

fellow workers

NEWS FROM AROUND THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA

A PUBLICATION OF THE PCV STATE NEWS COMMITTEE

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index

Hang in there!	1
PTC Class of 2007	2
What happened 30 years ago	2
PYV news	4
Dealing with reality	5
Around the church	6
Want to be a missionary?	7
The Lord continues to provide	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 **10th September**. Photographs should be digital and sent by email if possible.

hang in there!

‘I’ve had enough! ... I just can’t take it any more! ... I’m moving out! ... I’m handing in my resignation!’

When was the last time you seriously felt like giving up?

We all have days like that, but for some of us those days turn into weeks, then months of discouragement that saps the life out our natural reserves of enthusiasm and hope.

During the difficult years of the Second World War, Winston Churchill accepted an invitation to address an English boys’ school.

Following the school principal’s welcome and introduction, Churchill rose from his chair on the platform. All eyes were upon him and all ears eagerly waiting to hear this man of famed eloquence.

Winston took his place at the podium, fixed his eyes on the fresh-faced assembly and said with conviction, “Never give in. Never give in. Never, never, never, never - in nothing, great or small, large or petty - never give in, except to convictions of honour and good sense. Never yield to force. Never yield to the apparently overwhelming might of the enemy.”

Those boys would never forget those simple yet profound words. It is the kind of shot in the arm we could all do with from time to time, especially as we are reminded that we all have God-given callings and tasks.

It’s Okay To Admit Your Struggles.

That’s not to say we must deny our weaknesses and times of despair. The Apostle Paul openly confessed to the

Christians in Corinth: “We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about the hardships we suffered in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired even of life.” (2 Cor. 1:8)

His burdens were so heavy on his mind and body that had another problem been laid on his shoulders, he felt he would have collapsed. He was humble enough to not only admit his limitations, but also his struggles.

In some Christian circles, admitting our weakness and struggles is discouraged. Rarely do we hear preachers or elders indicate that they are weighed down with burdens and struggles.

From time to time some gentle souls have said, “I find it really hard to come to church because everyone there ‘has it all together’ and I’m the only one who doesn’t.”

Surely our places of worship and fellowship should be where we can just be ourselves, develop confidence in fellow believers and be free to admit our frailties, our pressures and our struggles.

But Never Lose Heart. John Stott wisely tells us, “The Christian’s chief occupational hazards are depression and discouragement.” While there are many causes for depression and discouragement - physical and spiritual - it is a great help to remember where are our spiritual eyes should be focused. As a season Christian once reminded me, “Look inwardly and you’ll be discouraged; look outwardly and you’ll be disappointed; look up and you’ll be strengthened.”

Continued page 8

class of 2007

john dekker



I grew up in Hobart, and first felt called to the ministry at the age of 18. I knew I needed to wait a little while longer, and so I pursued a career in teaching. I lived in Devonport for three years working as a high-school maths and science teacher. That was a valuable experience for me, for I was able to develop both my communication and my people skills.

I have had a wonderful time at the PTC these last few years, and I have learned so much both from my classes, and from working as a student minister at Scots' Church, Melbourne. Yet I'm definitely looking forward to graduation, and starting parish ministry next year.

As I see it, my task as a pastor is devote myself to the Word of God and to prayer, as the Apostles did in the book of Acts. Speaking God's Word involves preaching and evangelism, but also visiting people in their homes, and addressing each one's particular situation. And of course this necessarily involves listening to people in order to find out individual needs.

My goal is to see God's people filled with such a vision of the gracious Saviour we have that they will be willing and able to declare his praises to people of all nations. This can only be accomplished through the sovereign work of the Holy Spirit, so we are totally dependent on him.

