



A LEGENDARY START TO THE YEAR



Is it a bird?
Is it a plane?
No!

It's PYV 'legends' summer camp!

For six days at the end of December, about two hundred and thirty young people from across Victoria stayed together at Phillip Island Adventure Resort to hear about the most legendary legend of them all: the Lord Jesus Christ.

Our afternoons were filled with legend-themed activities, such as rescuing the beautiful (yet very manly) Princess James Venning from the middle of a lake. Those who were daring enough braved

the Giant Swing or the Flying Fox, while those with intellect and wit became champions of the board games. Meals fit for kings were eaten with glee and filled with raucous conversation. We laughed, we cried, we cheered, and we clapped. We sang of a giant moose and we waved as do the Mexicans. We were entertained by a state-of-the-art radio show and led in song by an exemplary band of maestros.

A highly intelligent, praiseworthy group of campers joined the youth-METRO training program. They began learning skills in evangelism

and advancing their biblical knowledge, so that they can be sent out to their local churches to spread the gospel.

Amidst all the excitement, we came to study that subject which has confused the wisest of professors, and dazzled the richest of princes: love. To Pete Sorrenson, a Christian Union staff worker from Deakin Uni, did we lend our ears, and he explained to us the mysteries of love:

1. That we were made in the image of a God who is love.
2. That we had loved wrongly, by loving ourselves more than our

In the photo above: sights such as this, though strange anywhere else, are commonplace at PYV camps...

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for next
edition:
1 May**

Heath Easton

Appointed to Drouin as Assistant Pastor

I've always been a Christian, and grew up in a supportive Christian home in Viewbank, in north-eastern Melbourne.

My wife Melissa grew up in Niger (west Africa), where her parents were missionaries with SIM. She returned to Australia when she was 15, and now works as a nurse. We met while studying at the Bible College of Victoria, from which we graduated with a Master of Divinity, a Bachelor of Theology and a Certificate of Marriage!

Since my university years as a science student, God has been growing in me a desire to serve in some form of full time teaching ministry and evangelism. In 2005 I lived in Ethiopia for six months, on a short-term mission trip with SIM. It was this exposure to overseas

mission that influenced my decision to go to BCV. I then became a ministry trainee at Bundoora Presbyterian Church, where I began the PCV candidacy process.

At the Presbyterian Theological College in Box Hill I found like-minded partners in the gospel. It has been a great joy to meet guys who are going through the same training, who have the same desire to serve God's people, who are grappling with the same issues, yet who have such different gifts and personalities. It is a privilege to be a part of a great kingdom team like this. My student placements at Bundoora and Donvale were excellent for just getting in and gaining experience in various church-based ministries. Both my trainers, Neil Chambers and Clinton LePage, gave me freedom to serve while offering great support and feedback. This gave

me confidence in God's empowering work and helped to confirm the direction he was guiding me in.

I am very happy to be appointed as Assistant at Drouin Presbyterian Church. Since our summer placement there last year, we have developed a real affection for the people of the church. Melissa and I were keen to be placed in a country parish and we are pleased to be able to serve in a team ministry. I hope to soak in a lot



Heath with his wife Melissa

from Rev Mark Smith and the elders of the church and to support them in the ministry already flourishing there. My main roles will be preaching on Sundays, teaching in the youth group and pastoral

visitation. We are looking forward to sharing our lives with the people of the Drouin congregation, and together with them reaching out into our community with the gospel.

PTC exit students share their stories...

Phil Court

Appointed to St Stephen's Flemington (in the Scots' Melbourne Parish)

I was 52 years old when the Holy Spirit cracked open my hardened and cynical atheist's heart and brought me to faith in Christ. It happened during the greatest personal distress and despair I have ever experienced, and it radically changed my life.

Soon after, I started regularly attending Scots' Church Melbourne, where Rev Douglas Robertson encouraged me to try my hand at a night class in Church History at the Presbyterian Theological College. One thing led to another, and I soon discerned a call to ministry which became more insistent as

time went on, leading me to retire from my 22-year job with Work-Safe and become a candidate in full-time training.

The most helpful thing I have learnt from theological study is just how much I do not know. The most valuable lesson I've learnt from my supervised field education is that 'theology' should be treated as a verb so that it is not divorced from the real situation of real people living day-to-day lives as sinners, saints and sufferers.

My exit appointment is to St. Stephen's Flemington and Kensington, in a role that combines parish ministry with the urban outreach work of the Presbyterian & Scots' Church Joint Mission. It's an exciting prospect and I strongly feel

that this is the work God has been calling me to.

Many of the congregation are first and second generation Indonesians, so I've started learning the Indonesian language at CAE (Council of Adult Education) in Flinders Lane. (Let me tell you, it's way easier than Hebrew or Greek!)

Continued on next page



Phil with his wife Deb



Changes at Drouin



Left to right: Alan (Session Clerk) & Val York; Karl & Louise Hood; Diane Blackwood (Baw Baw Shire Mayor); Heath & Melissa Easton and Mark & Danielle Smith.

On Sunday 5th February, the congregation gathered as usual in corporate worship. Following the service, a luncheon was held to welcome Heath & Melissa Easton to the ministry team, as well as a time to give thanks to God for the new extensions off our large hall. We all paused for a couple of small speeches acknowledging these changes that have recently occurred here at Drouin.

Through the faithful giving of congregation members, we were able to open extensions to our hall, which provides up to four more

meeting rooms (there are folding dividers that can be used) together with a large (and valuable) storage room. It was late 2004 that these plans were drawn up. Now, just over seven years later, we give thanks to God that they have come to fruition.

