

fellow workers

NEWS FROM AROUND THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA

A PUBLICATION OF THE PCV STATE NEWS COMMITTEE

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index

| | |
|---|---|
| A portrait of Jesus | 1 |
| On the road with the old MG | 2 |
| Editorial | 2 |
| The best job in the world | 3 |
| PYV news | 4 |
| Students exhorted to approach gospel ministry on biblical basis | 5 |
| Around the church | 6 |
| APWM: What's in an acronym? | 7 |
| Rebuilding Sudan | 8 |

contribute

Your contributions to *fellow workers* are welcome! *fellow workers* is now published every quarter (March, June, September & December). All copy and enquiries should be sent to the editor (contact details above). The deadline for contributions to the next issue is **8th June**. Photographs should be digital and sent by email if possible.

a portrait of jesus

When we study a portrait we look at the details to see if it captures distinctive features and the essence of character. We look at the details as well as standing back and looking at the whole combination of details.

The best portraits of Jesus that we have are not paintings or photographs but words. One example of a word-based portrait is the description of Jesus found in Hebrews 1.1-3. Let's start with a close up look at the details of this portrait.

1) Jesus is God's final Word (v1-2a). Here, all past revelation is set in contrast to speaking through the Son, Jesus. He is presented as the final Word, the comprehensive Word. While He never wrote anything Himself, Jesus spoke verbally and others recorded His words or like Paul, expounded on the message. We also know the saying, 'Actions speak louder than words.' The birth, death, resurrection and ascension is God speaking in the loudest possible way of His love and care for the world. The active ministry of Jesus is itself the word, the message of love and salvation.

2) Jesus inherits it all (v2b). This is simply a way of saying that everything belongs to Jesus. Put in human terms, He will inherit everything that belongs to God the Father. Other Scriptures say that this is both His natural right and his earned privilege!

3) Jesus made it all (v2c). Time and time again the Scripture says that the creation of the universe was the work of the Son. Another example is John 1.3: 'Through him all things were made; with-

out him nothing was made that has been made.' Jesus predates the universe!

4) Jesus carries it all (v3b). Jumping for a moment into the middle of v3 it says that He sustains all things. Sustaining also has the meaning of to carry along. Jesus is not only sustaining the universe by holding it together, he is also taking it somewhere! Despite the fall into sin and human waywardness, God's plans for the world and for humanity will still succeed because the sustaining work of Jesus will carry it along to fulfilment.

5) Jesus is God (v3a) The phrase exact representation literally means 'made from the same mould.' Therefore, while being a separate person, Jesus is in nature exactly like God the Father. All the attributes belonging to God the Father belong to Jesus. Jesus is not like God, Jesus doesn't just reflect God – He is God! The very same nature, the very same glory. Likewise for the Holy Spirit.

6) Jesus is Saviour (v3c). This reminds us that Jesus came to save. 'I have come to seek and to save the lost.' It tells us of what Jesus did to save us; He went to the cross as a sacrifice for sin.

7) Jesus is Ruler (v3d) To be at the right hand means that he is co-ruler with God the Father. This informs us that Jesus is the living Saviour who miraculously ascended to Heaven.

If the Father and the Son are ruling over the universe right now, why is the world in such a mess? Let's think of it this way. On TV there is a show about aeroplane disasters. One example was the case of a plane losing part of its roof. The crippled plane was on the verge of

Continued page 8

on the road with the old mg

Although the course offerings in our theological colleges have broadened considerably in recent years, 'MG 101' hasn't yet made it into the college handbooks. No one tells you how to be Moderator General. That's not quite true. I'm grateful to my predecessor for his help and advice, and to all those who've gone before, each one making and moulding the job according to the gifts God has given him. But by and large once the General Assembly of Australia has been dissolved into a state not unlike 'eternal subsistence', the Moderator General is largely left to his own devices as during the next three years he in a sense personifies the church, all the while seeking to lead, guide and encourage her. And I am sure that everyone who holds this office will agree with me that to do this takes every skerrick of grace and giftedness the Lord is pleased to give us as each one brings his own gifts, his own burdens and his own experiences in ministry to bear on the moderatorial task.

With a little less than a year to go before the next GAA, and my successor already chosen, I've entered the home stretch and the end is in sight, and I'm glad to have this opportunity of sharing with you something of the work of the Moderator General. Perhaps the best way to do this is to ask you to hop in as we take the MG out on the road. The last couple of months have been particularly busy, but they nevertheless typify the last couple of years.