I am still single, and in my spare time I

enjoy reading, blogging, playing board games and collecting coins.

dean carroll



Sandy and I came into the Presbyterian Church just over three years ago, after some part time study at PTC. I had the conviction for nearly 10 years that God wanted me in ministry of some kind, and once a member of Croydon Hills, this conviction grew to become the firm belief that I should candidate for Presbyterian Ministry. This November will see me finishing 7.5 years at PTC and obtaining a Bachelor of Ministries. I am looking forward to putting all that I have learnt into practice in pastoral ministry, initially in Victoria and perhaps later in Malawi. By the time you read this, Sandy and I (and eleven others from PTC) will probably be back from the College Mission to Malawi and Zambia. This is the second time we will have been to Malawi, and we would like to see PCV short-term missions become a regular part of church life. We don't know if this is possible, but God does.

Prior to candidating for the ministry I worked as a Nurse for nine years, the last five in the Emergency Department of the Angliss Hospital in eastern Melbourne. I believe that the experiences I had in that time will serve me well in parish ministry. As well as loving preaching, coffee, small group ministry and reading, I play below-

average golf when I can and am relearning the guitar. Sandy enjoys all sorts of craft, is a great cook and loves a cappuccino and a chat. We are both looking forward to what God has for us to do in our new parish next year as we grow with the congregation in love for God, in making Christ's salvation known, and in good deeds toward the community we are in. I also look forward to the part I may play in strengthening the Presbyterian Church here in Victoria and further a field.

hui lim



Hi, my name is Hui Lim and I came from Singapore 14 years ago. I met my beautiful wife Soyoung Park at Canterbury Presbyterian Church and we were blessed with a gorgeous baby boy Nathan. I would like to share with you my calling to ministry. After going on two short term mission trips to Thailand in the 90s, I was challenged to do tribal mission with New Tribe Mission. So, I applied to study in New Tribes Bible College in western Sydney. My understanding of missionary work was expanded after my 2 year diploma course in biblical studies, so I decided to further my studies at the Bible College of Victoria (BCV), doing a Bachelor of Ministry degree. At BCV, I was again challenged about mission, especially equipping and discipleship training. So, instead of going to a tribe and spending a few years learning the language followed by evangelism, I hope to equip and train Christian workers who can in-turn train and evangelise others.

But, how can I train other workers and equipping them if I am not well-trained myself? With that in mind, I decided to pursue more studies, so that I could be more equipped for the task ahead. After graduating with a Master of Arts in Theology, I was preparing myself to apply as a Master of Theology candidate. But, due to my full-time youth work at Springvale Secondary College, and other ministry involvements I didn't have enough time and energy to submit my thesis proposal, and interestingly there was a new development in my Christian calling. I felt that God was leading me to be a high-

what happened 30 years ago

In July this year, we look back at 30 years since Church Union in Australia. One publication that relates a personal view of this history is that of the Moderator General, the Rt Rev Bob Thomas. In the booklet *The Crisis of 77*, we read a transcript of the talk given at the 2004 Ministers Conference at the PTC. There are not many people still in the Presbyterian Church of Australia who

could have written such an illuminating book on the lead up to Church Union. With thankfulness, we read of some outstanding people God raised up to guide our church to where it is today. Read of the history and heartaches in this 44 page booklet available from PTC Media for just \$5 (plus postage \$2). Contact Mignon on 0400 880 515 or at ptcmedia@presbyteriancollege.org

school chaplain, as I was really enjoying working with students and a strong compassion to love, help and motivate them.

To cut the story short, I spoke to my minister the Rev Grant Lawry and he encouraged me to seek ordination. I am still very passionate in wanting to serve as a chaplain among high school students because I want to evangelise young people, connect them to our local Presbyterian Churches and inspire them to be mission-minded, both through local and overseas missions, and influence them to be biblical and ethical leaders for our society.

Soyoung and I are very excited and look forward to what God has in-store for us next year. Please pray for us that we will do God's will and that God will receive all the glory and honour. Amen

mark smith



My time at college is coming to a close and I am looking forward to embarking on the next phase of ministry that God has in store for myself and my family.

