

Pres Life

MAGAZINE OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF QUEENSLAND

**Abortion:
Speaking Gospel Hope**

**4 workers for the
Gospel share
their story**

**God's Church
in Qld**
Arundel, Gold Coast
Browns Plains
Willows, Townsville

**Why do children's
ministry?**



The Gospel and being Human

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.

Unit To Let

CALOUNDRA, beachside units from \$400/wk. Contact Ray on 0427 990 161 or rayandjean@hotmail.com

Editor's Apology

In Volume 20 of *PresLife*, we ran an edited version of a research paper "The Gospel and Sexuality", which was originally written by the Gospel in Society Today Committee (GiST). Our edited article contained some inconsistencies with the original text, which were overlooked during the approval process. We apologise for the resulting confusion among our readers and the complaints received by GiST. The original paper is available online: http://www.pcq.org.au/pcq_pdf_gist/gist-the-gospel-in-sexuality-08-15.pdf

Key Dates



Prepare - Customised Version

PREPARE and ENRICH have been used for many years by those working with couples planning to marry, couples wanting to strengthen their relationship and facing new challenges, and couples experiencing difficulties in their relationship. The inventories have a reputation for accuracy, reliability, sensitivity and relevance. PREPARE-ENRICH CUSTOMIZED VERSION has been used to great effect for 5 years now. It is accessed via the internet and is customised to suit each couple.

Training in the use of this new resource will be available at Brisbane Boys' College, Toowong on Thursday and Friday 8 and 9 December. The Friday will only involve a morning session. For Registration details, please email info@prepare-enrich.com.au or contact the Prepare office on 02 95204049.

Rev Graham Cole
Chaplain
Brisbane Boys' College

Events Around the State

500th Anniversary of the Reformation: Little Connective Words

Little connective words are often overlooked. 'And' is a typical example.

In Luke 24 the risen Lord Jesus is among his disciples and opens their minds to understand the Scriptures. He then summarises what is written, *The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day AND repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.* Luke 24:46-47

The 'and' means that it is as much the purpose of God that the Gospel be preached to the nations as it is the purpose of God that the Christ suffer, die and rise from the dead.

We know from Psalm 2 that a promise has been made by our Father to our elder brother, the Lord Jesus; *that the nations will be his inheritance; the ends of the earth his possession.* Psalm 2:8

To be involved in evangelistic enterprise is to be involved in activity which is working toward seeing God's purpose and promise fulfilled.

As part of the 500th Anniversary celebrations of the Reformation in 2017, panels of evangelists have been assembled and are available to churches throughout Australia. Every congregation is urged to hold at least one outreach activity.

Please don't leave your plans to the last moment as there is a limited number of evangelists. There are panels of evangelists in New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria and Tasmania. They consist of men and women, all of whom are members of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

David Cook (dac@damc.com.au) is co-ordinating the placement of evangelists, so please let him know of your plans.

The General Assembly of Australia (GAA) has also arranged for the production of four tracts on the theme of the campaign, *Taking God Seriously*. To place an order please email the New South Wales Church Office (assembly@pcnsw.org.au or call 1300 773 774). The book (for Bible Study groups) and tracts (for outreach) are designed to support our evangelistic activities.

Most churches probably have evangelistic programs planned; in that case please feel free to make use of these resources.

We believe it is a most appropriate way to celebrate the Reformation, to promote events designed to make the Gospel of God known to our nation, and call on people to the recognition of Jesus Christ as their rightful Lord.

Christmas Carol Services

Acacia Ridge Presbyterian Church

4 December, free BBQ at 5pm and Carols at 6.30pm.

Annerley Presbyterian Church (St Johns)

10 December at 7pm.

Arundel Presbyterian Church

24 December at 6pm.

Bundaberg Presbyterian Church,

18 December at 6pm with BBQ at 5pm.

Cairns Presbyterian Church

10 December at 5pm - BBQ and movie, 18 December at 6.30pm - Classic Carols and 24 December at 6pm - Carols out the front.

Caloundra Presbyterian Church

10 December at 6pm with a BBQ.

Creek Road Presbyterian Church

18 December (Carina at 9am and 6pm including a Christmas Carnival during the day), (South Bank at 6pm) and 24 December (time to be advised).

Gateway Presbyterian Church

11 December at 6pm at 14 Rode Road, Nundah and 18 December at 6.30pm at 68 Charlton Street, Ascot.

Graceville Presbyterian Church

11 December, BBQ at 5pm and Carols at 6.30pm.

Central Church Ipswich

24 December at 6.30pm.

Kenmore Presbyterian Church

15 December at 6.30pm.

North Mackay Presbyterian Church

4 December at 8.30am and **Sarina Presbyterian Church (Mackay)**, 24 December at 6pm.

Maroochydore Presbyterian Church

11 December at 5pm.

Miles Presbyterian Church

24 December at bring and share a meal at 6.30pm and Carols at 7.30pm.

Mitchelton Presbyterian Church

11 December at 5.30pm and 24 December at 8pm.

St Pauls Presbyterian Church

18 December at 6.30pm with a bring and share family tea beforehand at 5pm.

Redlands Presbyterian Church (Capalaba)

18 December at 5pm and 24 December at 7.30pm.

Rockhampton Presbyterian Church

24 December at 5pm.

Tablelands Presbyterian Church

18 December at 6pm.

Tewantin Presbyterian Church

18 December at 7pm.

St Andrews Townsville Presbyterian Church

9 December at 7pm.

Virginia-Banyo

18 December at 6.30pm.

Wynnum Presbyterian Church

18 December at 5pm followed by a BBQ.

Yangan Presbyterian Church

12 December at 7pm.

For further details please contact the churches direct.



Why Church Plant?

by Derek Hanna

Stock image

Do we really need more?

A friend recently asked me: “What are you doing for work this year?” I told him I was helping people who were planting churches. His reply: “Is there really a need for more churches?”. My friend isn’t a Christian, but his response isn’t unlike the response of many Christians—“Why plant more when we can’t fill the ones we already have?”

But this question betrays a fundamental misunderstanding of what our mission as Christians is. For Christians, the question we want to be asking isn’t “Under God, what’s the most effective way of filling the churches we have?”. The question we want to be asking is “Under God, what’s the most effective way to make disciples?” The first question is driven by self-preservation; the second by the Gospel. The first is about redistributing an ever-diminishing proportion of our society who align themselves with a Judeo-Christian ethic into our buildings; the second by a desire to see as many as possible move from darkness to light. Until we are captured by the latter, church planting will be seen at best, as a curious passing fad and at worst, a distraction or threat. But here are two reasons to see it very differently.

First, we are surrounded by the lost: there are more of them than ever, and they’re further from the truth than they have been in our recent history. The raw data is disturbing: attendance at church is dropping dramatically (20% to 13% between 1998 and 2011), a trend which looks like it will continue; our churches are older than our population (44% of our churches in 2011 were over 60 compared to only 20% of our population), and even where our churches experience numerical growth, this growth is dwarfed when compared to local population growth. But the most sobering challenge of all this is if we look around our churches and ask “How many here became a Christian in the last year?” would we be content? I’m not sure there’s ever a number we could answer that question with, that shouldn’t drive us to work out more ways to engage more people with God’s grace, so more might know Jesus.