First, There Was the Trip to Zambia to be 'Guest of Honour' at the Zambia Synod of the Church of Central Africa – Presbyterian. Like us, CCAP Zambia is a continuing church following the establishment of the United Church of Zambia some years ago. (I've discovered, incidentally, that wherever there's a United or Uniting type church anywhere in the world there will almost certainly be a continuing Presbyterian Church, and it's generally a conservative, evangelical church like ours. We have a growing ministry of encouragement as a denomination to these sister churches.)

This is my second visit to Zambia. The first was a follow-on from attendance at the World Reformed Fellowship General Assembly in Johannesburg earlier in the year, and this invitation arose from that visit. The Guest of Honour at an African Synod or Assembly preaches at the Opening Service and declares the Synod open, delivers Bible studies morning and evening each day and gives a summing up of the Synod as he closes it, all the while being available to numerous people as they share their needs and burdens with him.

How I love Zambia and its warm-hearted, devout Presbyterians who are 'always abounding in the work of the Lord'! Just 150 years ago David Livingstone came through here, down the Zambezi after discovering 'The Smoke That Thunders'. He called it 'Victoria Falls' and he knew this area as 'Darkest Africa'. Well today, the light of the Gospel has dispelled much of the heathen darkness, and

Zambia is far more a Christian country than Australia ever was.

Back Home, and It's Time to Celebrate.

Malvern Presbyterian Church is 100 years old, and the local MHR, one Peter Costello, joins us for the celebration. Then it's over to Naracoorte in the South East of South Australia for their 150th, and on the way back to Melbourne we stop off at Ararat for the Opening and Dedication of their new church. This is something special, as Ararat is one of our re-planted churches following church union. For many years it has met in the local Scout Hall, but now it has been able to purchase a former restaurant and turn it into a very functional church building – a turn-up for the books, as so many former churches have been sold and converted into restaurants (and worse) but this former restaurant has now been turned into a church!

Then We Head West, to attend the Western Australian General Assembly. The GAA instructed the Moderator General to particularly encourage the churches in the smaller states (SA, WA and TAS) and to report to the next GAA on how the larger states might help them. It's always a joy to be with our brethren in WA. Yes the church is small and chronically under-resourced, but their faith is strong and they are determined to do the job, even at great personal sacrifice.

Trips to Sydney and Canberra for National Heads of Churches and the National Prayer Breakfast respectively bring in the last of the Frequent Flyer points for the month, but far more importantly enable us to take our place in the wider church. We have a unique role to play in the overall life of the Church in Australia. Being the 'smallest of the biggest' (after the Anglican, Roman and Uniting) and the 'biggest of the smallest' (before all the rest) we can nestle into a little niche in which as Bible-believing, evangelical, mission-minded Christians we can encourage similar but smaller denominations on the one hand and similar groups and individuals within the larger denominations on the other.

And There's Always the 'Day Job'. In 'real life' I'm the minister of St Kilda-Balaclava here in Melbourne, where I'm ably and faithfully supported by my assistant, Rev Tony Johnson. We have a small but significant ministry here. In Balaclava

editorial

Welcome to a new year of **fellow workers**. We are looking forward to a wonderful year in the life and ministry of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria. Our desire is to continue bringing to our readers the news and events which are taking place in the various congregations, committees, the College and other parts of the church. The vision of **fellow workers** is to bring your news to the whole church. One of the ways we are able to do this is through placing advertisements in the magazine. In order to

encourage more advertising the State News Committee has decided to cut the prices for advertisements in half. An even more economical way to advertise your church's events is to submit a short article to **fellow workers**. Either way, please continue to send in your news and notices of upcoming events. May the Lord richly bless our church with a rich harvest of souls in 2007 as we serve Him in our respective corners of the vineyard.