During 2002, God used various circumstances to shake up my thinking and direct my thoughts toward full-time ministry. Whilst hesitant about spending four years at college, my path was directed to Home Mission service in Mildura for just over one year. This time proved beneficial in many respects. It was during this time that God confirmed to me that parish ministry was where he wanted me. I was pleased to have had practical experience prior to college and I trust that the ministry we had in Mildura strengthened God's people there.

In 2004, I entered the Theological College thinking that it would be a long road ahead. Now that I am nearing the completion of this time, it is with thanks that I look back and see how God has guided and enabled me to continue through my studies. College has at times been very challenging but at the same time very rewarding. My understanding of who God is and what he has done has grown, and my love for and faith in our Lord and Saviour has increased.

Together with my wife Danielle and three children Jarrod (8), Nathan (5) and Mikayla (3), we look forward to serving God's people wherever he places us. Whether it be city or country ministry, we

know that wherever we go, there are people who need to be encouraged and built-up in their faith as well as those who need to hear the gospel, perhaps for the first time, and be challenged to submit their lives to the true and living God through Christ.

Please pray for us as we go out into parish ministry. There will be many challenges to face but also many blessings that will come as well. Changes are ahead for us but we continue to trust in the Lord for his provision as we go out in His Name.

kevin maxwell



Kevin and Linda both grew up in the Baptist Church, where they were active in ministry and leadership.

They met in the early nineties and were married in 1994, living and working in the Yarra Valley prior to training for ministry. Kevin has worked as vigneron, in a number of Victoria's premium wine regions. During this time Kevin studied by distance education and completed a degree in Viticulture, from Charles Sturt University. Linda, a Registered Nurse, trained at the Royal Children's Hospital, where she spent many years working in the Neo-Natal unit. After their marriage Linda resigned as a paediatric nurse and commenced geriatric nursing closer to home. While Kevin is preparing for ministry, Linda is working as a Charge Sister in an Aged Care facility. In 2005 Kevin and Linda moved from their home church, Woori-Yallock Presbyterian, to take up their field education appointment with the Bundoora Presbyterian Church, where they are currently serving.

Kevin and Linda have four children; Jonathan, Benjamin, Courtney and Brooke. The two boys are now pursuing their studies and careers away from the family home. In 2007, Jonathan completed his training as an Automotive Mechanic, while Benjamin is pursuing a degree in Engineering; Courtney is completing grade 4 and Brooke grade 2. As a family, the Maxwell's enjoy exploring the Australian high-country and outback by four-wheel drive and bushwalking. Linda and the girls all enjoy various craft activities, while Kevin's interests include fishing, agriculture and ornithology. Kevin and Linda greatly treasure their time at PTC

and enjoy being part of the college community. They have also enjoyed getting to know the wider Presbyterian Church across Victoria and also interstate. As their training comes to a close, they are looking forward to serving the people of God and proclaiming the good news of God's salvation to the community.

clinton le page



Clinton has been happily married to Kirsti for five years, and they have two young children, Josiah (3 yrs) and Alexis (1 year). Clinton

grew up in Melbourne's north-eastern suburbs, studied a biology degree at university, then worked for a few years as a research scientist, with genetically modified clover. He then completed a two year traineeship/ apprenticeship with AFES at La Trobe University, while also being trained at Bundoora Presbyterian. This was an invaluable time of gaining experience in ministry and testing his gifts and passion for gospel ministry. During that period he became convicted that God was calling him into pastoral ministry in the Presbyterian Church. In the last four years of study Clinton has learnt much and been better equipped for congregational ministry. The family's time at Donvale Presbyterian has also been of much benefit. Clinton is eager to begin and looking forward to ministering to people, preaching and visiting, as well as evangelism and training future leaders.

