

Pres Life

MAGAZINE OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF QUEENSLAND

God's Church in Qld

Eternity (Helensvale)
Callide Valley

Welcoming Gay Friends at Church

6 workers for the Gospel share their story

Refugees, Australia and the Gospel

Bringing news, views and inspiration to the Presbyterian Church of Queensland as well as seeking to bring Glory to God and proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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Pres Life

Magazine of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland.

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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 4064 or call Carole on 07 3324 9309 or Margaret on 07 3285 6146 for other options or more details.

Presbyterian Fellowship Association (PFA)

In the early 1980s, the Presbyterian Fellowship Association (youth thing) put on a number of 'Image' rallies, where gospel songs, skits and talks were presented to the public.

Having recently digitised about 1500 photographs from the 1980s, I'm interested to know if any survivors from those times and events would be interested in viewing them and talking over old times. These photographs also include images of sports and swimming carnivals, pirate-themed river cruises and leadership training camps.

If you are interested, please feel free to contact me by email 2xmaddoc@gmail.com and I'll try to organise some sort of mutually agreeable mass (or minor) meeting for that purpose.

Michael Madden



Refugees, Australia and the Gospel

by Peter Brown, Member of Ann St Presbyterian Church

Stock image

“Why is our world so full of man’s infamous inhumanity to man—and to woman?” Riane Eisler

Why are refugees coming to Australia?

People are people. They only leave their homes and run away when they have to. Becoming a refugee simply means you have been persecuted in some way beyond your capacity to bear it any longer. Asking why, doesn’t help such people. Asking how we can help, does.

What countries are they coming from?

So on that basis, refugees can come from anywhere, but UNHCR records show that Syria, Afghanistan and Somalia are the top contributors and Turkey, Pakistan, Lebanon, Iran, Ethiopia and Jordan are the top hosts. 65.3m have fled from their homes, 21.3m are refugees, and of those more than half are under 18. It is the greatest amount of human displacement on record.

How are they getting to Australia?

Nowadays, refugees can only come to Australia via formal channels—not by paying people smugglers to bring them by boat. In short, they come by plane after having been assessed by UNHCR, but perhaps not solely, applying to Australia somehow and being accepted. It is now a controlled refugees-as-migrants process.

What is their cultural background and beliefs?

The cultural backgrounds and beliefs of refugees are almost infinitely variable. To help them it is necessary to get to know them, build a relationship with them and then address their needs as they present themselves.

How is Australia assisting them?

Refugees receive generous assistance in Australia when they arrive by the approved route. This includes financial assistance via Centrelink, access to health services with Medicare cards and access to language assistance being crucial.

How are they adjusting to Australian culture?

Refugees have already survived much distress when we meet them. Learning to survive here has its own challenges. Many do so by finding their own communities where they can speak their own language, help each other to get jobs and enjoy their own food and culture. Some are fortunate to have

families here already but the ‘illegals’ can not hope ever to have wives, children or other family come here according to present Australian policy. They follow events back home on their phones, and speak to friends and family back home a lot. Some get to know locals, but it takes time and effort on both sides.

Is and/or how is the Gospel being shared with them?

Some refugees are already Christian, but many are not. Those from countries such as Iran, and perhaps Afghanistan have been very open to receiving the Gospel and great work was done on Christmas Island by Chaplains from Australia which has led many to Christ as their Lord and Saviour. But there are many who only wish to stay within their pre-existing belief system—Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism or whatever it might have been. Many Australian churches have gone out of their way to share the Gospel with refugees and the Presbyterian Church has certainly been one of those, to its great credit.

How does this impact Australians?

In reality, the refugee issue does not seem to impact ordinary Australians greatly. The language problems faced by refugees mean that they are largely invisible to the mainstream population because they can’t express their views, and even if they could, they would possibly be reticent about doing so.

What more can Australians do?

The worldwide refugee numbers are so great that it is easy to feel helpless in knowing how best to respond. Having a sustainable program is vital because clearly the problems causing the present high numbers are not being resolved and the program will need to go on forever at this rate. Who knows but God alone?

What can we pray for?