Rev Tony Johnson
Editor

our church is a little Christian enclave in the midst of the Jewish area of Melbourne. We're the only Protestant Church here and we're determined to keep the Faith. We're also the only church of any kind in our part of St Kilda (on Barkly's Hill, above the Junction). We're the first port of call for many new arrivals in Australia. At the present time we have a Sri Lankan couple, a Korean family, two single Koreans, an Indonesian lady, a white South African and a black South African worshipping with us. Tony conducts English language classes twice a week, and some of these people have come to our church as a result. Having a large motel down the road we see a lot of visitors from overseas. Many of them are used to worshipping in liberal churches back where they come from. They come to St Kilda Presbyterian Church expecting a safe haven, but they hear the Gospel! Some go away converted, praise God. And then there are the 'St Kilda Specials' who come in off the street. Last Sunday night one was so 'high' I had to sit next to him and pacify him while Tony preached, and the only way to stop him from falling over while we sang the hymns was to hug him! He hugged me too, and although he was too pickled to sing, he was able to beat strict time on my back.

But Wait, There's More. I'm helping out at the moment with the editing of 'New Life', Australia's Fortnightly Christian News Magazine. This non-trans-multi-inter-denominational publication has been the flagship of evangelical Christianity in Australia for more than 60 years, but it has fallen on hard times, and a team of us are acting in a voluntary capacity to try to revive it and keep it going. One of the blessings of computerisation is that it has turned publishing into a cottage industry, but we do need the support of the Lord's people. If you'd like a free sample copy just drop me a line at crthomas@pcvic.org.au

In Conclusion, this is a ministry of encouraging, equipping and enabling the Lord's people. It takes everything a man has to do it, and it can only be done with the Lord's own enabling and the prayerful support of His people. I covet your prayers even as I claim the promise of Philippians 4.13, 'I can do all things through Him who gives me strength.'

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Rt Rev Bob Thomas
Moderator General

the best job in the world

'Hi! I'm Keith. I'm a chaplain. And I've

got the best job in the world. I get to meet lots of people, talk with them, and I get paid for doing it. Can you think of a better job?' That's one of the greetings I use when meeting people for the first time at The Royal Children's Hospital. As an ice breaker it seems to work well, especially with men. I love being at The Children's and I consider it a great privilege to have been given this particular ministry. To tell you about chaplaincy, I will introduce you to some of the people I have met. I'd love to be able to tell you their real names but I can't so I've made up some names for them.

Sonia is a Muslim lady whose 5 year old daughter was a patient. I had visited with them a few times. One Friday, as I visited in the ward, I noticed both Sonia and her husband with tears running down their faces. As I spoke to them, they shared with me that they had just been given the news their daughter probably wouldn't make it through the weekend. As you can imagine they were devastated and I felt my eyes moistening with them. The first thing I did the following Monday morning was to see if the girl was still alive. She was. Each day, I would go to the ward and it was gut wrenching to see Sonia sitting with her daughter who appeared to be little more than a vegetable. You can imagine my delight when a few weeks later, I walked in to see a beaming Sonia. She said, 'I'm glad you came. The doctors have just told me my daughter's kidneys are not getting worse.' It seemed that the girl's condition had reached its low point and that she might pull through. That's what happened. A few weeks later, Sonia was radiant again. She said as I came into their room, 'If you hadn't come, I was going to find you to tell you we are going home.'

Belinda is a teenager and she has anorexia. The first time I went to see her she curled up like a startled rabbit. I introduced myself and hurriedly left. My first encounter with Belinda was over



Keith Bell and a patient at the RCH

in less than 10 seconds. Over the next couple of weeks, by my just saying, 'Hi,' and trying to be friendly, Belinda started to respond. At first she spoke in no more than a faint whisper but gradually she began to speak louder and we had some good conversations. The highlight for me came when Belinda was discharged after 8 weeks in hospital. She went out of her way to find me to say goodbye, to the chagrin of her mother who wanted to leave quickly.

Jody was about 8 months old when I first met her. She had a liver problem and needed a transplant. As I walked into her room she tried to hide behind her mum. It took a few visits before Jody realised I am one of the friendly ones who don't poke or prod, or give needles, or do other things that hurt. After that she would give the most beautiful smile and reach out with her hands in greeting. I visited this family very regularly and was able to spend quite a lot of time with Jody's mum and dad, her brother and sister and her grandparents. Jody was always a delight. Her smile was infectious and she had this amazing ability to work her way into the hearts of all the staff who treated her. Not once was she whingey, nor did she play up on the staff. She loved life and enjoyed it. Each day we hoped that a liver might become available. As the time for her first birthday approached everyone associated with Jody was hoping she would receive a new liver as the best birthday present ever. Sadly, the day after her birthday, Jody's condition nose-dived and she died a week later. I felt privileged when Jody's parents asked me to conduct her funeral service.