Secondly, church plants are five times more likely to reach the unreached than established churches. The National Church Life Survey in 2011 showed that only 6% of people in churches weren’t in churches five years ago. In a recent study done on church plants in Australia, that figure is 33%. So while church

plants are often accused of merely hoovering up disgruntled Christians from other churches (and that can certainly be the case), it’s also true that church plants are far more effective at reaching the unreached than established churches are. Neither diminishing God’s sovereignty nor reducing our responsibility, church planting is shown to be one of the most effective evangelistic strategies available to us.

For those who have been slogging away faithfully in established churches for years, it can be hard seeing churches planted next to those we labour in. Those churches can feel like competition or a critique upon our ministry. This is a difficult, but not insurmountable issue; one that calls for humility and openness on the part of those planting, and generosity and graciousness on those who are established.

But the lens through which we see the world must be the Gospel. We labour not for ourselves or our glory, but for the glory of the one who allows us to proclaim the Gospel. Our aim is not merely to see our church buildings full or even to start new churches. Our aim is to see people won for Christ. When Village Church was planted we received the support of many established Presbyterian churches in our area - Mitchelton, Wilston, Eatons Hill, Ithaca, Clayfield and Wavell Heights—as well as others that had no connection to Village Church other than the Gospel: Life Point, Windsor Road Baptist and New Hope. This support wasn’t because it served them, but because it served the Gospel—they wanted to see people come to know Jesus.

The issue is not choosing between revitalising churches or planting churches. What we need are ‘strategies to revitalise those churches that desire change, but we also need to see thousands of new churches planted’. (Ed Stetzer, *Planting Missional Churches*)

To reach Queensland we need new churches like those in Emerald (Rod and Natalie McLennan) and Bargara (Jono and Jenny Buesnel), but it can’t stop there. We need hundreds of new churches evangelised into existence. For this to happen we need to foster churches that encourage, pray for and support generously these new works and these new planters. Not because we merely like the new, but because we love the lost.



Abortion: Speaking Gospel Hope

by Dr Robyn Bain, GiST Convener

Stock image

Abortion is back in the news due to a new and powerful move to legalise abortion in Queensland. The Gospel in Society Team (GiST) has recently published some advice for believers keen to respond to this enormous issue in light of the gospel:

<http://www.pcq.org.au/gospel-in-society-today-gist.php>

In particular, GiST explores the way the Gospel transforms our experiences of love, guilt and life derailed—experiences that shape our society's approach to abortion.

Love

Many people know Jesus' story about the 'Good Samaritan' (Luke 10:25-37). Jesus related this story to a lawyer who, upon being told by Jesus to love his neighbour, asked 'And who is my neighbour?' You certainly get the feeling that the lawyer wanted to limit his love obligations.

In this story it was the 'unrighteous' enemy Samaritan who stopped to care for a stranger lying vulnerable by the road. A priest and a Levite had already passed by, their planned paths taking priority.

A foetus can seem like an 'intimate stranger'. Even though a foetus is formed so intimately within us, he or she doesn't look much like us and often has no name or known gender. Jesus shows however, that Kingdom love does not stop to ask whether a vulnerable person qualifies as my neighbour. The character of God's people is to love, protect and nurture the helpless—even those who might have surprised us.

Guilt

Secondly, Jesus' story of the Good Samaritan was designed to make the lawyer feel very uncomfortable. He is not the law keeper he thinks he is.

And we must also admit that in our bid to self rule we have failed countless times to love as we should. Much worse, we have failed to love the God who owns us, and those we have failed.

Jesus pulls no punches about the dreadful seriousness of living only for our self made plans, pushing aside those who interfere, most especially God. According to Jesus, we thoroughly deserve his judgment.

However, Jesus does not pass us by. His love for God's children is unflinching. He came to show compassion to us as we stand

helpless before God's judgment throne. After telling this story, Jesus continued on a determined journey towards the cross. In his death, he voluntarily paid the price for our self rule and lifted away our entire burden of guilt, including that of abortion. And then Jesus rose from the dead so that we might enjoy the deepest joy and eternal rest in him.

Life Derailed

The Bible is clear that the life of every person is unconditionally valuable because each bears the image of God (Gen 9:6). Therefore, we are not at liberty to take the life of another for our own purposes.

Furthermore, in the Kingdom of God, personal value is not found in success, freedom or acceptance by others. Security cannot be found in savings, jobs, education, birth control or even relationships. Nothing will shift the value God gives to his precious, adopted children through the death of Jesus.

It is only through God's transforming Spirit that we can entrust our lives to the loving rule of Jesus and love the strangers who may derail our plans.

In the Kingdom of God, we are not isolated choice-makers, but interdependent. For a mother, father, family and community under the strain of an unplanned or complicated pregnancy, this means deciding to embrace the vulnerable stranger in the womb. A foetus, like each of us, is worthy of love simply because he or she has been made by God, no matter how much that love will demand of us. More than that, God gives enormous importance, and rich, sometimes unexpected blessing, to the task of nurturing a child, even in a fallen world.

As people loved and enabled by Jesus, we should strive to nurture communities that leave no one in isolation; that thoughtfully and generously support vulnerable people; that value children; that support parenthood; and that embrace those with disabilities, no matter how short and difficult their earthly lives.

As we do these things, we also talk about our Lord who in his power, is able to work meaningfully and lovingly in every life derailment, deep pain and dire circumstance for the eternal good of those who love him.



The Gospel and being Human

by Dr Robyn Bain, GiST Convener

Stock image

An older sister in Christ told me she always sent her kids off to school with the words 'Remember who you are.'

She wasn't affirming them with vague, pop psychology. She was helping them to find themselves, and to be wonderfully found in Christ.

The PCQ Gospel in Society Team (GiST) explores the core Biblical truths about humanity in its 'Gospel and Humanity' paper. In summary:

- God created human beings to reflect His image.
- Humanity's task of reflecting the image of God was disastrously marred by the sinful decision to reject God, bringing death and judgement.
- God's Son, the man Jesus Christ, perfectly reflected God and showed us what humanity is meant to be. Jesus died and rose on behalf of sinful people to rescue them from the penalty of sin, conform them to His own image, and give them eternal life.

Here are some implications:

- **True Hope is Found in the Gospel**

The Gospel is thoroughly realistic about the fallout of sin. Every person is capable of great evil; people often do serious and terrible damage to one another; sickness and death terrify us; and life frustrates us. Although there is often much to be gained from social movements, education and science, none provide the ultimate answer to our problems. Insurance policies, superannuation and frantic busyness will not guarantee our security. Our human aspirations can never fully satisfy us.