As Christians in church communities, we could pray:

- That refugees will feel welcome in our church communities.
- That churches will do what they can to learn how to be inclusive with refugees.
- That Christians will have compassion for refugees and will do their best to find out how to help them.



Welcoming Gay Friends at Church

by Rev Andrew Millsom, member of GiST Committee

Stock image

I was blown away recently when I found out one of my wife's gay friends wants to come along to church. Not regularly, just to visit. But he wants to come along just the same.

James (name changed) recently heard about a special celebration our church was having and asked if he could come. James takes his aunt along to her church from time to time, so church is not completely alien to him. He even believes in God in some sense. But he knows that Christians oppose gay marriage, and his impression is that Christians hate gay people. So the fact that James wants to come along to church at all is a big deal, a big step for him. A big risk. Could it be that God is working in his life?

It got me thinking though, what kind of welcome will James receive when he comes along to church, especially when people find out he's gay? Don't get me wrong, our church is pretty welcoming, but having a gay man come along is foreign territory to us.

And what would it look like if James decided he wanted to come along to church more often?

In seeking to answer those questions I think we need to be aware of the tension going on for us as Christians; between wanting to show love and acceptance to gay people on the one hand, and not wanting to condone homosexuality on the other: between combating James' view that Christians hate gay people—and so maybe God hates James—and holding onto the Bible's clear teaching on homosexuality.

As our society increasingly affirms same-sex relationships, we're going to be faced with this kind of tension more and more often. What do you do when a gay friend invites you to his/her 'wedding'? What happens when a gay parent wants to bring along his/her child to Sunday School? What happens when that same gay parent asks if he/she can help set up chairs for church or hand out Bibles at the door?

This is new ground for us. I'm not sure if anyone has all the answers yet, and I'm sure I don't. But in my stumbling efforts to begin to grapple with this issue, here are a couple of initial thoughts on how we might start to think about responding.

1. Gay people are sinners just like everyone else. The Bible tells us that all of us fall short of God's glory (Romans 3:23). It's not that there are some sinners God seeks out because they are less sinful than others and some he passes over because their sin is just too bad for him (c.f. 1 Timothy 1:15). Therefore our treatment of gay 'sinners' needs to be guided by the same kinds of principles we would apply to heterosexual 'sinners'—for example, people in de-facto relationships.
2. We are going to be misunderstood no matter how we respond to gay people who come along to church. If we respond in ways that look loving to our gay friends we are likely to be misunderstood by some people as condoning homosexuality (ironically probably misunderstood more by our Christian friends than by gay friends). If we respond in ways which make our views on homosexuality very clear to gay people up front we will likely be misunderstood by our gay friends as saying Christians hate gay people.

In thinking about this it's worth noting that Jesus himself faced this kind of tension. It's well known that as he sought sinners, Jesus welcomed prostitutes, tax collectors, and drunkards. In the process he was misunderstood by some in the religious establishment as endorsing those sins and accused even of indulging in some of them himself (Matthew 11:19). The phrase 'Jesus friend of sinners' was not initially a compliment!

For us, though, as we seek to reach our gay friends with the good news of Jesus, the question in my mind is, "How do we become the kind of people who desire the salvation of our gay friends so much that perhaps we start to be in danger of being called 'Christians, friends of gay people'?"

This article is the first of what the GiST committee intends will be a number of short articles exploring the practical implications of GiST's more extensive papers which have been produced over the past few years. You can view these papers at:

www.pcq.org.au/gospel-in-society-today-gist.php

Ministry Appointments



Shane Wright

Wife: Peta

Children: Mikayla, Jayden, Isabel and Nathaniel

Position: Student Minister at Maroochydore

What excites you most about your appointment?

The Christ-hearted people at Maroochydore Presbyterian Church (MP).

Why did you feel called to this position?

Having grown up on the Sunshine Coast, my wife and I have a heart and love for the people here, and desperately want to see them find their hope in Jesus. MP Church matches our passion for the people of the Coast, and so is a great place to train as a student.

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

He has shifted the way I think about myself. I have come to see that I am far worse a sinner than I ever thought, yet far more loved than I could ever know.

If you weren't in ministry what would you be doing?

I was building homes, however I don't think I could go back to that. Most likely I would be doing counseling or running a hipster café with great coffee and smashed avo on rye.