Rev Keith Bell
Chaplain, Royal Children's Hospital

pyv summer camp – big news

in brief

The biggest camp in PYV's History: 110 Campers, 45 leaders, intensive stream, Superheros and Villains.

the camp

This year's Summer Camp was a blast! For the first time we were at Lady Northcote YMCA in Bacchus Marsh and it proved to be perfect! John Buchanan from NSW spoke on the 'People Jesus Met in Luke's Gospel' in a way that engaged all those who attended. Those doing the intensive stream were thrilled to have Prof. Allan Harman giving an overview of the Old Testament. Feedback for this stream was very positive, especially since the 'Harman's Heroes' won the activities championship! (Psssst: Rumour has it that next year's lecturer will be... well, we'd like him to come back). The theme for the week was 'Superheroes and Villains' and as usual, a massive New Years Eve party was thrown.

We are aware of two campers who made personal commitments to Jesus! Many others left the camp feeling challenged and energised in their spiritual walk. All praise must go to God who has once again blessed a PYV camp with safety, great teaching, good training and fellowship.

the leaders

More campers means more organisation, so this year saw a big change in the

structure and management of camp leadership. Alex Venn convened a team of coordinators who were responsible for planning and organising particular jobs on camp, with more junior leaders helping to run these jobs. This year we implemented a team of leaders' chaplains who pastorally cared for the leaders throughout camp. These were more experienced people who took their assigned leaders aside throughout camp to debrief and pray.

for you to consider

- Young people: please come to next year's summer camp!
- Churches: consider using PYV to help develop your leaders. There is training before camp (Train 24) and invaluable experience on camp. Please encourage them to participate by offering financial assistance and prayer.

• Older people: Even if you no longer consider yourself youth, PYV still needs your help! Married couples and youth leaders who are mature Christians make a valuable contribution to PYV.

• Everybody: Please continue to pray for PYV. Pray for the state council, leaders, development team and our state youth worker.

Summer camp is open to all who are in year 7 and up. The intensive stream is open to those aged 17-30. Summer Camp 2007/08 will run from 27 December – 2 January. Camps provide an amazing opportunity to meet people from churches all around Victoria, to learn more about God, and to be encouraged to follow Him.

Alex Venn

2006/07 Summer Camp Convenor

from the state youth worker

It's one week before senior camp, and so far we have about 100 people booked in our senior (year 11+) camp titled: 'The 'S' Word.' I'm really looking forward to hearing our panel of speakers help us to connect our understanding of the God of the Bible with our lives in the sexually charged society in which we live.

For junior (grade 6-10) campers, the junior camp from 21-24 September this year is not to be missed. Comedian-turned-minister Bill Medley will be showing us Jesus from John's gospel. Don't forget has all the latest PYV news.

Andrew Vines

PYV Youth Worker

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students exhorted to approach gospel ministry on biblical basis

What will it be like in Gospel ministry? What challenges do we face? What should be important, indeed central to ministry? Dr Tony Bird, Lecturer in New Testament Studies at the Presbyterian Theological College, Melbourne, addressed these questions at the College Commencement Service in Canterbury Presbyterian Church on Monday 12 February. Speaking from 2 Timothy 3 he noted that the first part of this chapter tells us of the context of Gospel ministry, while the second part tells us of the counsel that Paul gives to Timothy in fulfilling that ministry.

1. the context of gospel ministry

Paul gives two particular warnings to Timothy, a young Gospel minister: expect trouble and expect opposition.

Expect Trouble

'In the last days' is a description of the entire period between the first and second comings of Jesus. These last days are not uniformly perilous times, but there will be seasons of trouble, seasons when ministry is particularly stressful, seasons when circumstances seem out of control and when remedies seem beyond our reach or ability. Church history amply confirms for us that this is so. Sometimes the church seems to steadily grow in seasons of peace, sometimes the church comes under severe persecution when faith is tested. The reason why there are terrible

times is given in 3.2. Paul says, there will be terrible times in the last days, for people will be lovers of themselves. Terrible times are caused by certain troublesome people.