Our hope is found only in the Gospel. Jesus will return to lead His redeemed people to a new creation where evil and suffering is excluded, thirst is satisfied and God is enjoyed in all His glory. Since only God can fix the problem of sin, our greatest gift to our communities is to share the hope of the Gospel which promises forgiveness of sin to all who have faith in Christ and his atoning death in our place.

- **True Human Freedom is Found in the Gospel**

Freedom in our society is largely understood as having the right to make choices from any number of alternatives in every aspect of life. This kind of freedom however, rapidly descends into selfish exploitation. Moreover, this kind of freedom is not

freedom at all, but is actually slavery to sinful desires. It never brings the satisfaction and control it so alluringly promises—instead it brings death and judgement.

The Gospel reveals the utter foolishness of denying our dependence on our Maker. The purpose of freedom in the Bible is to creatively discern how to love others wherever God places us. Jesus used His freedom to lay down His life for others. Jesus' death and resurrection frees those who trust in Him from the slavery and penalty of sin, and sets us free to delight in God and loving others.

- **Both Mind and Body are Important**

God crafted the human being as a perfect psychosomatic unity of mind, soul, body and spirit. A person's 'real self' does not reside only in the spirit or mind, but also in the body. Neither can a person's being be reduced to merely physical and chemical properties. A woman with advanced dementia for instance, is not just a disordered brain.

Our bodies are a good gift from God, enabling so much of what it is to be human, even considering the damage caused by sin. Jesus healed people in both spirit and body. Moreover, Jesus took on human flesh, He gave His body for us, His body was resurrected, and we await the glorious resurrection of our bodies in Him. Our bodies belong to Him, and we should honour Him with them.

- **Gender Difference is a Blessing**

Our society increasingly sees gender difference as an oppressive social construct that is crying out for deconstruction in the areas of marital norms, sexual preferences and childrearing. At the same time, our culture still embraces a range of rather stereotyped notions of femininity and masculinity.

The Gospel, however, embraces the God-gifted, complementary differences between male and female as a delightful blessing for the purpose of love and service. The joys, expression and responsibilities of gender have been badly tarnished by sin, but gender can be enjoyed in the wisdom of the Gospel. In fact, gender difference in marriage is given enormous dignity in its role of reflecting the ultimate marriage of Christ and His church.

The GiST Gospel and Humanity paper can be found at:

<http://www.pcq.org.au/gospel-in-society-today-gist.php>

Children's Ministry

Interview with Kylie Buchanan and Thomas Lowther



Kylie Buchanan



Thomas Lowther

What excites you most about being a youth pastor?

Kylie: I love interacting with the kids each week. I love seeing them reading God's word and hearing stories of how it's changing them.

Thomas: Sharing the Gospel with young lives and then travelling along the Christian journey with them

Why did you feel called to this position?

Kylie: Honestly...in the beginning it was to fill a position, as we started a church plant which has now turned into a position I love doing more and more.

Thomas: In short, because I saw people going to hell and wanted to do something about it. I felt God had both gifted and called me to work with kids, and I wanted to give them the hope of Christ.

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

Kylie: Continuing to grasp the enormity of what Jesus has done on the cross for me, and recognising the importance of making that clear for our kids.

Thomas: In the last couple of years, I have felt God deflate my balloon of pride and self-assurance, and cause me to depend on him more.

What were you doing before children's ministry?

Kylie: Before ministry I was a registered nurse. I worked at a Kindy helping kids with special needs. I am also a mum to three pretty awesome boys.

Thomas: Financial Planning.

What are the challenges and joys of children's ministry?

Kylie: It can be challenging understanding the Bible in such a way that it can be explained to kids. There are more joys than challenges. Hearing stories of kids singing songs in shopping centres, saying memory verses and telling parents what they have learnt that week makes this role so great.

Thomas: Challenges: high energy output, constantly thinking of new ideas and strategies to teach and learn, pushing against the idols and comforts of kids' lives.

Joys: the receptiveness of kids, their eagerness to learn about God, their black and white view of the world.

Why do you think children's ministry is important? Why do it?

Kylie: Kids' ministry is so important. Teaching these little people about the saving grace of Jesus and seeing it impacting them from a young age is amazing. What a foundation for life!

Thomas: For the same reason we minister to anyone, if Jesus is the Way, Truth and Life, then people of all ages need him.

What are your hopes/goals for children's ministry?

Kylie: That the ministry would see kids inviting their friends to come and hear about Jesus (and it might even encourage their parents to come too...). To see our kids at Eatons Hill Presbyterian Church coming to know Jesus as their own Lord and Saviour.

Thomas: To spread the Gospel to those who don't have it and disciple those who do.

If someone is considering being involved in children's ministry what advice would you give them before taking that step?

Kylie: Kids are fabulous. Jump in and get into it! Ask questions from others involved in kids' work. Nothing like learning on the job!

Thomas: Don't be afraid to look like a bit of a clown in front of the kids and parents.

Is there anything else you would like to share about children's ministry?

Kylie: Kids' ministry is a wonderful avenue to tell kids about Jesus in our church settings. I also see it as a great way of supporting parents in their discipleship with their own kids.

Ministry Appointments



Peter Yock

Wife: Katharine

Children: Noah and Atticus

Position: Music Pastor at Creek Road

What excites you most about your appointment?

Helping people engage with the Gospel as we sing together. And meeting up with people one to one to talk about a relationship with Jesus.

Why did you feel called to this position?

It was the Gospel that called me to ministry, but my particular gifts and passions led me to serve in music ministry. There aren't many people around who take both theology and music seriously, so I thought I'd better put my money where my mouth was and give it a crack.

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

Giving me eternal hope that breaks into every day, even (and especially) the bad ones. The older I get, the more I realise that hope in Jesus is the brightest thing of all.

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

I was a professional guitarist and guitar tutor in a past life, but that tends to not be the best work lifestyle for a family with young kids, so I'd probably be looking into music therapy.

What social issue concerns you the most?

Treatment of refugees who need our love and care.

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

Maybe Peter? Because he shows me that someone can be a bumbling idiot and still end up doing a good job telling people about Jesus.

When are you happiest?

When I get time away with my wife, especially without the kids. Usually involving coffee or wine or both.

What book changed you?

Guidance and the Voice of God by Philip Jensen and Tony Payne.

What would you tell your 15 year old self?

Not all Christian music sucks! Stop complaining about it, and be a part of making it better.



Simon Allery

Wife: Deb

Children: Henry, Thomas and Nessie

Position: Assistant Minister at Willows (Townsville)

What excites you most about your appointment?

There are endless opportunities to do Gospel work in Townsville, particularly with the youth age bracket.

Why did you feel called to this position?

After praying about it and talking to a number of trusted friends, it seemed like a really good fit. The Senior Minister and his wife are good friends of ours, and there was an opportunity to serve in the areas we are particularly passionate about.

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

I moved into a Christian uni house in Lismore, and for the first time met some normal Christians. They liked football, eating meat, having a couple of beers, loved reading the Bible and talking about Jesus. It was through reading the Bible that God opened up my mind to understand the great news of the Gospel. The Gospel has changed me in many ways, but a really noticeable change is that instead of trying to serve myself all the time, I now from time to time serve others as a response to the way that Jesus has served me. Obviously, I also now have a sure hope.