What social issue concerns you the most?

Sexual ethics on a national level. Removing God's design for relationships, and what it means to be human created in God's image is a real concern in and outside the church. However here on the 'Sunny' Coast, it's our affluence that is the great distraction from Jesus.

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

Probably Thomas. I think Thomas gets a bad rap, I see him as a realist, he didn't want to just follow the crowd, he wanted proof. And the great thing is Jesus provides the proof, not just for Thomas, but us also.

When are you happiest?

Either enjoying good coffee with a good book in a busy café or walking in bushland, enjoying my family and God's creative work in creation.

What book changed you?

The Cross of Christ – John Stott

What would you tell your 15 year old self?

That I need Jesus!



John Gilmour

Wife: Deanne (Dee)

Position: Minister at Mt Barker and Seacliff, South Australia

What excites you most about your appointment?

The opportunity to be involved in the rebuilding of Presbyterian Ministry in and around Adelaide even if we are only here for 2017.

Why did you feel called to this position?

As a retired minister I felt the Lord's leading to respond to Rev John Langbridge's request for us to help out in this way until permanent replacements are found.

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

As I slid towards the end of my involvement with a local fellowship group my good friend and leader died following an appendix operation. I picked up the leadership of the group and one thing has led to another with me now in my thirtieth year in ministry.

If you weren't in ministry what would you be doing?

Helping people through some form of commercial activity.

What social issue concerns you the most?

The breakdown of church and family values.

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

This is a hard one. But I guess Nehemiah the builder of people and structures that did it all God's way.

When are you happiest?

When I am helping people with my wife.

What book changed you?

Two books, both a long time ago. The first on making disciples and second is Sir Williams Slim's *Defeat into Victory* that taught me to never give up, work to your strengths and not let others control your actions.

What would you tell your 15 year old self?

Dyslexia is not a life sentence but a challenge that can be overcome.



Mark Lewis

Wife: Rachel

Children: Emerson

Position: Assistant Pastor at Mt Gambier, South Australia

What excites you most about your appointment?

Seeing gospel growth. Seeing people grow in their understanding of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Seeing the church grow in number because each number is a story of someone connecting with Jesus.

Why did you feel called to this position?

Out of the options we were given this seemed the place where we could bear the most fruit for Jesus. So it was about considering the options and going with what suited us best.

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

My status is now 'In Christ', I would say that is the most significant change in my life.

If you weren't in ministry what would you be doing?

I believe every Christian is to serve in ministry and we all have a part to play in the local church. If I wasn't serving in ministry I would be worshipping in a congregation somewhere.

What social issue concerns you the most?

I don't think one ranks higher than the other. But any social issue I am concerned about is driven from the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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

The other two persons of the Holy Trinity...

When are you happiest?

I will tell you when you're older.

What book changed you?

The Bible

What would you tell your 15 year old self?

The Gospel—I didn't become a Christian until I was 19.



Lawrence Claire

Wife: Katie

Children: Sophie

Position: MTN Ministry Trainee at Kenmore

What excites you most about your appointment?

The opportunity to be spending lots of time with people in many different contexts, talking about what it means to be a Christian.

Why did you feel called to this position?

Katie and I were looking for the next step towards a future in full time ministry, and when KPC offered the traineeship, we jumped at it!

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

He has shown me that although He doesn't need me, He wants me to be part of His Kingdom work. To be able to do that full time is an amazing privilege.

If you weren't in ministry what would you be doing?

Still working for Telstra in project management, where I was for the past five years.

What social issue concerns you the most?

Our rejection of the biblical understanding of gender and sexuality. I'm concerned that as a society we are causing untold damage to each other and our children by listening to our own desires instead of to God.

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

Peter. Seeing his transformation from before Jesus' death to after, is inspiring.

When are you happiest?

Having a good feed and good conversation with others—it could be Chinese, or steak, or just hot chips.

What book changed you?

I'm not a big reader, but John Dickson's *Humilitas* was a really encouraging and challenging call to be humble. It also points the reader towards Jesus.

What would you tell your 15 year old self?

School's a lot of fun—enjoy it while it lasts!

