

fellow workers

NEWS FROM AROUND THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
A PUBLICATION OF THE PCV STATE NEWS COMMITTEE

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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 November 2008**. Photographs should be digital and sent by email if possible.

together training trainers

If there is one thing I have learnt about Victoria is that the vast majority of people really do like AFL. It's been a real eye opener to witness the footy culture that is Victoria. Following the game there is the usual post-mortems trying to explain away the wins and losses, and prepare a strategy for the next game. It is a fascinating exercise to watch the spectators during the excitement of the game, and to hear their comments. Experts abound. Much analysis and advice flows freely to players and others who will listen. If one were to respond to the comments, it would seem reasonable to ask the spectators and players to exchange roles, for it is quite clear where the real talent lies.

If we are honest, we all know deep within, that the capacity to perform under pressure, to kick the goals requires practice, practice, and still more practice. Yet despite this understanding, it is true that our fantasies of being an expert in any field of endeavour are sometimes assumed as real, without the necessary preparation. Sadly, such actions soon reveal our deficiencies.

Life is full of people who want instant success, instant status, instant results, but who at best think that information contained in the head will suffice rather than practice, practice, practice. I suppose it is all summed up in the comment: “I know I need to learn patience - where can I take a crash course?”

This problem is glaringly apparent in the whole area of discipleship as practiced in so many of our churches. Unlike many other areas of life such as sport, business and the like, where on the job training is required before there are any claims of competence made, much Christian discipleship lacks practical training, and so comes unstuck

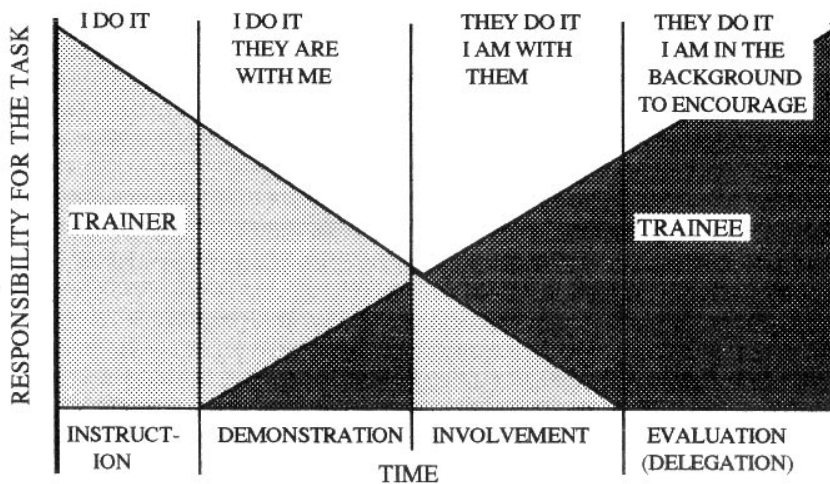
amidst the pressures of real life.

Paul surely has it right when he said: Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Every one who competes in the game goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. Therefore, I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that, after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize. (1 Corinthians 9:24-27).

I believe Paul is saying to us that training is the key to producing disciples. Discipleship is the development of a person into Christ likeness. Training is the process by which this happens. Training is the process by which Christ-likeness in behaviour and character become a way of life, through repeated, consistent application of God's truth. Training aims at developing a habitual response.

In 1 Timothy 4:7 Paul tells Timothy, “Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives’ tales; rather, train yourself to be godly.” The word “train” is used of an athlete practicing repeatedly for competition in gymnastics. Training and teaching are different aspects of discipleship. Sadly, many have lost sight of this fact in the field of discipleship. You can absorb teaching without being trained. You cannot be trained without being taught. Teaching imparts knowledge, facts, information (I understand), whereas Training leads to transformation (I can do).

Much of our discipleship is focused solely on teaching; the problem with this process is that listening to teaching, and amassing more information is an easy



process. Training on the other hand requires that this truth penetrate one's heart and life in addition to one's mind. The only way this can be done is by constant repetition and practice. In our churches today, many love teaching, but avoid and at times despise training.

If we were to follow Jesus' style of discipleship we would find it firmly based on a "training" model. He repeatedly taught them, and followed this up immediately with a difficult situation in which the teaching had to be applied (Mark 4:26-41). Christ taught on faith and through training of His men, produced it in their lives as second nature. Training then is teaching applied repeatedly in a person's life until application becomes a habit (Hebrews 12:5-11).