Kirsti grew up in Melbourne's outer north-eastern suburbs, and studied science and then primary teaching at university. Kirsti taught for 7 years at a couple of Christian schools. Caring for the children and the family's home now fills most of her days, along with doing some tutoring and emergency teaching. Kirsti is looking forward to next year, establishing a new home, caring for the family, supporting Clinton's ministry and establishing relationships at their new church.

Clinton and Kirsti also enjoy watching movies, sport and time over meals with people. Josiah and Alexis are wonderful children, lots of fun and active, keeping Mum and Dad busy. Clinton and Kirsti look forward to being wherever God places them, getting to know, and loving and serving his people there.

pyv news

the 's' word

The theme of the 2007 PYV Senior Camp was understanding human sexuality biblically. I think many of us came to camp with a little apprehension. I guess we didn't really know what to expect, or how well we would cope, since it is a topic that few in the church today are willing to enter into.

Matt James spoke at two of the sessions, covering the topic of "God's good work – sexuality." He reminded us that God has built into humans a powerful chemistry, a permanent chemistry, and a creative chemistry. He insightfully reminded us that true love must be based on God's eternal and passionate love for his people. We also had the opportunity to have single-gender talks with Helen Bell and Toby Macintosh speaking to guys and girls respectively. These talks were received well, leaving everyone more equipped for the specific challenges that we face in today's world. One thing that stood out to me after the first talk was the amazing maturity around the campsite. Instead of the crude remarks and jokes that could have been going around, people were being very supportive and encouraging to those around them. This was, no doubt, pleasing for all the leaders that had put so much work into this camp and its topic.

We were also helped by our time in small, gender-specific discussion groups of our similar ages, gender specific, where we got to go more in depth with some of the issues. At certain stages, we would combine with a group of the opposite sex, allowing us to compare notes and better

understand the struggles that our peers experience in everyday life.

All in all, I know that for myself and many others, the camp was well-received and gave people something to think about and use for the future.

Jess Leach

social 2007

The PYV Social this year was a huge success! People came from all over Victoria and gathered in Croydon Hills where we met with one another learned about God. There was a punk theme, and the focus was that since punks are very outgoing and that they stand up and stand out - and that we, as Christians, should also "stand up and stand out" for Jesus. Dean Carroll gave us all a great talk on this theme. We were encouraged to make it known that we are followers of Christ by our actions and how people see us live our lives.

Everyone was very outgoing with their costumes, and they varied from wiggled monkeys to people wearing lots of eye-liner and spiky hair. It was great to catch up with the youth and leaders of Victoria and to share news and stories. The supper was fantastic (much thanks to those who did it!) and the music in the dancing room was great. Those who didn't want to dance enjoyed the space to sit, talk and mingle, and all had a great night.

Thanks to those who put the time and effort into making the 2007 PYV Social worth going to, and everyone's looking forward to another great social next year!

Anna Burns

coming up: girls' day out 2007

Last year's Girls' Day Out had very encouraging attendance and feedback. By the time *fellow workers* goes to print, this year's Girls' Day Out will have come and gone. But we trust that that it will be as enjoyable and fun as last year's and another time of great learning and growth. This year it will be held at Heathmont Presbyterian Church, with an exciting new speaker: Michelle Macintosh (from Bundoora Presbyterian). The purpose of this event is to encourage young Christian women through fellowship and to assist their growth in Christ.

Girls' Day Out seeks to provide a caring environment to discuss and hear about everyday, common struggles of women, and to instruct us in the godly way to live our lives. It is becoming clear that this event fills a need for the youth in the wider church, so if you weren't able to make it this year – please come along next year. Also, if you are a not-so-young woman, why not come along to offer advice and support?

Hannah Veith & Ruth Ronalds

coming up: volleyball 2007

You know the deal, a couple hundred youth from around the state, half a dozen volleyballs, and three trophies. Yes, it's back again – July 14 will see the annual PYV Volleyball competition take place for 2007, at the usual venue, Ashburton Pool & Recreation Centre.