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

Often on Mondays when I am tired after a big weekend of church stuff, I dream of mowing lawns, so maybe I would be mowing lawns and surfing a lot.

What social issue concerns you the most?

I sometimes don't care enough about social issues, but probably what concerns me the most is the way the church often so poorly communicates to the world about social issues. The world has no reason to live God's way, and it's actually an impossibility because of God's current judgment being revealed from heaven—he has handed people over to a depraved mind for rejecting him (see Romans 1). However I do have to say I really like the stuff that GiST are doing.

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

Probably King David, because he is a James Bond like character. But he is a good reminder that even one of the best humans was a dirty sinner, because he is a son of Adam and Eve.

When are you happiest?

I have two answers: I recently had a debate/discussion with an atheist at a local high school in a year 11 Philosophy class; I was able to share the Gospel really clearly a couple of times, and enjoyed some banter with the students—that sort of thing really excites me. I also love going surfing or skurfing (surfing behind a boat) and sitting around the fire having a couple of beers with my family and friends.

What book changed you?

Probably the book that has changed me the most, besides the Bible, is a book called *Prodigal God* by Tim Keller. It looks at Luke 15 in detail, it was a book that really helped me to understand the Gospel.

What would you tell your 15 year old self?

Stop being a 'tool' and find a church that teaches the Bible.

**Peter Dimond**

Wife: Helen

Children: Lucy and Hamish

Position: Minister at Caloundra

What excites you most about your appointment?

The people and the opportunities! The church family are a wonderful Godly bunch, and the Caloundra district is experiencing growth.

Why did you feel called to this position?

It turns out Ian and Norma had been praying for us to come here for the past eight years, and the challenge the church here gave us appealed to us.

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

He saved me!

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

Barista! I love coffee, and making it for others.

What social issue concerns you the most?

Refugees.

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

Peter. I just love the way he's so real, and he sticks his foot in it over and over again. And yet Jesus loves him despite it all.

When are you happiest?

Teaching the Bible, hanging out with family and friends or out in the shed.

What book changed you?

The Bible! A few others also include LOTR trilogy, and several CS Lewis books.

What would you tell your 15 year old self?

Stick with following Jesus above all else.

**Jack Jeong**

Wife: Jenny

Children: Christina and Isaac

Position: Senior Pastor at Wangsung Presbyterian Church

What excites you most about your appointment?

The many opportunities to meet new people in the congregation, and walking the spiritual path together as brothers and sisters in Christ.

Why did you feel called to this position?

There was a time when I contemplated leaving Brisbane for another city, but the spirit led me to pray and gave me the heart to permanently settle, and within that week I found a vacant position.

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

After reading the Bible from the beginning to end and focussing only on the stories, it was only then I saw God clearly and found a reason to change my life.

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

Most likely continuing in my previous profession as a Resources Trader in raw materials.

What social issue concerns you the most?

The many difficulties international families and individuals experience when meeting required visa conditions.

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

Moses had both the knowledge and power to become a strong leader with his own might, instead he chose to rely on God alone.

When are you happiest?

When I prepare to travel... especially in the airport, just before boarding the plane I feel excited and look forward to my trip

What book changed you?

Reading the gospel of John changed my life because I was able to see Jesus as God.

What would you tell your 15 year old self?

Jack, try to read and understand all the stories of the Bible and how it fits together because this will lead the rest of your life.

God's Church in Queensland

Arundel Presbyterian Church

Location

Arundel, Gold Coast, Queensland.

The Ministry Team

Andrew Lubbock (Senior Minister),
Russell Williams (Assistant Minister)
and Danny Mitchell (Youth Minister).

Demographic

We have a wide range of ages from
young children to retirees/elderly.

Prayer Points

As a church stay focussed on Jesus
not activities. To be brave in speaking
God's truth without fear.

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

Having to choose only one thing:
continue to pray for them.



Meet the People



Ramy Saeed

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

Eight years.

What do you do during the week?

Dentist

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

Encountering God's truth and His
great plan through Jesus as shown in
His Word.



Geraldine Wright

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

16½ years

What do you do during the week?

I am retired so I have more time to
read the Bible. I attend Bible study, do
housework and sometimes take care
of my grandchildren Ben and Tiana.

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

It is exciting hearing God's Word in
the sermon, meeting with Christian
friends and being part of the group
leading the pre-service hymn singing.



Catherine Stallard

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

Over two years.

What do you do during the week?

I'm a lawyer and I work in a
community legal centre in Brisbane.

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

It's a really friendly church that is
focussed on teaching the Bible and
telling people about the saving
grace of Jesus.

God's Church in Queensland

Browns Plains Presbyterian Church

Location

It is located in Logan, close to the Browns Plains Shopping Centre and about three minutes from the Mt Lindsey Highway. Our address is 276 Waller Road, Heritage Park.

The Ministry Team

André Schwartz (Minister) and Johann Vorster (Ministry Assistant)

Demographic

We have a full age range, from newborn to over nineties coming regularly to our morning and evening services—about 160 for both services. The average age is over 40, but God is starting to bless us with people in their twenties. Furthermore we have families from at least 12 nationalities worshipping with us—a diverse family of God!

Prayer Points

That God will continue to keep us faithful to His call to preach the Word boldly and take the Gospel into our community.
That God will give us wisdom and discernment to build our ministries, especially the youth ministries, and build up the church members, particularly in light of the many newcomers—God is indeed blessing us.



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

We are excited about the doors of ministries that God has opened for us, and the challenges that he has put before us, to use those to help build His Kingdom in this part of Logan.

Meet the People



Murray Whitting

How long have you been attending Browns Plains?

35 years

What do you do during the week?

Self-Employed Director (Auscote Pty Ltd)

What is the best thing about being at Browns Plains?

The fellowship of people I have known for a long time and the pleasure of meeting new people coming to our church. The solid Christ-centred Biblical teaching.



Nicholas Cremona

How long have you been attending Browns Plains?

5 months—just after I became a Christian

What do you do during the week?

Landscape Labourer

What is the best thing about being at Browns Plains?

It is really a blessing to be part of likeminded worship of God and a loving family in Christ.



Angeline Steyl (Papajcsik)

How long have you been attending Browns Plains?

Just over 30 years

What do you do during the week?

I am a junior doctor at Logan Hospital and will start as a GP trainee next year.

What is the best thing about being at Browns Plains?

The down to earth people, the family that develops, the fellowship, and the love you receive and give. The congregation is diverse, and I think that is a testament to the love and desire to be God honouring with its members. It has helped me know God in all His glory.

God's Church in Queensland

Willows (Townsville) Presbyterian Church

Location

Thuringowa Central, Townsville.

The Ministry Team

Jason Smart (Senior Minister), Simon Allery (Assistant Minister), Sarah Johnston (MTN Trainee), Damon Scott (MTN Trainee) and Pam Tourle (Admin Assistant).