The 4 part training method of Christ is the basis of the training process given here:

1. Instruction - the trainer tells the trainee
2. Demonstration - the trainer shows the trainee "how" in real life
3. Involvement - the trainee shows the trainer his mastery in real life over a period of time
4. Evaluation - together the trainer and trainee review and refine their performance holding each other accountable.

The following are some important questions we each need to ask of ourselves in relation to our training.

1. Instruction:

- Is my teaching life related?
- Are the trainees able to take what they learn and apply it to real life situations?
- Can the trainee see the connection between what I teach and what they are to face over the week?
- Is my teaching directed toward producing Christ-like character?

- Does my teaching emphasise character change?
- Does my teaching produce more capable people in terms of character and skills?

2. Demonstration:

- Do the trainees see me doing the things I teach?
- Are the trainees convinced that my behaviour is consistent in all areas of my life?
- Do I spend sufficient time with the trainee for this demonstration to be meaningful?
- Do I provide on-the-job training for all tasks I give?

3. Involvement:

- Do I progressively involve people in tasks rather than throw them in the deep end?
- Do I observe their performance and help them improve it?
- Do I begin to involve trainees in small tasks so that they prove their faithfulness?
- Do I maintain a two-way interaction after appointing them to various tasks related to my teaching?

4. Evaluation:

- Do I regularly evaluate my trainee's performance?
- Do I then monitor their future development?
- Do I allow reciprocal evaluation?
- Do we agree upon expectations for performance for us both?
- Is my evaluation objective, encouraging, and producing of greater commitment?

I must confess I am becoming a footy expert. I have never played the game. I do not even know the rules all that well. I do not understand the strategies of the game. I have never produced another player. Yet still I give advice to the TV, and still I reckon that

the game looks pretty easy.

I suppose I epitomize in this area the many people who for years have criticized work in training people to become disciples. They have claimed that discipleship is a "head" exercise. Their assumptions have been that if one "knows" then one can and will "do".

Getting one's game together in footy only comes with hours and hours of training, so that under pressure the goals can be kicked. Even more so is this the case with our Christian lives. Too many have claimed to be disciples of Jesus Christ, yet under the pressure of life and spiritual attack fall apart. Training is the key to discipleship and without it; we run the danger of becoming merely sideline experts.

Jesus has set for us the pattern of discipleship (see John 13:1-17) and it presents us all with a great responsibility, but more than that, a great opportunity to be intimately involved in transforming people into being more like our Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. This is essentially done through training.

I have come to the conclusion that there is only one "Discipler" and He is the Holy Spirit. However, I am called to be a "trainer" of people. My task is to equip the people I am involved with in the knowledge of the Gospel, skills in ministry, and Christ-like character, so that more and more they will habitually live the life of Christ in this world. My deepest desire is that together we can train the next generation of trainers.


REV NELLO BARBIERI
PCV TRAINING OFFICER

GRAND FINAL MID-WEEK SERVICE 2008

SCOTS' CHURCH
GRAND FINAL MID-WEEK SERVICE
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1PM
PREACHER: **PAUL CAMERON**
CHAPLAIN TO RICHMOND FOOTBALL CLUB

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*Everyone Welcome - Wear your
team scarf.*



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ministry encouraged and nurtured: 2008 ministry conference

From the 8-10th of April the annual Ministry Conference was held at the Presbyterian Theological College. The conference was a wonderful opportunity to gather for fellowship and mutual edification, but above all else, it was time of rich blessing as we heard biblical teaching, which was challenging and interesting.

As is now customary the keynote address was delivered by the principal, Dr. Douglas Milne. Prof Milne noted that he was speaking on a book of the Bible he hadn't previously preached on, and a topic he believes our Reformed tradition is rather weak on. Prof Milne examined Love as presented in the Song of Songs from three perspectives. Firstly, a literal perspective of the Song of Songs extols the goodness and God-giveness of marital love, which is strongly sexual. Secondly, interpreting the Song of Songs as a parable shows us the "Covenantal Love of God" that comes to us through the Lord Jesus. Thirdly, the Song of Songs shows that loves is the greatest of the three virtues in 1 Corinthians 13:13(faith, hope and love) because it is the only one that is eternal.