Ministry Appointments



Mel Waldeck

Husband: Peter

Children: Ben, Joanna and Naomi

Position: Children's Ministry Worker at Kenmore

What excites you most about your appointment?

Helping and encouraging kids and their families to grow in knowing, living and sharing the Gospel.

Why did you feel called to this position?

As a teacher I am used to spending my days around kids and parents helping them to grow academically, physically and socially—but there is nothing more important than helping them to grow spiritually to know who God is and what he has done for them.

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

He's given me freedom—freedom from sin, freedom to love others as he loves me, freedom to bring glory to him.

If you weren't in ministry what would you be doing?

Whatever God calls me to do to that brings glory to Him, promotes the cause of Christ and furthers His Kingdom.

What social issue concerns you the most?

The pursuit of success at the expense of family, church and community relationships.

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

I don't have a favourite, but am continually challenged by Mary, Martha's sister, to not get distracted by the busyness of life but instead, following Jesus should be my continual focus.

When are you happiest?

Cooking food that brings enjoyment to others.

What book changed you?

A specific book that changed me doesn't spring to mind, but a couple of books that I read during a period of my life when my faith went through a surge in maturity and focus, were John Chapman's *Know and tell the Gospel* and *Out of the salt shaker and into the world* by Rebecca Manley Pippert

What would you tell your 15 year old self?

God is working his purpose out.



Garrett Edwards

Wife: Sophie

Position: City Church and Gospel Communities Pastor at Ann St

What excites you most about your appointment?

I'm really excited by how Gospel focused Ann Street is and how passionate we are to see conversions happen in our city!

Why did you feel called to this position?

Sophie and I really love the city, and God's been laying it on our hearts for a little while now, to be a part of a Gospel ministry in an urban setting.

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

He tapped a young, confused, selfish kid on the shoulder and, by His grace, called me into ministry. He's still working hard on me.

If you weren't in ministry what would you be doing?

Before Jesus came along, I was intent on doing some sort of Outdoor Education or Adventure Tourism.

What social issue concerns you the most?

The notion that tolerance and love are the same thing has fairly big implications on so many things in our society.

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

Barnabas, Hosea, Elisha, David... so many favourites!

When are you happiest?

Some snapshots: On the couch with a great coffee and an even better book. Seeing my wife smile that dazzling smile. Out on a jetski and spearfishing...

What book changed you?

Ecclesiastes. *The Pursuit of God* by A.W Tozer

What would you tell your 15 year old self?

Chill out. It's all about Jesus.

God's Church in Queensland

Eternity Presbyterian Church

Location

We're in Helensvale at the northern end of the Gold Coast, in the hinterland at the base of Mt Tamborine. We're privileged to be right in the centre of six growing suburbs

The Ministry Team

Rob Davey (Minister)

Demographic

We're a Church Family of about 85, and we're blessed with a wide range of ages, from newborns to 93. We have blue-collar workers, professionals, uni students, retirees, young families, singles and couples.

Prayer Points

That God would continue to grow us as a Church Family in our relationship with him, alongside each other, seeing new people come to know Jesus.

That God would use us to reach the Gold Coast, as we plan towards a new three year ministry plan and building project to start in 2018 with the Commonwealth Games.



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

We're excited about starting 2018 with a new vision for the church, and to see how that impacts and encourages more gospel ministry here.

Meet the People



Daniel Thomson

How long have you been attending Eternity Church?

4 months

What do you do during the week?

I'm a Senior Environment Engineer working for a company that produces and supports online gaming software.

What is the best thing about being at Eternity Church?

Firstly that the Gospel stands at the center of all that is done and also that everyone at the church has been extremely friendly with us since we first visited. Our daughters have fitted in well and enjoy youth group. The best thing about being at Eternity Church is that they have a heart for families while still maintaining a solid Biblical foundation.



Diane Erasmus

How long have you been attending Eternity Church?

1 year

What do you do during the week?

I'm a Client Relations Officer, working five days a week in a call centre for an aged care company in Brisbane.

What is the best thing about being at Eternity Church?

Feeling cared for, included, and being in a God-centred church.



Evan Setiawan

How long have you been attending Eternity Church?

6 years

What do you do during the week?