Teams will once again compete in the Mixed, Men's and Best Cheer Squad competitions, but the real aim of the day is to have fun and not take it all too seriously! There will once again be a great speaker, and then the fun on court will kick off. This year the event is starting at 11:00am, so don't be late and don't forget lunch!

If you haven't been to the Volleyball Competition before, then 2007 is the year to get involved. Get your youth group's team together – all you need is 6 people for a mixed team (at least two of each gender) or 4 blokes for a men's team. Registrations need to be in by 7 July and places are filling fast. Teams can check out the details and also register on the PYV website (www.pyv.org.au). See you there.

Andrew Sprague



dealing with reality

john calvin and the christian life

Like most people I've had my fair share of hard times. 1996 proved such a time for me in my exit appointment to Bayside (Sandringham), when due to a chronic shortage of funds, my own shortcomings and a small congregation that wasn't growing and had a chequered and somewhat colourful past, it was decided to close the work down. Hardly an auspicious beginning to ministry for one who had gone there thinking the congregation would grow and be blessed of God.

Instead failure.

Where do you turn in such times?

Of course prayer and immersion in the Word and the love of a godly wife count for much. More specifically I was greatly blessed in turning to John Calvin's teaching on the Christian life which subsequently became the template for my own understanding of what it means to follow in the footsteps of our Lord Jesus (1 Peter 2:20f).

Calvin possessed a well developed doctrine of the Christian life with four central features to guide the Christian through life in pursuit of the goal of perfection of character. His teaching may be found in Book 3, Chapters 6-10 of the *Institutes of the Christian Religion*. His teaching on the subject may be summarised in the following way.

The first aspect is the call to self denial, i.e. we are not our own but God's. The root of all sin is our perverse self love. To deny oneself is to stop loving oneself, to practice self restraint, alertness and discipline and to resign ourselves completely to the will of God. Because Jesus made such a self sacrifice to God, we now, through him and in him, may follow him.

Even more than self denial, "it behoves the godly mind to climb still higher, to the height to which Christ calls his disciples: that each must bear his own cross" (Institutes 3:8:1). God will allow each of us to experience sufficient hardship, disappointment and persecution to sanctify us perfectly. He gives to each of us our own cross, uniquely fashioned to perfect us more and more in self denial and so make us his own. Bearing our cross means less of self and more of him (and others). It is a submissive acceptance of God's will and God's way even, if necessary, in the loss of all our worldly goods without any regret.

The key texts for these first two aspects are Matthew 10:37, 38, John 12:25, 26. Mark 8:34-38 was especially written large upon my heart.

As the Christian denies himself and takes up the cross allotted to him by life and by God, the believer must orientate himself all the time to a heavenly destiny to be accomplished through his own death and resurrection. In this contemplation he is in "mystical union" with the exalted Christ who empowers him and keeps him, always orientated towards heaven and the life to come, even as he is enabled to spend himself in faithful service to his fellows in this life. Again, the key texts are found in Romans 6-8, 1 Corinthians 15, Philippians 3, Colossians 2, 3, especially 3:1, and Hebrews 12:1-3.

In the fourth place, with the perspective and detachment of heaven as our home and the earth as our place of exile, it is possible to enjoy the good things God provides in this life with an attitude of faith and gratitude. Pleasure is permitted when combined with the fear of God and with the common benefit of humanity. In all of his life and in making his salvation sure, each individual believer is obliged to glorify God through his or her life and work. And of course Jesus himself sets us with an example of this in his attendance



at a wedding, banquets, and so on. God gives us many good things richly to enjoy in this life. Even in difficulty God gives us pleasure and that mostly in simple things. Thank you Lord Jesus! What a good life you have given me!

Rev David Palmer

news from PTC Media

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around the church



92 years young

On the 10th of May 2007, Caulfield-Elwood PWMU held its 92nd birthday meeting. Thirty-three people came along from various PWMUs together with visitors to help us celebrate.