Dr Robert Fyall taught five sessions on how to preach and teach the apocalyptic literature of Scripture using Daniel 7-12 to illustrate this approach. The definition of "apocalyptic literature" which Dr Fyall provided was insightful and helpful. He noted that "apocalyptic literature" is a particular type of prophecy, which

makes heavy use of symbolism, and emphasises how the unseen world impinges on the seen. He added that if apocalyptic literature is a form of prophecy, then we should not rigidly divide the two as tends to be done in scholarship today. Instead of preaching sermons to show us how to preach apocalyptic literature, Dr Fyall's approach was to give us a framework and tools to guide us in interpreting it within the big story of the Bible. He then offered suggestions as to how the chapters examined in Daniel might be preached. These talks gave some answers to the difficult question of how to preach apocalyptic passages of scripture, but at the same time challenged the hearers to do their own examination of texts.

Variation came in the form of a lecture, which was presented by the Rev Jared Hood. He spoke on the topic, "George Whitefield: The Heart of an Evangelist." Jared argued that the reason Whitefield was such a passionate evangelist was that he wanted everyone he met to share what he had: "Union with Christ." For Whitefield this core teaching, the believer's union with Christ, encompasses all else (for eg. justification, faith, repentance, holiness) and formed the centre of Whitefield's piety, theology and ministry.

Finally, the new Training Officer of the PCV, the Rev Nello Barbieri spoke on the topic of "Guarding the Gospel".

He argued from 2 Timothy 2:2 that we best guard the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ by passing on to others exactly what we received. The result of this conviction is that we should be intentional disciple makers who train Christians in Gospel ministry.

Challenging Bible teaching over three days and great fellowship around meals with like-minded Christians (plus a bit of Table Tennis) summarises the 2008 Ministry Conference. Plan to come next year so you don't miss out again.

**REV DEAN CARROLL
MINISTER: WOORI YALLOCK PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

Please note that all the Conference talks are available for purchase from PTCMedia. For further information contact Mrs Mignon Goswell on 0400 880 515 or ptcmedia@presbyteriancollege.org

ORGANIST WANTED 150TH CELEBRATION OCTOBER 2008

**St. Andrew's Church,
Williamstown**
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around the church

150 years at ararat

In September 2008, the Ararat Presbyterian Church will celebrate and give thanks to God for 150 years since the establishment of the church. In 1858, a group of faithful, keen, and interested people met to form a Presbyterian Church in Ararat. The first public worship service was held in a tent on the second Sunday of September 1858.

The celebrations will take place on the 13th and 14th September at 330 Barkly Street, Ararat. We will hold a gathering on the Saturday afternoon, dinner Saturday evening (by registration), and a worship service with Rev Prof. Douglas Milne as the guest preacher on Sunday morning followed by a luncheon.

All who have been involved with the Ararat Presbyterian Church in the past and any who are interested in the life and work of the church are warmly invited to attend.

Further details are available from the Rev Ian Hutton: (03) 5352 4054 or iahutton@aanet.com.au

REV IAN HUTTON

MINISTER: ARARAT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

160 and growing strong

In 1847, a number of Scottish settlers invited the Rev John Gow to conduct Presbyterian worship services on alternate Sundays in Colac.

From small beginnings, the congregation grew to 425 communicants and 90 adherents in 1977. Only the proposal for the formation of the Uniting Church was presented to the congregation and so it was no surprise when 89% voted in favour of Union.

Those who did not believe that the Basis of Union of the Uniting Church was satisfactory decided to continue with Presbyterian worship and services.

There were 33 foundation members of what is now called Scots Presbyterian Church. Ably led by Mr Wallace Everett the congregation erected a new place of worship.

At present Scots has 62 communicants and 28 adherents. There has been a significant increase in numbers in recent years, mainly due to transfers from the Uniting Church. So far, 25 people have decided to become members of Scots', most of whom were former Methodists.

The Anniversary service was held on the 7th October, 2007 and conducted by the Minister, the Rev Marvin Hagans.

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A fine exposition of Scripture was delivered by the Rt Rev Grant Lawry, the then Moderator of the General Assembly of Victoria on the subject: "Keeping our eyes on what is unseen".

Members of the Presbytery of Geelong, representatives of the other churches in Colac and community representatives attended the service.

REV MARVIN HAGANS

MINISTER: SCOTS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, COLAC.