Demographic

Mixed - probably a bit slim in the post 75 bracket, but we're hoping to grown that in the next 10 years.

Prayer Points

That we'd be constantly reassessing how we're going against God's word.

That God would use us to make disciples.

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

Doing Christianity Explored is exciting because people get to clearly hear the Gospel and undersetand who Jesus is.



Meet the People



Tristan Maddison

How long have you been attending Willows?

12 months

What do you do during the week?

Study at school in Year 7, ride my motorbike and play cricket.

What is the best thing about being at Willows?

Learning about Jesus.



Daniel Clarke

How long have you been attending Willows?

6 months

What do you do during the week?

Principal of Annandale Christian College.

What is the best thing about being at Willows?

Being fed from the Word.



Hannah Gaulke

How long have you been attending Willows?

11 months

What do you do during the week?

I am a critical care paramedic.

What is the best thing about being at Willows?

Fellowship with other Christians and learning from God's Word.

Church Plants around the State



Weekend at Bargara Presbyterian Church

by Phil Campbell, State Moderator

There's quite a sense of energy as the blue plastic chairs are hauled from their purpose built timber racks and spread around the school hall ready for the 4.30pm service at Bargara Presbyterian Church. This brand new congregation led by Jono and Jen Buesnel was launched by the Bundaberg mother-church earlier this year, and so far progress has been encouraging.

Louise and I made the five hour drive from Brisbane on the first Saturday afternoon of the September school holidays, joining the tail end of the beach-exodus crush. We spent the evening chatting and praying through the trials and joys of first trimester church planting over Thai takeaway with Jono and Jen—interspersed more than once by phone messages from a new member looking for pastoral support.

On Sunday morning, Lou and I made the short trip into Bundaberg for the morning service with Wal Brown. This is an enthusiastic congregation, fuelled in large part by Wal's wit and warmth, and an enthusiasm for gospel growth that's seen them readily grasp the challenge of planting at the beachside township of Bargara. Everyone we spoke to over morning tea was enthusiastic, both about their own congregation, and the afternoon church plant.

The tone was similar at the Bargara service. Over the months since the congregation launched with a core group from Bundaberg, there's been a steady growth—there are people from other church backgrounds, and some with no church background at all. All of them are enjoying the opportunity to be part of a local church family where the Bible is taught clearly, and Jesus is at the forefront. Jono's leadership style is ideal for the beachside context, with a down-to-earth enthusiasm spiced with obvious passion.

It was a great privilege to baptise the two youngest Buesnel kids, Clancy and Daisy, to the obvious delight of three year old Jack—and while perhaps not yet doctrinally persuaded, even the former Baptists in the congregation were obviously

delighted to be part of the occasion as well, joining heartily in the congregational promise.

Afterwards, I met Andrew, who had recently joined the congregation with his wife. "We've been in the area a few years, and couldn't find a church in the area we connected with," he said. "Now we have. And we love it."

Bargara Presbyterian Church serves a community of around 15,000 people stretching from Burnett Heads to Elliot Heads along the Coral Coast. As Moderator, can I commend the Buesnells and their new church family to your prayers and your practical support—why not drop in and encourage them next time you're on holidays, or sign up for updates on their Facebook page? Pray too for Wal and Elinor Brown, and the Bundaberg mother-church, as they lead and grow gospel initiatives in the area.



Jono and Jen Buesnel with family

Church Plants around the State



Launch of Emerald Presbyterian Church

by Rod McLennan, Minister

Sunday 21 August marked the official 'launch' of Emerald Presbyterian Church. We enjoyed singing God's praise and hearing from God's word in Acts 1, and between our mid-service morning tea break and post-service barbecue lunch we were able to enjoy positive fellowship. Two things stood out as encouragements to take home from the day: 1) God is good, and 2) there is still so much to do.

God is good!

Most weeks we have numbers in the thirties (including children), which at this early stage is encouraging in itself, but how exciting it was to fill the place up with 97 people on our launch day! Where did this tremendous boost in numbers come from? Mostly Biloela. For more than a year the people of Callide Valley Presbyterian Church in Biloela, Jambin and Theodore have offered very generous financial support and regular prayer, not to mention training and housing for Nat and I for the first half of this year. On our launch day our people in Emerald got to see and feel this support when 45 people made an almost 700km roundtrip to join us for the weekend. This is a great testimony to the generous spirit of our God, and hopefully a stirring example of what could be accomplished in other regional centres in our state.

There are so many other examples of God's goodness in things like the provision of our location in the school, the upbeat ministry attitude of the people in our launch team, and the news we keep receiving of other churches in our state praying for the work of Jesus in Emerald.

Work still to do

As encouraging as the launch day was, it was also a realistic reminder of how much work there is still to do. As many people as we had present on the day, there was only one family truly visiting to investigate the church. Growth is the goal, and merely constructing a Sunday service doesn't guarantee that. Since the launch we have been encouraged to welcome genuine visitors almost every week, but we remain jealous for your prayers and support while we knuckle down for the exciting slog ahead.



Rod and Nat McLennan

News from around the State



Messy Kidz: An Outreach Ministry of Browns Plains Presbyterian Church

It offers self-directed, multi-sensory and unstructured play for preschool children 0-5 years of age who are under supervision of a parent or grandparent. We provide the opportunity for them to play with messy stuff. Mums, dads, grandparents, come and have a chat with some of our congregation members and each other while they watch their child play at their own pace, and become really creative, experiencing many textures, shapes and colours.

They play with goo, coloured spaghetti, 'snow', water pistols, dress-ups, shredded paper and water features. They can crawl in tunnels, do craft, paint with different things or just ride on a scooter. Actually, they can make it all they want... and we clean up the mess afterwards.

**'Play is the highest form of research'
(Einstein)**

We see about 140 children, accompanied by about 125 parents and grandparents coming through our church hall doors each fortnight.

Please pray for wisdom on how to best reach out to the many people that God has sent to us.



Tots 'n' Tunes: Ministry of Graceville Presbyterian Church Reaching the Stay-At-Home-Mums (SAHMs)

Tots 'n' Tunes ministry at Graceville Presbyterian Church is aiming to reach the Stay-At-Home-Mums (and Dads!). They also welcome many part-time working parents, grandparents and nannies. Whilst there might be a perception that these carers have it easy, this lifestyle has its challenges.

The parenting scene has changed in recent decades. There is a great deal of societal pressure to do the best possible for the child through a range of socio-cultural activities.

So what makes Tots 'n' Tunes unique in this age of extra-curricular activities?

Firstly, we are culturally relevant by offering a quality music and movement class at a reasonable price with morning tea and coffee included for our sleep-deprived parents followed by a general playtime.

Secondly, we care about our mums, dads, grandparents and carers. We do our best to build relationships with them—involving them in our lives plus church activities such as Women's Coffee & Dessert Nights, our church Bush Dance, etc. It is not just about the Thursday morning session.

Thirdly, we are all volunteers—not seeking to make a profit.