Expect Opposition

Peoples' love is misdirected, they are lovers of themselves (3.2); they do not love God (3.4) and the effect of self love is referred to in terms of the breakdown of relations between people. When self is placed on the throne of the heart and in the place of God, then the inevitable consequence is a breakdown in human relations. When a person thinks highly of themselves, they will inevitably look down upon others; they will be arrogant, proud and conceited. Love of self is the source of all kinds of evil. Self love is the foundational sin in all this catalogue of vices and evils. Many people love experience-based Christianity but they have no settled convictions as to doctrine and therefore are easily seduced by any new form of teaching without the means of critically evaluating it by Scripture. What is the lesson for us? Even though false teaching about the Gospel spreads so quickly; and even though we get distressed, or discouraged by it, the lesson here is that it will not destroy the church. We need have no fear. Heresy may have legs and seem to run far, but it will not get far, says Paul. In the end, truth will prevail and the heresy will be exposed for what it is.

2. counsel for a gospel minister

Paul tells Timothy four things by way of counsel:

- Get the right models/mentors for ministry. (3.10,11), who live the Christian life, whose life embodies their teaching, who live a godly life and whose faith has been tested.
- Choose more than one mentor (3.14) – there is safety in a multitude of counselors.
- Be realistic about the world (3.12,13). Paul says that those who want to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted. While optimism is naïve because we live in a world that is broken and hostile to the Gospel, pessimism is atheistic because God is sovereign; He is in control of this world, He is Lord of His church, He has promised that the gates of hell shall not prevail against it – so we may be confident for the future.
- Put your confidence in the Bible (3.14-17). When you are facing times of stress, put your confidence in the Scriptures. Scripture originated with God, Scripture is God-breathed, Scripture is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and for training in righteousness so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. The Word of God makes the man of God!

Article provided by Rt Rev Bob Thomas, editor of 'New Life', Australia's Christian Newspaper.



Seven students graduated with their Australian College of Theology awards: Wing Bing Foong (GradDip); David McClements (BTh Hons); Miles Fagan (BTh); Kyubum Lee (BTh); Kevin Maxwell (BTh); Andrew Vines (BTh); Dean Carroll (BMin).

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around the church

departures and arrivals in the presbytery of kilnoorat

Going

On 3 December 2006, the Parish of Warrnambool farewelled Rev Philip Burns, wife Sandra, and their children Andrew, Katherine, Anna and Matthew at a luncheon following the morning service. After 8 years as Associate Minister in the Warrnambool Parish, Philip accepted a call to St John's Bendigo and was inducted there on 2 March.

Arriving

The congregation at Noorat is rejoicing that their Exit Student, Licentiate Miles Fagan, wife Robyn and children Rebecca and Joel, arrived safely in mid-January at the Noorat Manse (complete with pet rabbits!) and have begun their ministry there. Please pray for God's blessing upon the Fagan family and the Noorat congregation.

Inducted

At a service held at St Andrew's Hamilton on January 19 approximately 150 gathered to witness the induction of the Rev David Schulz as the Minister of the Hamilton Charge. Many members of David's former congregation at Tatura traveled for the occasion which was no surprise considering that David had been their Minister for 18 years! The service was conducted by the Moderator of Presbytery, Rev Bernie Thomas, while the Rev Mark Crabb (Mt Evelyn PC) preached the occasional sermon. David, his wife Isabel, and children Naomi, Philip, Caleb and Nathanael have settled and been warmly welcomed into the Hamilton Manse.

Rev Philip Burns

revitalizing a vital work – home mission workers association

The HMWA (Home Mission Workers Association) is an active body of ladies whose mission is to provide much needed support in a number of different areas. We believe that it is vital that the church support our candidates for the ministry during their studies at the college, assist our home missionaries in their parishes and contribute towards the upkeep of the maintenance of home mission stations. What follows is a brief list of some of the ways in which HMWA provides such assistance:

- We provide book grants and Christmas gift grants for the candidates of the PCV who are studying at the PTC.
- We provide the exit students with a relocation grant to assist them into settling into their first parish.
- In certain circumstance we are able to supply home mission stations with grants towards maintenance on manses and churches. This year we have been pleased to support the following parishes: Scot's West Footscray, Kaniva/Nhill, Skipton-Lismore, Castlemaine, Cranbourne, Sale and Clarinda.

The HMWA operates through link people who are elected in the local congregations. We send out information via our Links Letter.

The work of HMWA is funded through the generous gifts of local congregations, groups and individuals. In this way many faithful people share in the work. The HMWA encourages churches to appoint someone as a link.