"rain dancing" in ballarat

On Sunday 19th of April, the Presbytery of Ballarat organised a Presbytery Picnic. It was a beautiful sunny autumn day for a picnic and we had more than 80 people from the Presbytery as well as friends from the Moorabool Parish and the Leigh Parish. Each Parish organised a game with Ballarat South kicking it all off with a bang by sending people on a "treasure hunt". It was a great way to see people interacting and fellowshiping with one another. "The train game" by Ararat was most amusing for there was the normal train as well as an 'invisible' train that ran in the opposite direction simultaneously. Other games were also played but "the rain dance" topped it all. There was plenty to eat and the guys who cooked the BBQ certainly did a splendid job. The Presbytery provided fruit salad for everyone to finish nicely. Special thanks go to John Woodward and the Parish of Ballarat South for organising this successful Presbytery picnic. Others may care to follow our Presbytery's idea.

REV HUI LIM

MINISTER: SKIPTON-LISMORE

exciting opportunities in bendigo

We are delighted to report that Russ Grinter was formally commissioned as the new AFES (Australian Fellowship of Evangelical Students) Staff Worker at the La Trobe University campus, Bendigo. The commissioning took place during the morning worship service at St. John's Presbyterian Church, Bendigo on the 18th May.

The Victorian AFES Director, the Rev Peter Leslie was the guest preacher, Peter preached on Luke 15:1-7.

Russ graduated from Moore College at the end of 2007 and moved to Bendigo early in 2008 to commence Gospel ministry at La Trobe. Since coming to Bendigo, Russ has also

attached himself to the St John's congregation. The congregation is excited about the ministry opportunities that have developed and will continue to develop under God's guiding hand.

Your prayers for Russ and his ministry would be greatly appreciated.

REV PHILIP BURNS

MINISTER: ST. JOHN'S, BENDIGO

"looking backward, moving forward"

On the 20th of May the Drouin PWMU members celebrated the centenary of their Branch giving thanks to God for the 100 years of service given by women for the support of Missionary work. The day began with a Thanksgiving Service with the Rev Walter Zurrer giving a message titled, "Looking back-moving forward".

Over ninety people gathered and enjoyed a fellowship lunch. Lunch was followed by the cutting of the cake by our two long serving members: Mrs Alice Coade and Miss Ruth Irons. We all wish to thank Mrs Pam Pretty and Mrs June Davies for making and decorating such a lovely cake.

"The Singers of Joy", a choir from Warragul, provided entertainment in the afternoon with two brackets of songs. A history of the Drouin PWMU was delivered by Mrs Heather Grant, our State President. Mrs Esther Vayne brought greetings from the State Council with words of encouragement as our Branch continues to support missionaries with prayer and finance. We gratefully acknowledge and appreciate the many tireless hours spent by Miss Janet Cowden in compiling a booklet, which recorded the history of our branch of the PWMU

An opportunity was provided for those attending to give a donation for the Burma appeal and over \$400 was received; we thank the Lord for His provision. As a thanksgiving gesture, the Drouin congregation also donated food and other goods to the Scots Church and Presbyterian Joint Mission.

It was a very happy day, which will long be remembered by all who attended and took part.

**MRS HEATHER GRANT
DROUIN PWMU**

"well done good and faithful servant"

The Presbytery Church of Victoria has lost one of her faithful servants in the passing of the Rev Allan Lendon on the 6th of June 2008, after some 16 _

years of faithful service in the Parish of North Geelong, Presbytery of Geelong and the Presbyterian Church of Victoria as a whole.

Since his ministry began in 1992, Allan tirelessly sought to meet the needs of members of his congregation as best as his conscience allowed and always in light of scripture, while keeping the plight of those without Christ uppermost in his motivations.

Allan attended to his duties with devotion, constantly reading to further his own knowledge and searching out materials that he could use to minister to people in need or for teaching and nurturing. His ears were always sensitive to the hardships of others and he welcomed opportunities to speak a word in season and explain the reason for the hope he had in Christ. Though he worked hard within the bounds of his parish, he never saw his ministry as limited to these borders but expressed his missionary heart in bringing before us particular needs in places like Malawi and Vanuatu.

The Bible served as his guide in all things in life and death. He faithfully expounded it during thousands of sermons, bible studies, meetings and family devotions. His thoughts were held captive by it and his life bears testimony to the discipline he exerted over his own behaviour in an effort to conform to the wisdom it contained and therefore to live in honour of his God. Allan's love for the Word of God positively affected all who knew him. Because of his witness, we were either encouraged in our study of it or challenged to further investigate its claims.

Allan lived a consistent life. He was the same at home as in public because his ministry was not just his profession, it was who he was. He was the first to admit his imperfections and sinfulness yet his unwavering desire was to know Christ and to make him known.