Fourthly, we don't lock our families into 'contracts'. For many extra-curricular activities you have to pay in advance for the

whole school term. But at Tots 'n' Tunes we recognise that parenting can be a bumpy ride. We realise that lack of sleep, illness and other things can get in the way.

Fifthly, we don't ask our families to do anything. They are not expected to contribute to morning tea or clean up afterwards. Instead we ask volunteers from our church to give a hand or simply be there to chat to a mum or dad, and it seems to be working. Recently we had 47 children and 30+ mums, dads, grandparents and carers attend our Thursday morning group. Very few of this number attend a church, although we have been blessed as a church to see a number of families come to join us regularly on Sundays through this.

Providing a music group for the SAHMs in your local area is a great way to connect with the local community. When you provide something unique, word-of-mouth will be a great advertisement. And that is what seems to be happening at Graceville Presbyterian Church of late. We definitely feel like it is an exciting time!

Feel free to join us at Tots 'n' Tunes on a Thursday morning at 9:30am (school terms).

You can find us at 12 Bank Road, Graceville or on Facebook at:

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

Walking Home: **A book written by Andrew Sav**

Andrew Sav is a member of a Presbyterian Church in Queensland which has supported him in his work as a Linguist and Bible Translator in France. His many years studying languages along with his naturally quick wit shine through on every page of the book, *Walking Home*. He is a husband, a father, and grandfather.

Six years ago Andrew Sav's desire to reconnect with his homeland unexpectedly evolved into a grueling 2000 kilometre trek to raise awareness for the nearly 2000 languages that do not yet have any part of God's Word translated. On 24 August 2010, with two of his mates, Andrew walked from Cairns in north Queensland to their hometown of Stanthorpe in the far south. *Walking Home* is Andrew's comical and gritty account of the eighty day journey, painting a vivid picture of the need for Bible translation work as he goes.

'The 2000 Walk' as it became known, attracted significant media attention around Australia, and was followed by thousands of people in more than fifty countries. In *Walking Home*, Andrew pulls back the curtain and reveals his surprising behind-the-scenes story—the agony, laughter, disappointment, absurdity, mess-ups, conflicts and close encounters as he and two friends walked the 2000 kilometres. Andrew takes the reader along with him on the journey; from initial visions of meandering national park trails, and chance encounters with quirky country folk, to the eventual punishing realities of seemingly endless bitumen roads, church presentations, careening trucks, snakes—and of course, blisters.

While it is a great read about a wild adventure, *Walking Home* gently challenges the reader regarding the need for Bible translation work, and the millions of people still without access to God's Word.

Take the first step and walk home with Andrew, seeing the sights, the strength and the strain, but also how God might use you to see the Bible translated into every language.

And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.
Matt 24.14

Copies of the book can be purchased from www.walkinghome2000.com. Cost is \$20 including postage. Discounts apply for purchases of six or more copies.



L-R: David Carnell (Dave), Andrew Sav (Sav) and Andrew Carnell (Carnsey)

News from around the State



Report on the General Assembly of Australia

by Mike O'Connor

The 49th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia met in Sydney on 12-15 September 2016. Ministers and Elders from each of Queensland's Presbyteries, as well as elected Commissioners from our State Assembly, and Office Bearers of the General Assembly were in attendance.

David Cook gave an excellent talk on the opening night, encouraging Ministers, Elders, and our churches to continue the work of preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ and making disciples for him. David gave some very helpful reflections about his time as Moderator General. He spoke warmly of visits to Queensland churches and mentioned that one of his great encouragements was seeing recent church planting initiatives across Australia.

The new Moderator General, John Wilson (Victoria), chaired the business of the Assembly in a gracious manner and helpfully directed the debate. The report of the Church and Nation committee which proposed that all Presbyterian ministers no longer conduct marriages under the *Marriage Act* should the laws be changed to include same sex marriages was defeated. Should the law be changed to include same-sex marriages, the Presbyterian Church of Australia will continue to allow its

ministers to conduct marriages only between a man and a woman according to the rites of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

Alistair Bain from Hobart gave the Assembly expositions, three talks from the book of Acts which proved stimulating, relevant and challenging for the Assembly's commissioners. It was encouraging to see the signing of a partnership agreement between the Presbyterian Church of Australia and the Presbyterian Church of Japan, and to be reminded of our APWM missionaries serving in Japan. Please remember the Evans, Ramsays and Stewarts in your prayers.

Finally, Queensland churches are encouraged to mark the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation next year by inviting an evangelist to come and give an evangelistic talk. David Cook has assembled a panel of evangelists for the occasion and our churches are encouraged to arrange an evangelist event, a church service or a dinner. Please contact David who will put your church in contact with one of the panel of evangelists.

Children & Youth Ministry



Kicking off holiday camp season, Spring Camp took place on 16-19 September. Youth groups from South East Queensland joined together to deepen their connections with each other and to be built up in boldness to live for Jesus.

Joshua Dodd from Dalby Presbyterian Church led us through the early chapters of Acts, showing how God makes his people bold to share the Gospel. Each night he then shared stories of

people, both famous and ordinary who stood for Jesus in the face of opposition.

Add in some tubing and quality beach time, and you have the recipe for an excellent weekend!

We are looking forward to an extended version of Spring Camp in 2017 for five great nights!



Fun and Adventure Camp is always a phenomenal week. Thirty-odd staff (and yes some of them are very odd), and eight kitchen hands, one chef and more camp kids than you can poke a stick at rocked up to Camp Moogerah for another round of fun, adventure, skiing, singing, tubing, discussions, sports, chats, Philippians, and much more.

We were straight into the action from Sunday, getting to know our groups in team challenges followed by dinner, then 200 people singing praises to our 'Great God' in the not-so-great Moogerah shed. Ben Mansfield from Southside Presbyterian Church brought us six talks from Philippians, taking us through the whole book and challenging us to be a part of something greater. Through this we had the chance to reflect on our stories (both leaders and campers), and share what our story is

in light of God's greater story. What a great joy to see kids from all walks of life asking questions about life as a Christian.

A great number of kids on camp came from Central Youth, Acacia Ridge Youth, Southside Youth and Creek Road Springfield, along with others who have been invited via word of mouth. It is great to see Christian kids encouraged in their faith, as well as campers hearing about God for the first time—some even deciding to follow Him and become a part of something greater! We've already seen a whole stack of these campers (and their families) plug back into one of the four churches mentioned above, and can't wait to see how they will continue to grow in their love and knowledge of God.

Thanks for your prayers. Go check out the Fun and Adventure Facebook Page for more pics and encouraging stories.



The Changing Face of Queensland Theological College for 2017

Queensland Theological College (QTC) is thrilled to be moving into a new campus early next year, at 369 Boundary Road, Spring Hill. We thank God for this provision and look forward to introducing our new and current students to larger lecture rooms, a new library, and friendly communal spaces. We're also excited to welcome future guest speakers including Carl Trueman and Paul Tripp who will deliver public talks in our own brand new auditorium, as well as at larger venues in the city.