Our speaker for the afternoon was Mrs Margaret Comadi, who gave an inspirational talk of the plight of farmers in Victoria due to the terrible drought conditions. Margaret asked us to pray for the farming communities and told of a number of farmers who have been so desper-

ate, that they have taken their own lives. This was very sad for the farmers concerned but even sadder for their wives, who are faced with trying to find money to feed and clothe their children. Please think of them in your prayers and continue to pray for rain. Gifts of food can be given to the

Home Mission at Flemington, who will forward them on to where it is sorely needed. Margaret also spoke of the problems facing the African refugees living in the Flemington area, and of her visit to Colin and Shirley Mbawa in Malawi, Africa last year.

The remainder of the afternoon was spent having afternoon tea and happy fellowship with our visitors.


*Ms Betty Goodliffe
President, Elwood PWMU
Elwood-Caulfield Presbyterian Church*

fruitful service at kirkbrae

Sunday 25th March 2007 was an encouraging time for the congregation at Kirkbrae. It was our Harvest Festival Service. Food and produce from residents throughout the village complex was collected for donation to the Scots Church Mission at Flemington. These were set on a display table in the front of the church by a band of willing helpers led by Mrs Jean Nickels.

Representatives from the mission were invited to the service. Mrs Margaret Conradi spoke of the daily help that is provided by the mission to the underprivileged and the type of people who come to the mission depending on it for help.

A challenge for the occasion was the choice of a suitable text for Harvest festival in a year of record drought! Habakkuk 3:17-19 was suggested by Martin Hanse; what a good choice it was! "Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in



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the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will take joy in the God of my salvation. God, the Lord, is my strength he makes my feet like the deer's; he makes me tread on my high places."

Fig trees: their fruit could be picked for up to ten months of the year; to have no blossom indicated times were very tough! Similarly we are in drought with much of Victoria with water restrictions.

Vines: Palestine from ancient times was a great place for vineyards, and Israel was promised to be a land of fig trees, vines and pomegranates; no fruit indicated the Lord's blessing withdrawn.

Olives: the olive tree was known as the king of the trees it could grow in near barren soil and still produce an abundant harvest. No produce indicates the extreme devastation of the land.

Yet Habakkuk rejoiced in the Lord! He knew that if the Lord bringing the curses of the covenant then it was for remedial purposes! What a man of faith. The covenant wasn't repealed; The Lord was still in control. He could be trusted, despite the hardship, that is the source of his joy.

Similarly, our harvest offering, is an expression of our faith in the Lord's con-



Kirkbrae Presbyterian Church Harvest Festival

trol. Drought is not the last word. God's promise to us through Paul is: "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered. No, in all these things we are more than con-

querors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." We can move on in confidence in the Lord.

Rev Wally Gear

want to be a missionary? read on!

Occasionally I get asked the question, 'So, what do you have to do to become a missionary in the Presbyterian system?' The question usually catches me by surprise on two counts - one - that the person asking the question actually wants to know the answer and the other - that the answer is both simple and complex at the same time. What you have to do to 'become a missionary' in one sense is relatively easy. The application papers are not very hard to complete, although they may take a bit of time and thought. The reference you will need from your Session shouldn't be hard to get either (I mean it's not as if you have to write it!). A police check is mandatory but again that's not so hard and a check up at the doctor is a good thing to do regardless of what you're planning. Of course there's a budget to prepare and an interview or two to endure

and if you're intending to go out as a Partner Society missionary, there may be another two interviews or more along the way, but again there's nothing too hard about these either! Nothing too hard, but really...I've only given you half of the story....

One of the great privileges for me as Convener of APWM Victoria, is the opportunity to view the application papers that prospective missionaries submit. I find it stimulating to read people's histories and conversion stories and what books have helped them the most, but what I look for more than any other matter is the candidate's sense of call. Without it, the application papers can appear rather empty, the interview a bit mundane and the references somewhat hollow.