If you wish to find out more about the work of HMWA, please contact the President, Rion Jennings (9882 2127) or the Secretary, Barbara Firth (9580 2908).

*Barbara Firth
HMWA Secretary*

farewell to a faithful servant

Ronald William Traill was born at Boort on 3 February 1921 and moved to West Footscray with his family in his early years. His father was Session Clerk and Superintendent at Scot's Presbyterian Church, West Footscray. Through the PFA Ron met Emma, his wife to be. In time, God gave this couple three children - Jen, Geoff and Ro - who with their families made Ron and Emma intensely proud.

It is abundantly clear that God's hand was upon Ron for ministry service. Rejected by the Army, Ron developed a deep hunger for prayer, preaching, teaching and evangelism. The obstacle of a speech impairment was overcome, and the rigours of eleven years of theological study did not deter Ron from pursuing God's call into ordained ministry with the PCA.

During his theological studies, Ron Traill served as Home Missionary at Kongwak (South Gippsland), Manifold Heights (Geelong) and South Oakleigh. His exit appointment was to Daylesford where he served for three years. He was

ordained by the Presbytery of Macedon on 6 May 1955, and celebrated 50 years on 6 May 2005, later in that year being presented with a Certificate by the Moderator at the General Assembly in Warrnambool.

Ron and Emma moved to Bunyip in 1958 and found a very fulfilling ministry of ten years in a parish that had a passion for mission and prayer. Sensing his need for a new work, God called Ron and Emma to Naracoorte, South Australia where they served for another ten years, and where Ron learned to further his pastoral and community outreach skills.

After a second ministry of ten years duration Ron was translated to Epping-Lalor which enabled him to exercise his pastoral skills as Presbyterian Chaplain to the Royal Children's and Royal Melbourne Hospitals. Ron accepted a call to Sunshine where he served for the last three years before his retirement. In retirement, Ron and Emma were led to live in Ballarat, where Ron continued to supply pulpits until over the age of eighty years.

For almost twenty years, Ron and Emma Traill served as Chaplains to Ballarat Base Hospital and associated institutions. They were well known to staff and patients alike and were both presented with Life Governorships Awards in 2006. He was moderator of the General Assembly of the PCV in 1989, hence the title of his biography 'From Tea Billy Boy to Moderator'. God called Ronald William Traill into His glorious presence on 6 December 2006. 'Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you. Before you were born, I set you apart.' To God be the Glory.

Rev Dr J S Woodward

count your many blessings

Don Burdett was born in Swan Hill to Charles James and Leyden Haig Burdett, the youngest of six children. He had four brothers and one sister, Mossie. Don's father died before he was born and Mossie had a large part to play in bringing up Don. The family lived in Moulamein, NSW. Work was scarce so Don's brother and then Don, when he was sixteen, left to live with their aunt in Melbourne in order to find work. Don joined the PMG where he built phone booths and went to night school. Later he was promoted to workshop foreman.

Don and Jean Hurley were married in 1941 and celebrated their 65 wedding anniversary just before he passed away

peaceably at home. Don and Jean had four children, Helen, Peter, Russell, and Ken who died from an accident at school.

Don became a communicant member of St. Andrew's Mordialloc in 1934, was elected to the board of management in 1947 and ordained as an Elder in 1964. At St. Andrew's he was a Sunday School teacher, helped run the Boy's Club, regularly visited sick people and together with his brother Bill, did maintenance work around the Church for many years.

He had a very good singing voice and loved singing the hymns, many of which visibly touched him. 'Count Your Many Blessings' and 'What a Friend We Have in Jesus' were two of his favorites.

Some of the hard times Don experienced were growing up without a father, the death of his young son and having to leave home at age sixteen to find work in the city. In his later years he needed a triple bypass and pacemaker. He had a gentle character and a loving personality and was in possession of a gift no money could buy, the knowledge throughout his life that he was blessed and loved by God and had been given the gift of salvation.

Barbara Firth

licensing service for a new pastor

On a warm summers evening, on the 2 January 2007 the newly inducted minister of South Yarra, the Rev John Stasse preached a heart warming and challenging sermon on the occasion of the licensing of Mr Willem Vandenberg to preach the Gospel. The service was well attended by friends and family. John's sermon was entitled: 'The Marks of the Minister' from Malachi 2. The sermon, although directed to the new licentiate, served as a trumpet call to the pastors and leaders in the congregation. The challenge to godliness, piety and leadership is one that everyone in attendance heard and took to heart. Congratulations to Willem and Pam on their appointment to the Horsham congregation.

a lasting impression

Jean Wishart was born Lorna Jean Eldridge, fifth child of Minnie and William Eldridge of Buninyong. She told of a very happy childhood as part of a large family and often helped with caring for the younger family members. From this she developed a lifelong love of children.