Gently, yet relentlessly and with Session's support, he guided the congregation to rationalise, redevelop the church properties, and vary the worship style, often with considerable sacrifice by himself and his family, not for the comfort of the parishioners primarily, but to attract others not familiar with traditional church culture.

Many people who have had contact with Allan would be able to give first hand testimony of how Allan supported them, encouraged them, corrected them, lovingly disciplined them, wept with them and rejoiced with them.

Perhaps the most lasting legacy of Allan is his humble example. In his entire ministry, he never sought to elevate himself but rather constantly directed people to Jesus Christ. He sought neither position nor recognition

and showed no love of titles or ceremony that glorified man.

One of Allan's great desires was to see the redeveloped North Geelong church building full of worshippers. This was first achieved at Allan's Memorial Service on Thursday the 12th of June 2008 when over 300 mourners crammed into the church to celebrate Allan's life and witness.

Allan's character was used by God to influence all of us in the best possible ways. He made a significant contribution to this Presbytery. He died, as he lived, wanting to proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour.

To God be the glory."

**REV ANDREW BRAY
PRESBYTERY OF GEELONG**

the Lord blesses us with another elder

St. John's Presbyterian Church, Bendigo is delighted to announce that on Sunday the 16th of March Mr Luke Alistair Rolley was ordained and inducted into the Eldership at St John's Bendigo. Approximately 70 people attended a very warm service, which was followed by a fellowship BBQ lunch. Luke was joined by his parents and sister as our minister, the Rev Philip Burns lead the ordination and induction. It is the Lord who calls, grants gifts and sets men apart for the ministry of eldership in His Church, and we give all praise and thanks to the Lord for His provision of new elder to our Session. St. John's is looking forward to many years of faithful and fruitful service in our community as the Holy Spirit leads us in kingdom work.

**MR GRAHAM COWCHER
SESSION CLERK: ST JOHN'S PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH, BENDIGO**

the Son continues to shine upon sunshine

After a decade of Spirit gifted service at Sunshine Presbyterian Church, the Rev Cor and Mrs Joan Vanderhorn moved to their home in Mt Evelyn in mid-April 2008. What God has done for Sunshine through their ministry is adequately recorded only in the annals of Heaven's libraries. Cor leaves for Europe in mid-August for postgraduate studies.

In the interests of the extension of His Kingdom and the Glory of His Name, our Lord selected another minister for his church. As we sought the Lord's will the Rev Bruce Riding assisted the selection committee as interim moderator, and for his faithful service, we sincerely thank Bruce.

On Friday 20th of June 2008, a service was held for the induction of

the Rev John K. Cho. The moderator of the Presbytery of Melbourne West, the Rev Shane Cassidy led the service, which was attended also by the State moderator, the Rt Rev. Graham Bradbeer, members of the presbytery, other ministers and guests.

The guest preacher for the occasion was the Very Rev Dr Allan Harman who inspired the congregation as he spoke on the subject, "The Gospel to the Nations" from Matthew 28:13-20.

A well-filled church included the Cho family's relatives visiting from Korea. The Korean family's beautiful floral gifts added to the aesthetically pleasing interior of the church.

We also thank the Lord for the music which so skilfully provided by our own church's music team.

Ministering in Sunshine is challenging as the leadership seeks to encourage the congregation in responding to the Great Commission in this vast multi-ethnic community. Through the constant grace of God, the triumph of our already victorious Lord, Jesus Christ, is certain and secure, "For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet" (1 Corinthians 15:25).

MRS ISABEL G. BELL

50 faithful and fruitful years of ministry

On the 29th of May the Presbytery of Ballarat organised a thanksgiving dinner at the Barkly Lodge to celebrate 50 years of Ordained Ministry by the Rev Keith Allen.

It was a wonderful night attended by members of Presbytery, Grace Presbyterian Church, the local branch of the Bible Society and Keith and Winifred's family, most of whom had travelled from Sydney for the occasion.

The Rev John Woodward read a greeting from Australian Presbyterian World Mission (Vic) and the Clerk of the Victorian Assembly, the Rev John Wilson spoke of how the world is reluctant to honour its elders, and said that hearing words about significant ministry milestones was a bit like hearing your eulogy before your funeral. Both Keith and Winifred spoke warmly and praised our Lord for his goodness and grace. The evening was brought to a fitting conclusion as our newest member, Mr Hui Lim, led us in prayer.