I am often struck by the reference in the Gospels to the sense of compulsion and direction that Jesus knew early in his ministry after such success at Capernaum. Arising from his early morn-

ing time of prayer to find the disciples had been looking for him everywhere, he announced that the time had come to move on and seek others out. Although his ministry in Capernaum had borne fruit, there was a sense of compulsion in his decision to go to other places with the news of the Kingdom of God. When application papers come before me, I look for the sense of compulsion in candidate's stories. I search eagerly for evidence of the 'hearts burning within them' phenomenon. Yes, the mission field is large enough and there are tasks and ministries for many more in the harvest field, but don't forget that there are no short cuts you can take. Getting 'into the system' is much more than the things you need to do and the work you want to do for God - the most important is what God is doing in you. Have you got what it takes?

*Rev Philip Burns
Convener of APWM*

continued from p. 1...

Paul certainly knew the truth of this and declared to the Corinthians, "Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart." (2 Cor. 4:1) What helped keep Paul from writing out his resignation and catching the next ship home? He looked up, remembered Christ's call on his life and knew that God would see him through to the end.

Wherever God has called you - into marriage, into parenthood, into paid vocation, into a church ministry, or even into the preaching ministry - never lose heart! The Lord has placed you right where you are, not to crush you, but to refine you, enable you and use you in

ways that only He can. Many of God's people in the Bible have had to descend into utter helplessness before the Lord and would use them for His greatest works.

Paul began to learn that lesson when the Lord blinded him on the road to Damascus, having to be led the hand the rest of the way into the city. Thereafter, time and again when he was left humanly weak and helpless the Lord reminded Paul that true spiritual power is given to those who trust not in their own strength but in God's. Paul was able to comfortably say, "But [God] said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly

about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me." (2 Cor. 12:9)

If you are recognising your failures and utter weakness, and if you are seriously thinking of quitting, congratulations: You've arrived at the point where God is ready to exercise His mighty power in you.

Hang in there, even if things are grim! Wherever the Lord has put you, He wants to display His grace and triumph through you. Stay tuned to Him, for the best is yet to come!

*Rev Allan Lendon
Minister,*

Geelong North Presbyterian Church

the lord continues to provide

At the Full Committee of the PIM in February, thankfulness was again expressed at how God is guiding, equipping and expanding the ministry of the Inland Mission. Many congregations and individuals are grasping the enormity of the work of reaching out 'beyond the furthest fences' with the good news of the gospel and the Committee thanked our Almighty God for the work He is doing in and through His people.

Such support is greatly appreciated by our padres. They do go into remote and lonely places not knowing the situations that they will be confronted with. But knowing that there are thousands of people praying for and supporting their work in practical ways serves as a tremendous encouragement to them. Our padres report that there are many opportunities opening up for the gospel. Pray that such opportunities will result in the conversion of souls into the Kingdom.

A couple of highlights noted at the committee meeting were:

1. There is now active PIM ministry in every State and in the Northern Territory for the first time since before 1977.
2. Remote community PIM mission church has recommenced at Darwin after a break of over 10 years.
3. Growing numbers of families and children are helping during the dreadful drought through very generous donations received for PIM diaconal funds/drought

relief activities.

Praise God for His abundance in blessing the work of the PIM. We can truly testify that "My God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus." Wisdom and guidance is still required for many parts of the work of the Inland Mission. Please continue to pray with us for the following:

- A worker based out of Mt. Isa to work in the Church there as well as patrolling part-time into the NT;
- The implementation of farm-sitting ser-

vices so that people on the land can get a break (some station workers have not been off their property in years);

- A worker for the Kimberly-Pilbara patrol.

The Committee continues to move forward prayerfully believing that as we seek to take the gospel to the Inland, God will continue to provide (often unexpectedly) through the faithfulness and generosity of His people. Thank you to all who support and pray for this ministry of the gospel.

Rev Rob Duncanson

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