I own and run a music school. Most of the time during the week I teach the violin and the cello.

What is the best thing about being at Eternity Church?

We're a church family, we all know each other.

God's Church in Queensland

Callide Valley Presbyterian Church

Location

Callide Valley (Biloela) in Central Queensland.

The Ministry Team

We are all on the ministry team! Andrew Purcell (Minister), Rod McLennan (Church Planter - Emerald Presbyterian Church), Thom Lowther (Youth and Children's Worker).

Demographic

We have people aged from six months through to 90 years of age! We are blessed with reasonably even numbers of people across the spectrum of ages. People in our church family who are in the workforce generally come from rural, service or mining industries.

Prayer Points

Our church plant in Emerald with Rod and Nat McLennan as they approach their first year anniversary since launching the church in August 2016.

Pray that as a church family we'd be effective in reaching our community with the Gospel.



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

We're excited to be building a network of youth leaders across Central Queensland with our annual *CQ Alive* youth camp, and with regular ongoing training through connections with YNET. It has been really encouraging to see the growth in youth ministries across CQ churches in the last few years. We hope and pray that this will continue into the future as we seek to encourage our youth to follow Jesus as their Lord and Saviour.

Meet the People



Phillip Wilkie

How long have you been attending Callide Valley?

Since 1980

What do you do during the week?

Primary Producer

What is the best thing about being at Callide Valley?

To have fellowship with others and worship God.



Dan Boal

How long have you been attending Callide Valley?

Since 1995

What do you do during the week?

Mobile Maintenance Supervisor at Callide Mine

What is the best thing about being at Callide Valley?

Being able to enjoy fellowship with others and worshipping God with friends from church.



Del Tappin

How long have you been attending Callide Valley?

25 years

What do you do during the week?

Jack of all trades!

What is the best thing about being at Eternity Church?

Definitely the fellowship, and of course, the music!

News from around the State

Ripley Church Plant

Central Church Ipswich has been thinking about, learning about, and planning for planting a church in the Ripley Valley. We believe that new churches are the most effective way to reach unchurched people and bring new Christians into relationship with Jesus.

Why Ripley? The Queensland Government says the Ripley Valley will provide approximately 50,000 dwellings to house a population of approximately 120,000 people. It will be larger than nearby Springfield. There are currently two major housing developments well underway and the first major shopping centre will open in 2018. That means that it's an area in need of new churches, and that now is the time to get the ball rolling so that we can reach the people of Ripley as the area grows.

Please pray for the leadership of Central Church as they plan and make decisions about how and when the church plant will happen; for those who will be part of the core church planting team; and that the people of Ripley would be receptive to the Good News of Jesus.



Prayer group for Ripley Church Plant

Update from Presbyterian Church of South Australia

Since we last reported at the 2016 State Assembly, a lot has been happening on the ground here in South Australia. In late 2016, the six churches in Adelaide worked with the Presbytery of South Australia to combine into one multisite church, governed by one session. This move has simplified the oversight of our congregations, and opened up channels of communication between the congregations for cooperating in ministry.

Since the establishment of the multisite church, we have asked Dave Hopper from YNET to help train and mentor some youth leaders from within the church, and in January, Dave travelled down to lead Kickstart SA, our first State Youth Camp in living memory. Four leaders and twelve kids from Adelaide and Mount Gambier had an amazing time at Cockatoo Downs Farm Stay, hearing about how God has shown His love for us in Jesus, and how His love changes everything for those who receive it.

Flowing on from the success of Kickstart Camp, and as a result of the Adelaide congregations' improved communication and cooperation in ministry, a position for a full-time pastoral worker is being created for the two Northern Suburbs congregations. In God's kindness, this pastor will work alongside Rev Damien Carson as part of the long term ministry team in Adelaide.

John and Dee Gilmour very generously moved to South Australia in January to serve short-term as minister for our two Southern Suburbs congregations. John and Jan Langbridge have continued to serve in a very demanding role, preparing the CBD fringe congregations for a successor who will be the Senior Pastor of the citywide church. We are very deeply grateful to God for the wisdom and love, that has flowed into South Australia from the Presbyterian Church of Queensland. Please continue to pray for us, as we give thanks for you, and pray for you too.