**REV JOHN WOODWARD
CLERK: PRESBYTERY OF BALLARAT**

new minister ordained in drouin

Family and friends of Mark Everett Smith joined with the congregation of Drouin for his ordination and Induction

on Friday June 27th, 2008.

The service was led by the Moderator of the Presbytery of Gippsland, the Rev. Gary Stephens, Pastor Martin de Pyle preached, and the Rev. Robert Boan gave the charge.

Following the service numerous welcomes were given to Mark, his wife Danielle, and their three children Jarrod, Nathan and Mikayla. All stressed the positive contribution they have already brought to the church and the town since beginning an exit appointment in January, and all were enthusiastic about what God would accomplish through them in the years to come.

During the service special recognition was given to Mark's parents, Mr Keith and Mrs Dering Smith, who were in attendance from Queensland.

ordination of K. Hui Lim

At it's meeting held on 4 July 2008

Presbytery resolved to advise you of the Ordination of the Rev K. Hui Lim to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament of the Presbyterian Church of Australia on 4 July 2008 and his Induction into the pastoral charge of Skipton-Lismore.

The Service was a significant occasion in the life of both Parish and Presbytery. The occasional preacher was Principal Dr Douglas Milne who brought a warm and challenging message on maintaining the Ministry.

The Church at Skipton was blessed by the first evening Service held for many years as well as a packed church, including the gallery.

The Presbytery was delighted to have the State Moderator, the Rt Rev Graham Bradbeer associated, with the Rev Grant Lawry. It was a great blessing to have so many of Hui and So-young's family and friends present, including some 40 members of the Canterbury congregation, for this historic occasion.

REV DR J.S. WOODWARD
CLERK: PRESBYTERY OF BALLARAT

new ministers ordained around the church

- The Rev John Dekker was ordained and inducted in the pastoral charge of Aspendale/Seaford on the 18th April. The Rev Douglas Robertson preached the occasional sermon and the Rev Steve Warwick gave the charge.
- The Rev Dean Carroll was ordained and inducted into the pastoral charge of Woori Yallock on the 27th July.

May the Lord richly bless each of these men and their families as they seek to honour and serve Him in their respective churches. Let us always be in prayer for all of our pastors and leaders. May the Lord bless our churches with a great harvest as we worship and serve Him in spirit and in truth.

the Lord will provide

In the last verse of the great hymn, "Though Troubles Arise and Dangers A-fright" (number 84 in the Rejoice! hymnbook) John Newton writes:

*No strength of our own or goodness we claim;
yet, since we have known the Saviour's great Name,
in this our strong tower for safety we hide,
the Lord is our power, the Lord will provide.*

The truth and power of these words is witnessed continually by the PIM Committee as we see God at work in the many facets of the ministry of Inland Mission. We have so much to be grateful for and it is with the words, which John Newton penned that we continually testify, "the Lord will provide".

Over recent months, God has opened many doors of opportunity for sharing the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. There have been and continue to be changes in the ministry of PIM, all as a result of God leading and guiding in ways that are often unexpected and challenging to the ministry of PIM.

What follows is a brief summary from some of the patrols and new areas where PIM is moving, as well as points for prayer:

- Please pray for Bert Pierce (WA patrol). He has recently undergone two major operations. Bert is currently recovering. The doctors expect him to make a full recovery and be able to resume duties in mid-August.
- Cameron & Carmel McKenzie (SA patrol) are adjusting to life as parents. Jacinta has been on a couple of patrols. Pray that Cameron and Carmel will receive wisdom in deciding when and where to take Jacinta on patrol. Also, pray for them as a family as Cameron occasionally patrols "solo".
- Mike Willsmore (South West NSW, based in Mildura) continues to have an effective ministry in his patrol area as well as in the Sunraysia Parish. Pray for strength for Mike as he juggles these various aspects of ministry. Mike has been receiving encouraging feedback from schools in remote areas, as well as from many of the properties that he has been able to visit. The rewards that come from a long-term ministry in the patrol are starting to be seen by Mike. The people are more open

and Mike is enjoying many an occasion to share the Gospel.