Next year, we will be offering many flexible study options. Night school will be starting for the first time in February, on Mondays from 6-9pm. Join our Greek and New Testament lecturer, Wes Redgen, as he teaches an introductory Gospels unit. In partnership with Youthworks, QTC is starting *Year 13*, a discipleship gap year program available to school leavers.

We will be offering Old Testament and Ethics online units, and will continue to run intensive units at Townsville and Cairns, and our Ministry to Women and counselling courses. We hope these study options, along with our undergraduate and postgraduate full and part-time study streams, will enable a diverse range of people to learn God's word with us, and become better equipped for ministry.

QTC's new changes wouldn't be possible if it wasn't for the support of the Presbyterian Church of Queensland, local churches and generous donors. If you'd like to partner with us financially as we grow in staff and student numbers, move to our new home, and reach out to urban and regional centres, please visit our webpage at www.qtc.edu.au/support, and don't forget to sign up to receive our updates. If you'd enjoy becoming a QTC volunteer, please email admin@qtc.edu.au.



Carl Trueman

Join us as we celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation

Monday 24 July 2017

- Day Conference:

'Luther: The man and his theology'

- Public Celebration:

'Reformation 500 - Celebrating Martin Luther's legacy'

Visit qtc.edu.au/events to register for updates



Queensland
Theological College

17-19 AUGUST 2017

Paul Tripp is coming to QTC,
save the dates.

Register for updates and view the conference schedule:
www.qtc.edu.au/events





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

Australian Presbyterian World Mission

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

CONVICTION, PASSION AND ZEAL



Martin Eagle is an APWM Partner Church missionary serving with the Evangelical Reformed Church of Myanmar (ERC). In this interview he shares some of the things that he has learned while serving in Myanmar.

What is ministry in Myanmar like for you?

Ministry here is both rewarding and challenging. Myanmar culture is rich and complex, and so working with locals takes some navigating. Teaching and preaching needs to be done with cultural sensitivity and with a focus on how the lesson or message might best be understood. Likewise, discipleship and evangelism also require some insight into life and cultural norms.

You serve with the Evangelical Reformed Presbyterian Church of Myanmar.

What are the church's strengths?

ERC's strengths lie in its conviction of a Reformed understanding of life, worship, and ministry, as well as the need to reach out to communities who don't yet know about Jesus. With two recent church plants in otherwise mostly unreached areas, ERC and the young men sent to work in those places show a conviction, passion, and zeal for the lost that is both inspiring and humbling.

What are the challenges that the church at large faces?

"To be Myanmar is to be Buddhist, and to be Buddhist is to be Myanmar." That saying is common, and it's at the core of many of the challenges the church faces. It's often difficult to make Christ known to a people whose culture tells them that any other belief is a betrayal of their fellow countrymen. Couple that with the idea that Christianity is a Western religion and one whose followers are the lowest of the low in Myanmar, and the church is then on the back foot from the get-go. In addition, the church at large here faces problems from

within, not least of those coming from the itinerant prosperity gospel preachers, and a general lack of Biblical understanding, and a desire to know the Bible more, amongst everyday believers.

What are the differences between being a Christian in Myanmar compared to being a Christian in Australia?

For some, following Christ could mean being rejected and disowned by one's family and friends, but I don't hear of this happening very often. Myanmar is progressing toward Westernisation at an alarming rate, having only recently opened itself up to allow the West in. People in general, but more so young people, are seeking to be less Myanmar and more Western, or at least more modern-Asian, like their South Korean neighbours. The church, unfortunately, isn't immune to this chase, and so for many believers, young and old alike, their faith is often compromised, and sometimes betrayed, by their desire to be less Myanmar. This thinking is possibly why following Christ is less 'dangerous', but it's far from straightforward or normal. Though in Australia Christianity is less normal nowadays, it's still a more normal religion than others, and finding other believers and good Bible teaching churches isn't that difficult. Here, however, good, solid, Bible-based, Christ-centred churches are jewels less easy to find than Myanmar's famed gems.



Students from the Reformed Bible Institute

Please tell us about your plans for Home Assignment in 2017.

Lord willing, I will spend time with family on the West and East coasts, catch up with a few friends, and then hit the road and air

for deputation as far south as Hobart and as far north as Cairns. I need to be poked and prodded by doctors and dentists in the midst of all that, and if I make it, I'll celebrate my 50th in late April.

Martin will be in Australia on leave and home assignment until late April. We are seeking to raise an additional \$20,000 per year to support the ministry in which he is engaged. If you would like to join Martin's support team then please go to www.apwm.org.au/supporting/finance or send your response to APWM at 81 Shaftesbury Road, Burwood NSW 2134.

APWM CHRISTMAS CATALOGUE

APWM is once again running a Christmas Catalogue to support the ministries of our partner churches. For example:

TRAINING (TIMOR LESTE) \$10

PASTOR'S WIDOWS (VANUATU) \$20

PRISON MINISTRY (MALAWI) \$30

For details please go to

<http://tinyurl.com/hwo4rd6>



APWM

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

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A TALE OF TWO TOWNS

Located in the foothills of the Snowy Mountains, the small town of Bombala serves as something of a gateway to the spectacular High Country area of NSW and Victoria. With a population of some 1,200 people, the town's main claim to fame is its large resident population of platypus and its status as runner up in the competition to become the nation's capital (around 1903). People in the area work in the timber industry, farm sheep and serve tourists heading to the ski fields each winter and grey nomads passing through in the summer. Snow is not an uncommon sight in the town each winter, and the edges of the local river become encrusted with ice after a succession of cold days and nights. Rolling green hills and large forested areas dominate the landscape, and snow-capped mountains can be seen in the distance.

A couple of thousand kilometres away, as the wedge-tailed eagle flies, lies the



Bombala Presbyterian Church

mining town of Mt Isa. Home to one of the most productive mines in world history, the town supports a population of some 22,000 people who work not only in the mine itself but also in a wide range of other activities. The town also provides services, including health and education, to the vast cattle stations of western Queensland. A hot and semi-arid climate, Mt Isa experiences very hot summers with the occasional monsoonal deluge. During the winter things cool down somewhat, and every few years the mercury drops below 0 degrees overnight. Wide-open spaces, rocky outcrops and sparse vegetation dominate the horizon.

Geographically, Bombala and Mt Isa don't have much in common. They look different and they feel different. That is because they are different. But they share some similarities. Both towns have long-established Presbyterian churches that are still operating today. In both places God's people gather each week to worship and to sit under the Word. In both places the congregations have persevered for years, without a minister or a home missionary. Faithful local people, diligent Interim Moderators and occasional visiting preachers have helped to keep the doors to these churches open. But without a permanent Gospel worker, it is hard for these churches to move beyond simply surviving. Yet they exist in places with deep spiritual needs and limited Gospel witness. Drive out of these towns on one of the dirt roads that extends from them and it's not long before you begin to encounter people living in very isolated places, who have very limited exposure to



Mount Isa Presbyterian Church

the Gospel. People who rarely meet Christians and who have very little opportunity to hear the Good News.