L-R: Damien Carson, John Langbridge and John Gilmour



Kickstart Youth Camp 2017



Registration and Information at
www.qtc.edu.au/events

CARL TRUEEMAN

July 24 AM

Luther - the Man
and his Theology

July 24 PM

Reformation 500



PAUL TRIPP

August 17 AM

A Dangerous Calling

August 17 PM

Instruments in the Redeemer's
Hands

August 18-19

What Did You Expect?

Study at QTC in Semester 2, 2017

At Queensland Theological College we're on about
training gospel-driven leaders for a challenging world.

Find out more by visiting

www.qtc.edu.au/about-qtc/apply

or e-mail our Registrar at

registrar@qtc.edu.au.





MULTICULTURAL MINISTRY ON THE MURRAY

Colin and Alison Morrow write:

It is a great blessing when we see God combine both positions of the P.I.M. Patrol Team and Colin as Home Missionary of Sunraysia Presbyterian Church.

The greater Mildura area is a microcosm of multicultural Australia and we have many people from nations all around the world struggling to make a living or studying at the La Trobe University campus in the district. In particular there are people from the Pacific Islands who originally came to Australia to work on properties (vineyards and orchards) doing work which is not undertaken by other Australians.

We have come to know many people from the Cook Islands and they started attending Sunraysia Presbyterian Church some time ago but last November the Church Session launched, at the request of our Cook Islanders, a service in the Cook Islands language. This has effectively more than doubled the number of people coming along to join in worship. The

combined numbers on a Sunday morning now range between 50 to 80 people, this includes children (sometimes it has been a struggle in our Sunday School building to fit them all in!).

To assist our Cook Islands brothers and sisters in developing their outreach within their community in the broader Mildura area, by the grace of God, Sunraysia was able to be a beneficiary of trust funds to purchase a small 13 seater bus to transport some of them to and from worship services. What a blessing! Already, though, the bus is too small – it has to do two trips to bring people to and from the Sunday services.

Amongst these folk are a couple, Nio and Matapi Teopenga, who are undertaking distance study from the Cook Island Christian Church theological college (an independent denomination) in Rarotonga. They will be graduating this year and have invited "Papa" Colin and "Mama" Alison to go to Rarotonga to witness this



Brothers in the Lord

great occasion. Another blessing and honour! We look forward to going in July and encouraging the work of the gospel in those Islands as they too have been an encouragement to us in our work here.

Overall God is humbling us and showing us that He is building His church by His grace and to His glory. He uses the meagre efforts we put in to do wondrous things.

Like His Son so many years ago on the hills of Galilee who was given a lunch by the small boy and multiplied loaves and fish to His glory, so we are seeing Him doing it again with people in Mildura, the Sunraysia region, the Mungo Patrol and beyond.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

*Colin & Alison Morrow,
Mungo Patrol Team*

Colin and Alison Morrow serve part-time with PIM, in the Mungo Patrol Area and part-time at Sunraysia Presbyterian Church (Mildura, Vic), where Colin is the Home missionary.



Worshipping together



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

Australian Presbyterian World Mission

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

A PARENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Abby Williams, from Tamborine Mountain Presbyterian Church, is one of the youngest missionaries currently serving with APWM. She left Australia in January last year, just 19 years of age, to join the crew of OM Ships' Logos Hope. Since then, she has sailed around Africa, around the Canary Islands, and across the Atlantic to reach South America. At sea, and in ports along the way, Abby has worked with the crew to share the good news of Jesus with all the people they meet.



Abby & her mother

Abby's parents, Gary and Debbie, visited her while she was taking shore leave in December in Barcelona. Together they had a "catch-up" holiday, then travelled to Tenerife for a few days together on board the ship.

Back in Australia, Gary wrote to Abby's supporters to give a "parents' perspective" on overseas mission. "It was such an encouragement to see what she's involved in," he said. "To see how she is growing in her faith, maturity, confidence and skill! She's still our beloved Abby – full of fun, grace, joy, energy, smileys and exclamation marks – but God is clearly at work in and through her. As a parent, it's sheer delight to see."