- Late last year the Anglican Church in WA approached PIM with an offer for us to purchase a Church and Manse at Mt Magnet, (600kms North East of Perth and 400kms East of Geraldton). The Anglican Church has withdrawn from full-time ministry in the region and consequently PIM decided to purchase these properties. We are now endeavouring to establish Mt Magnet as the base for the mid-West patrol. Furthermore, discussions are being held between PIM and APWM about the possibility of a joint ministry in the town, which includes a significant population of indigenous people. Pray for the raising up of workers for each of these ministries.
- God continues to be at work in the Darwin congregation. A manse has been recently purchased expressing our commitment not only to the congregation, but also to the wider Darwin population. It is a clear sign that PIM is serious about ministry in Darwin. Pray that God will continue to be at work through the ministry of the Rev Rob Duncanson and his wife Jeanette. God's timing is perfect. Settlement on the manse took place three weeks prior to the current lease expiring. This provided sufficient time for packing, moving and cleaning without incurring any expenses for the breaking of lease arrangements.
- A new DVD has been produced featuring all of the padres. These are being distributed progressively. If you have not already received a copy and wish to obtain one for your parish, please contact the PIM office. Finally, many vacancies need filling. Join with us as we pray that the Lord of the harvest will raise up workers who will reap a great harvest in His field. As you read of the Lord's power and provision in the work of PIM ask yourself, is God calling me to serve in the ministry of PIM?

Let us all together give thanks to our Lord for all He is doing through the PIM. As always, we wish to express our sincere and deepest thanks to our many supporters who practically support the ministry that goes 'Beyond the Furthest Fences'.

REV MARK SMITH
SECRETARY: PRESBYTERIAN INLAND MISSION COMMITTEE
MINISTER: DROUIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

pyv social 2008

The 2008 PYV Social held on the 10th of May was the biggest yet, with 185 people filling Donvale Presbyterian Church Hall. There were many unique and fantastic outfits in line with the theme, "From Rags to Riches", such as the poor orphan Madeline, and spectacular formal dresses and spiffy suits.

Ian Waller (from Croydon Hills Presbyterian Church) gave an inspiring talk on how our rags are turned into riches through Jesus. Ian gave three examples: "Riches to rags" – the story of humanity; "Riches to rags" – the story of God the Son, Jesus; and Rescue and Wrath – the mission of the Son and "The Great Reversal".

Many thanks go to the team who worked hard in the kitchen, preparing scrumptious food and mouth-watering desserts, and cleaning up afterwards. Thanks also to the Croydon Hills Presbyterian Youth Group for helping organise and set up the decorations for the event.

Suggestions and ideas for future themes are welcome and most appreciated – just pop them on the website (www.pyv.org.au) in the Social forum section. Let's look forward to another big Social next year!

RUTH RONALDS, PYV

transformational leadership. These days are a wonderful resource and opportunity for churches to send along their leaders, as well as potential leaders, so that they may be further equipped to serve your congregation and the wider church community. Please stay tuned for future training events.

- The Fabulous Girl's Day Out, will be held on the 2nd August at the Canterbury Presbyterian Church. This day is an opportunity for the women of PYV to bring their friends to hangout, have a good time, and



2008 PYV Volley ball Champions Fawkner Samoan

hear talks by Michelle Humphreys on using our tongues for good! "Keeping it in" – keeping your tongue in check and "Letting it out" – when to speak up! We will also be having workshops to explore topics such as "Chick's ministry", "Self/Body Image and Respect" and "Missions". If you haven't already thought about coming along, we strongly encourage you to

come, bring friends and encourage other women in a relaxed environment.

- Junior Camp will be held from the 25th to the 28th of September at the Lady Northcote campsite. Tim Hawkins will be speaking from Ephesians on being "Totally Transformed". Online registration is coming soon, so keep an eye on the website for this.

As always, the best place to find out about all-things PYV is www.pyv.org.au.

RUTH RONALDS, PYV

pyv volleyball

They came, they spiked and they conquered. Fawkner Samoan's stunning debut at the PYV Volleyball Competition saw them win both the men's and mixed competitions. The men's final was a tight contest between Fawkner and the Burwood Community team, while the mixed final was an all-Fawkner affair. Surrey Hills took the crown for the best cheer squad.

Former Olympic Volleyball captain, (and former PYV volleyball contestant), Priscilla Ruddle began the day by sharing the gospel and some of her testimony as an elite Christian athlete. This was the beginning of a successful day in which with thirty-nine teams and several cheers quads competed. Big thanks to the Donvale Youth Group who funded her travel from Canberra.

ANDREW VINES, PYV YOUTH WORKER

pyv events

By the time fellow workers goes to print The Annual PYV Volleyball Competition will have come and gone. This competition always proves to be a popular event, which is enjoyed by increasing numbers of people from all ages coming from many Presbyterian churches right across Victoria. If your church didn't enter a team this year, why not consider doing so next year?