These two towns have another similarity. They are both ideal places from which to base a PIM Patrol team. A team located in Bombala or Mt Isa would be an enormous encouragement to the local church and would be able to enter into the life and witness in the town. Each of those towns provides a suitable base from which to build a patrol ministry reaching those in the isolated areas away from the towns.

There is just one problem. We have no one to take on the job. Yes, relocating to an isolated town is a challenge and involves a degree of sacrifice. But the Gospel opportunities are there and they are real. Please join with us in praying to the Lord of the harvest to raise up workers for this harvest field. If you are personally interested, or know of someone who might be suitable, please contact the PIM CEO Andrew Letcher. He awaits your call with eagerness!



Winning Innovative Team keeps Residents Away from Hospital

In the last five years, the growth of Australia's aging population has seen the number of aged care residents transferred to Emergency Departments increase by 10%.

In addition to being costly, stressful, and often unnecessary; for the residents of PresCare's Alexandra Gardens in North Rockhampton, a trip to the hospital is a frightening and often lonely experience; one that they would prefer to avoid.

For one inseparable married couple residing at Alexandra Gardens (pictured), when an injury resulted in the need for surgery, the trauma of being separated in an unfamiliar environment resulted in a plea to never return to the hospital again, and in their words, "stay at 'home' and be looked after here (Alexandra Gardens)".



Realising this sentiment was shared by the majority of residents, the team at Alexandra Gardens launched the Sub Acute Care program in 2014 to better manage clinical deterioration in residents and avoid unnecessary hospitalisation while maintaining a high level of care.

The program focused on proactive care through a simple Green - Yellow - Red traffic light system to detect, assess, report and respond early to a deteriorating resident.



Within the first 12 months, the number of residents transferred to hospital decreased by a significant 50% and the total number of days residents were in hospital decreased by 57%.

The effectiveness of the program was exemplified during Cyclone Marcia last year. For five days, Alexandra Gardens had no power and staff had to care for residents in 40 degree heat, with high humidity and no air conditioning.

The program enabled staff to quickly identify which residents needed care, preventing the need for hospital transfers at a time when hospitals and emergency services were stretched.

PresCare Alexandra Gardens Facility Manager, Sandra Thomson, said the program had significantly increased resident satisfaction.

"Our residents don't like to go to hospital and it's much better to intervene before they get to that point. Often they feel lost or forgotten in a busy hospital environment, so should our residents experience health issues, we want to give them the care they need in familiar surrounds, where they have friends and family close."

In recognition of their efforts, in early August, the team at PresCare Alexandra Gardens won the prestigious Team Innovation award at the HESTA Aged Care Awards, a success which also saw them go on to win at the Australian Aged Care Quality Agency Better Practice Awards.

The program is a shining example of the dedication and support PresCare's staff and volunteers display on a daily basis, and following a positive evaluation by Central Queensland University (CQU), it comes as no surprise that the program is set to expand to other residential facilities soon.

Improved Care for Clients and Chaplains

The implementation of a new program and framework for PresCare chaplains is set to demystify their role in the aging arena, and see improved care not only for clients, but greater self-care for chaplains.

According to Danny Mihailovic, the PresCare Director of Chaplaincy, where chaplains were previously seen as the 'jack of all trades', this new program and framework will provide a clear career path for chaplains - ensuring they are placed in a facility within the PresCare family that best matches their skills.

By working to their specified skill level, chaplains will be equipped to provide suitable care for clients while ensuring care for themselves in the process.

"The outcome of this program will also bring recognition to the importance of chaplaincy in PresCare's holistic approach to caring. Clients who indicate they would like chaplaincy visits will be introduced to a chaplain not long after admission to a facility or upon receiving a home care package. It is proposed that a spiritual assessment will be made by a senior chaplain in order to ensure an effective spiritual care plan is in place. This will result in a strong and enduring relationship between the chaplain, client, and staff of the PresCare family."



Danny Mihailovic
PresCare Director of Chaplaincy



EDUCATION AND VALUE FOR LIFE

Clayfield College

Girls: Pre-prep to Year 12 **Boarding:** Girls from Year 5
Boys: Pre-prep to Year 5
(07) 3262 0262 www.clayfield.qld.edu.au

Brisbane Boys' College

Boys: Prep to Year 12
Boarding: Years 5 to 12
(07) 3309 3500 www.bbc.qld.edu.au

Presbyterian and Methodist Schools Association www.pmsa-schools.edu.au
 A ministry of the United and Presbyterian Churches, providing excellence in education in a Christian and caring environment.

Somerville House

Day and boarding school from Prep to Year 12
 and a day school for pre-prep girls and boys
Boarding: Years 6 to 12
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Positions Vacant

The Presbytery of New England in Northern NSW currently has several vacancies which it is seeking to fill:

MANILLA (sanctioned charge)

Located some 40kms north of Tamworth, this charge is actively seeking an ordained minister to fill its pastoral vacancy. It is an active fellowship located in a small township with an active congregation seeking to reach their wider community.

Interim Moderator:

Rev Graham Barnes,
 8, Hill St. East, Walcha, NSW 2354
grabarnes@gmail.com

GLEN INNES (home mission)

Located on the New England highway, halfway between Armidale & Tenterfield, Glen Innes is a smaller, but vital congregation which seeks a pastor to lead them in engaging and developing the many opportunities for the Gospel in this township. It is anticipated that its status may be varied to a pastoral charge in the near future.

HM Moderator:

Rev David Hassan
 53, Graham Street, Tamworth, NSW 2340
davidhas@bigpond.com

GUYRA - BEN LOMOND (home mission)

Found approximately 40kms north of Armidale, at one of the highest points of the New England range, Guyra is a small congregation which seeks a pastor to lead them in developing a fresh vision for their community, following a voluntary private appointment of some 16 years. Ideally, this would suit a part-time missionary who was either a self-funded retiree, or who could find some support in another occupation.

HM Moderator:

Rev Gaius Goh
 PO Box 4114, Armidale NSW 2350
vrhcggo@gmail.com

Further enquiries to the Interim Moderator/Moderator of the respective charges

Camp Bunya Mountains

URGENTLY REQUIRES A CARETAKER/MANAGER

For its 80 bed facility situated at the picturesque Bunya Mountains, 45 minutes from both Kingaroy and Dalby.

The Management Committee is looking for a person or persons who are committed Christians, active and motivated to provide a quality experience for our Campers.

The Caretakers are supported by a small active Management Committee.

Terms and Conditions will include (but are not limited to):

- Rent free two bedroom Cottage situated beside the Campsite (partly furnished)
- Performance based Honorarium
- Part payments of electricity, telephone and internet costs
- Light duties expected – Handyman and /or computer skills an advantage
- Full or part time, long or short term tenure will be considered

For further information or to submit an expression of interest for the position, please contact the Secretary (Vicki Whittle) on 0427 590 519 or email tiganne@bigpond.com or the Chairman (Ewan Hosking) on (07) 4627 1574.