"The God-centred culture on the Logos Hope was palpable, the competence of the leadership was obvious, and it was a joy to be on board for a few days. The cultural experience of all the nationalities represented on board is amazing, and seeing it all come together because of

people's shared faith in God and desire to be obedient to his call is awesome!"

As well as being thrilled with the way God is working in their daughter, Debbie and Gary also see the bigger picture. "The reason the Logos Hope exists", said Gary, "is for the people ashore in the ports where the ship docks - people who need to hear of God's love for them. Six million people have visited the Logos Hope in recent years! The experience that Abby enjoys, and the personal enrichment that is taking place for her, is really a by-product of this work."

APWM partners with OM Ships and many other mission agencies to send out people of all ages into a mission field that is ripe for harvest. You can find out more about this work by visiting our website www.apwm.org.au, or by contacting our National Office by phone (02) 8073 7490 or email national@apwm.org.au

LAUREN CRASE 'My Tetun is improving...'



Lauren
and her
colleague
Alina

"This Sunday, the first Sunday of February, I will be attending the Besusu Presbyterian Church. It has been over a year and a half since visiting this church, and so will be great to see everyone once again. At some point, I will meet with the leadership there then to discuss how I can best assist and fit into the congregation there.

Whilst living in Weberek, I will be doing a little English teaching, assisting in the community clinic and continuing to learn Tetun. Whilst I'm very excited to say that I feel my Tetun is improving, it certainly has a very, very long way to go. Lord willing, I will hopefully meet 4 times a week with someone who can be my language

helper, to help me continue put into action the language learning techniques learnt at the SIL Summer School course I attended this time last year.

Please pray for:

- Wisdom and guidance, as I also settle into life within the village of Weberek also.
- The Lord to send a language helper that can help me to grow in my knowledge of Tetun and the culture of the Timorese people.

THEY'RE OFF!

Nathan & Tomoko Stewart have now commenced serving in Osaka. Thank you to those who are partnering with them!



APWM

To support APWM missionaries financially please go to www.apwm.org.au/supporting/finance

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News from PresCare's Chaplaincy Team

It is my pleasure to bring you an update from PresCare's Chaplaincy Team. We aim to enrich the lives of the people we support with experiences that not only meet their physical or medical needs, but engage their minds and spirits.

Our chaplains and pastoral carers are involved in the daily lives of our residents and clients. We aim to build relationships of value that are based on trust. As we get to know each other, this trust is gained and clients feel confident to share their deepest thoughts. They then open up and begin to ask the big questions that often trouble people:

"Why am I still here?", "What good am I to anyone?", "I am frightened of death, what if I am not good enough to go to heaven?"

PresCare chaplains and pastoral carers have the great privilege to have meaningful conversations with people regularly. Sometimes these conversations reveal people's hurt and sometimes people question their worth, security and eternal destiny. It is these times – being alongside those who are struggling and need the love of Christ and the hope of the Gospel – that make chaplaincy such a worthwhile ministry of the Church.

The PresCare Board has clearly expressed their desire to widen our chaplaincy work and to partner closely with the Presbyterian Church of Queensland (PCQ) and congregations. We are committed to working with the Committee on Outreach and Nurture and to support the ministry work that Nathan Carse has been leading through outreach and support for young offenders. We are also working with the Committee on Ministry Resourcing and the Presbytery of the Darling Downs to help support Rev Ross Pethybridge to develop programs that engage with older people in a church setting. There are a number of other initiatives that will provide opportunities to partner with congregations.

Another initiative is our annual Chaplaincy Professional Development Conference which takes place in April. It is an opportunity for the whole team to spend two days building relationships

and encouraging each other. We are privileged to have Very Rev David Jones leading us in devotional reflections. Much of the conference will be spent reflecting on the strategic direction for chaplaincy at PresCare. It will be an opportunity for us to think through what God has called us to do, how we do it and what we need to improve to do the job more effectively for the glory of God.

Please continue to pray for Chaplaincy in PresCare, that the love of Christ might be at the heart of all we do.

Rev Graeme McKay
Chaplain to the Redlands: Lake Sherrin



Residents from our independent living units at PresCare Lake Sherrin in Thornlands take monthly day trips. Most recently residents visited North Stradbroke Island and the Toowoomba Carnival of Flowers.

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