- Christian Leadership and Management Training Course and The CENC Fuelled Training Day were held on the 25th and 26th of July respectively at the Surrey Hills Presbyterian Church. These training days covered topics such as: Biblical principles of leadership; leadership qualities and styles; principles of organisation; collaborative leadership; power, accountability and influence;

Pioneers Presbyterian Church, Cheltenham
is turning 150!

Come join us as we celebrate 150 years of God's blessings in our church.

Events include:

Friday 10th Oct	Saturday 18th Oct	Sunday 26th Oct
Semi-Formal Dinner at Kingswood Golf Club	Musical Concert 2-3pm	10am Worship Service led by our State Moderator Rev. Douglas Robertson
6.30pm for a 7pm start Speaker: Mr Murray Thompson M.L.A	Followed by an afternoon tea and Memorabilia display.	12pm Seated Luncheon provided
Member for Sandringham \$35 per head	Finishing time 5pm 8 Park Rd, Cheltenham	

To facilitate catering arrangements, request an invitation form from Mrs Margaret Gibson: 03 9584 5994 or 1/93 Chesterville Rd, Highett 3190.

what does a healthy church look like?

We know there is no such thing as a PERFECT church, since all churches are made up of sinners, but what about a HEALTHY church? From the 18-20th April the Ashburton Presbyterian Church spent a sunny and pleasant weekend with the Very Rev Bruce Christian exploring this topic via studies from 1 Timothy. About 42 people including visitors from other churches benefitted from these skilfully expounded studies, which were richly illustrated with life examples.

A healthy church, we learned, is concerned about keeping its foundations strong. Bruce outlined five "pillars" for the foundation of the church: truth, love, Godly living, grace and discipline. Most Christians know these terms almost to the point of taking them for granted. However, healthy churches take steps to consider each in detail, finding new depths of meaning. The healthy church refuses to be tempted to major on minor matters, and she stays focussed on God's revealed truth. She has genuine agapé love without guile (a desire to manipulate). She understands the purpose of the Law in the plan of salvation by grace, promoting the Spirit of the Law without falling into legalism.

Whilst it is vital to agree on the essentials of the faith, we learned that a healthy church keeps seemingly opposed ideas in tension without compromising either. Obvious

examples include faith and works, truth and love, and Old and New Covenants. We may well be criticized whatever we do, but we must pray continually for balance.

Bruce led us to think about other situations where healthy churches seek balance between opposites. Growth? It is God's church, and He gives the increase, yet the congregation has a responsibility to be as healthy as possible. This includes welcoming and loving people of all ages, background, and race; people different to ourselves. It means worshipping from the heart, whether the music is traditional or contemporary - whether it is to our taste or not. It also includes being sensitive yet sensible about welfare-seekers. A healthy church is willing to move out of comfort zones to fulfil its purpose of being salt and light to the world.

We learnt that we must not expect everyone in the church to be "like-minded". In a healthy church, there will be differences of opinion, even when each one bases his ideas on Scripture, because the Bible is so rich and full of ideas that must be held in balance. People in healthy churches recognize differences and learn to work together anyway.

This brings to mind a recurring theme through the seminar, that is, the need for GRACIOUSNESS. Because love and truth must be held in tension without compromise, we must be gracious, generous, and big-hearted

with others. Godliness is not a hobby or part-time occupation (1 Tim 6: 11-12) but something to pursue, to take hold of, and never to let slip into the background.

It is difficult to summarize the five teaching sessions and the formal and informal discussions into a few paragraphs, but I hope I have reflected both the breadth of the studies and the number of practical ways we were encouraged to "be healthy."

We are grateful to Bruce and his wife Pat for spending the whole weekend with us and helping us understand these important concepts. We as a church are now looking in depth at the study questions provided, as we seek to honour God more fully in our congregation.

During the seminar, Bruce referred to this nugget in verse, a clever summary of the joy of the New Covenant :

*Run, John, run!" the law commands,
But gives me neither feet nor hands.
'Tis better news the gospel brings:
It bids me fly - and gives me wings!
- John Bunyan*

A recording of the teaching sessions (on CD) plus a copy of the study booklet is available at \$15 plus \$2 postage from Ashburton PC, PO Box 190 Burwood 3125.

**MRS MARJO ANGELICO
ASHBURTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

