop-up stall selling various items including beautifully handmade knitted and crocheted creations such as jumpers and booties. Other activities included a crafts table, knitting station and games such as Rumikub, Scrabble and an outdoor mini golf game. And of course, no celebration would be without the consumption of delicious food!



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Presbyterian and Methodist Schools Association (PMSA) www.pmsa-schools.edu.au.
Celebrating 100 years in 2018, the PMSA is a mission of the Presbyterian and Uniting Churches.

Pres Life