She was educated at Buninyong State School, winning a scholarship to Ballarat School of Mines. In her studies she

excelled in English, shorthand, typing and bookkeeping which equipped for her life long work in business and her church life. She joined the E.S. & A. Bank and met Lee Leypoldt also a Bank Officer. They were married at Scot's Church Ballarat in 1939.

Later they moved to Mordialloc, when Jean's husband, Lee, died in 1961. The family thought she would never recover but Jean devoted her caring to her family, Margaret and David, and later went back to work.

Jeanie married Don in July 1982 at West Hindmarsh, Adelaide. Her life was now devoted to Don, her family, her faith and her garden. Her church floral displays and her love for flowers will always be remembered.

Jeanie's life in St Andrews, which covered more than fifty years, included Sunday School teacher, editor and typist of the Inprint, Secretary of the PWMU, flower and tea roster organiser. She was a friend to many, always there to listen and help.

Barbara Firth

apwm: what's in an acronym?

Acronyms can be very confusing. I'll never forget the time when I was State President of the PFA (Presbyterian Fellowship of Australia) when I received a phone call from a confused young lady. She asked, 'Why has the PFA called today a day of total fire ban?' My astonished reply was something along the lines that the radio announcer had probably said 'CFA' rather than PFA! People can also easily be confused about the acronym APWM (the Australian Presbyterian World Mission), which also has a 'trading name' which describes what APWM does – 'mission partners'. One of the causes behind the name change from APWM to 'mission partners' was the fact that the National Director, Rev. Bill Lutton, was introduced as the Director of PWMU! So just to be sure we all know what we're on about, let's explore what this acronym is all about.

The 'A' and the 'P' indicate that we are Australian and Presbyterian. APWM is the arm of the church (committee if you like) that was started by the Presbyterian Church of Australia to have oversight of and to arrange the support of missionaries from our own denomination. Because APWM was started by the National Church, each state has a State Committee that can be identified accordingly. For instance, the local Victorian committee of APWM is known simply as APWM Vic. (However don't ask why the Queensland Committee is known as COWE instead of APWM Qld!)

The 'W' and the 'M' indicate what we are on about – 'World Mission'. Our focus is not just what happens here in Australia, which is the responsibility of every member, Session and Presbytery, but what happens overseas and amongst the Indigenous population of our land.

Now here is where people get confused, for we 'classify' missionaries, not to indicate that one is any more important than the other, but because there are different types of missionaries in our structure. There are three types of missionaries – a partner church missionary, an associate missionary and a partner society missionary. A partner church missionary (as the name suggests) serves with an overseas church that we have a partnership agreement with – for example, the Connors and the Williamsons with the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu. Such missionaries go out with prayer and support teams, but also the backing and sponsorship of the Presbyterian Church of Australia. An associate missionary serves within the context of a church with which we do not have a partnership agreement – yet. Such missionaries go out with their prayer and support teams but also go out under the auspices of APWM – for example, John and Lyn Ellis in Northern India. A partner society missionary serves under the auspices of another Missionary Society. These missionaries also go out with their own prayer and support teams, but are also responsible to and have dual membership with APWM and their mission society – for example, the Canavans with Wycliffe and Elspeth Slater with SIM.

So what does it all boil down to? Acronyms and names are one thing and in the end don't count much. What does count is that the task of 'making disciples of all nations' that our Master left us – a task we don't have to have an official name or acronym to do – a task that just has to be done! Please pray for us, that by the grace of God, this arm of the Church may be enabled so to do!

*Rev Philip Burns
Convener: APWM*

rebuilding sudan

Sudan has endured two civil wars since independence from Britain in 1956. The first lasted sixteen years and finished in 1972. The second from 1983 to 2004 brought untold destruction and devastation. More than two million people were killed and over three million displaced within Sudan and fleeing as refugees to other countries. Australia has taken the third largest number of South Sudanese refugees after the USA and Canada. Countless buildings including churches and hospitals were destroyed. The war was largely a conflict between the Muslim-dominated government based in Khartoum (The Government of the Republic of the Sudan) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (many of the leaders of which were Christians). The forces from the North occupied much of the South during the war and horrible persecution took place. Virtually no family was spared from this suffering and grief.

In January 2005 the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) was signed in Nairobi which provides for a central Government based in Khartoum but also a separate Government of Southern Sudan (GOSS), with the President of the GOSS also being the Vice President of the central Government. The CPA provides for six years of peace and reconstruction before a referendum in 2010 in the South to decide whether there is to be a united Sudan or the South will secede. Many in the South are already talking secession.

In the midst of this civil war, the Presbyterian Church of Sudan (PCOS) has grown considerably to over 2,000,000 people, being the second largest church after the Catholic. During the civil war the PCOS split into two branches – the church in exile with headquarters in Nairobi and the church in occupation with headquarters in Malakal and Khartoum.

I arrived in Juba from Nairobi on 8 January. Due to difficulties with obtaining visas and flights, we were unable to arrive at Bentui on schedule. Apparently a huge crowd were waiting to welcome us at the airport including the Governor of Unity State and the Moderator of the PCOS. We had to be satisfied with hearing the welcoming drums over the telephone when they rang to see why we hadn't arrived.

On 9 January I attended the Second Anniversary of the CPA at the Juba

Football Stadium at which the President of the GOSS openly criticised the central Government and its President (who was present) for its failure to actively and fully implement the CPA. I spoke on two Sundays at the Nuer congregation, once about the reason for my trip as Moderator of the PCV and once to preach.

The Moderator of the PCOS, Rev John Kang Dung, flew down from Khartoum and spent three days in Juba. He and the local leaders of the church in Juba were greatly encouraged by our visit just as the church had been by Rev Bob Thomas' visit as Moderator-General to Khartoum in December 2004. Support for the PCOS from sister churches overseas has waned in recent years with Mission 21, the Reformed Mission League and the PCUSA being the only active partners at this time.

The PCOS indicated that where resources are available its priorities for the church are:

1. Church reconstruction and building program, particularly in key centres.
2. Training for church leadership (both theological and administrative).
3. Projects for generating income for the church (agricultural equipment, bookshops, pharmacies).
4. Rehabilitation of returnee PCOS pastors.

Clearly some of the funds from the Moderators' Christmas Mercy Appeal for Africa will go to pay the living expenses of theological students and their families training at the PCOS Theological College in Khartoum.

The people of Southern Sudan are in good heart. But there is so much to do – roads and education are crucial needs. There is much poverty (one employed person supports about ten other people). The hope is that if the reconstruction can proceed at a pace and peace can be firmly established, increasingly Southern Sudanese will want to return to their homeland (from refugee camps and other places in the North and from countries outside Sudan to which they have fled).

PEACE is the word of hope in Southern Sudan, but there is uncertainty as to whether this is a lasting peace. Inability to travel freely in the South and restrictions on communications and obvious interference from the North make it clear that there is a real uncertainty about whether it is. The fact that the South is rich in resources – oil and fertile land – create doubt as to whether the central government would allow the South to secede. The only real peace is that which the PCOS and other Christian churches can proclaim – the peace with God and with one's fellow man that comes from knowing Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord. May we be given the privilege of helping the PCOS proclaim that peace.

*Grant Lawry
Moderator of PCV*

continued from p. 1...

disintegration. The skill of the pilots played no small part in landing the plane and saving many lives. Only one person died. When they landed people clapped with gratitude and relief. The pilots were praised. Just as the passengers didn't blame the pilots for the damaged plane, we shouldn't blame God for the brokenness of the world we live in. Jesus is the pilot of a damaged world and is using his skill to land it safely. In the end we will marvel at His skill and wisdom.

So this is the portrait of Jesus. Let's step back and look at it:

Jesus is God's final Word,
Jesus inherits it all,

Jesus made it all,
Jesus carries it all,
Jesus is God,
Jesus is Saviour,
Jesus is Ruler.

This is better than a photograph of Jesus because a photograph could not tell us all these things. A photograph would not do justice to Jesus. Why be disciples of Jesus? Why make Jesus a priority in your life? Why dedicate your life and resources to Jesus? The answer is in this portrait.

*Rev Don Elliot
Pastor at Eltham Presbyterian Church*