While seven years seems a long time, plans had to be placed on hold due to manse extensions during 2007. In any case, we recognise God's timing for all of this coming together when it has.

The more important aspect of the day was to officially welcome Heath and Melissa Easton. Heath has joined the ministry team as a full-time assistant. We give thanks to God for bringing Heath to the congregation; he brings enthusiasm and a passion to see the gospel impact people's lives,

which fits in with the desires of the congregation. Heath preached on this Sunday morning from Philipians 1, reminding us all of the partnership that we have in the gospel, the prayer for our love to abound more and more, as well as showing again how Paul centred his life on the Lord Jesus Christ.

Heath joins Rev. Mark Smith, Dr. Karl Hood (part-time pastoral assistant), the elders and the congregation in ministering to the people of Drouin, Warragul and surrounding areas. Drouin's prayer as we move forward is that the Lord will continue to grow His Church in our local area. The townships of Drouin and Warragul are growing at a fast pace; just come and see how many housing developments are on the go! There are tremendous gospel opportunities within this area and we're looking to the 'Lord of the harvest' to do His work in His time.

Rev. Mark Smith

Drouin Presbyterian Church

Continued from previous page

The demographic of Flemington and Kensington is about as ethnically and socio-economically diverse as you are likely to get anywhere in Melbourne, so there are many challenges and many opportunities for outreach.

There is already a good working relationship between the various Christian churches in Flemington and Kensington, and I look forward to strengthening that while also exploring untapped avenues for expanding the witness of St. Stephen's and the services

of the Mission.

My wife Deb is an Occupational Therapist with an Aged Care Assessment Team in the north-western suburbs. We were married at Scots' in 2006, where we were also both baptised the previous year.

A legendary start to the year

Continued from page 1

God and others.

3. That God loved us enough to send His Son.

4. That sex is a 'superglue' that has been made by God for married couples.

5. That the secret to a great friendship is love.

The gospel was preached strongly and clearly in both words and actions, and a number of campers came to be part of the

Kingdom of Christ. We saw many lives challenged and changed.

On New Year's Eve, a feast and tournament were held, with brave challengers vying to be crowned the PYV legend of them all. Campers had the opportunity to brave a giant slide, attempt to dunk leaders into the lake, create shaving cream-beards, rock out to guitar hero, and enjoy many other activities. After the tournament was over, a giant dance party was held, with a thumping bass and amazing

light display, and we brought in the New Year to the tune of 'The Final Countdown'. After the dance party, we prayed and sang songs of praise to the Lord, asking him to guide our paths in 2012.

Summer Camp 2011-12, was truly a legendary start to the year!

Jacki McLeod

Summer Camp Leader

Take a look at PYV's great new-look website: pyv.org.au

A new face at Kirkbrae

In July last year, Mrs Janine Motyer took up a newly created part-time position as a Pastoral Care Intern at Kirkbrae Presbyterian Homes in Kilsyth. The position was established with the assistance of the Health and Community Chaplaincy Committee (HCCC) and is jointly funded for a two year period by the Social Services Committee and the St Andrew's Foundation.

Janine's position was created for a dual purpose: to increase the availability of pastoral care services to Kirkbrae as it continues to grow, and to pilot a training/internship model for the HCCC, which seeks to train an entry level candidate over a two year period to become a qualified chaplain. This training requires of Janine a combination of theological training, work experience and participation in units of Clinical Pastoral education- the Victorian standard for Chaplains and Pastoral Carers in health care settings.

After five months in the role, Janine has made the following report of her work.

'After almost five months in my role as Pastoral Care Intern at Kirkbrae, I am pleased to be able to say that I am finding it a positive and rewarding experience. I have been very appreciative of the welcome and support shown to me by the majority of the Kirkbrae staff and am particularly grateful to the wonderful Lifestyle Staff, who have helped me settle into my new role and continue to be a great source of encouragement. Our Kirkbrae Chaplain, Wally Gear, is also a constant source of encouragement and help to me and I feel very blessed to work alongside him. We meet regularly to pray for Kirkbrae, to share our concerns and to discuss ideas.

My time is mainly spent visiting the residents on a one to one basis. It is a great privilege to spend this time listening to their life stories and experiences and having the opportunity to build relationships with them. I am often amazed at their strength, resili-



Janine Motyer finds her pastoral care role very rewarding

ence and wisdom.

I am in the process of starting up a bible study group in the hostel and a reading group in the Nursing Home and am looking forward to getting these up and running before Christmas. At least once a week I attend an activity with the residents, which gives me the opportunity to interact with a larger group on a more social level. I am yet to beat 98 year old Mavis at 'Wii Bowling'! She is amazing!

Our weekly Church Services in the Nursing Home are well attended and the old hymns are generally sung with gusto. Some of our residents who have little or no communication skills left will sometimes join in a well known hymn or mouth the Lord's Prayer. This never fails to move me and is a great reminder that God is still working in their hearts.

Loneliness is one of the biggest problems facing our residents.

I sometimes feel almost overwhelmed by my inability to meet that need. Please pray that I will trust that God will lead me each day to where he wants me to be.'

Janine has a nursing background and a heart for Christian ministry among elderly people. The HCCC is interested from hearing from others who feel drawn toward ministries of compassionate care through chaplaincy. Opportunities are increasing for chaplains and pastoral carers to work in hospitals, aged care centres and palliative care. These roles are generally part-time (2-3 days per week) and require the same kind of professional training that Janine will undergo in her time at Kirkbrae: work experience, theological training and participation in units of Clinical Pastoral education at metropolitan and some regional hospitals.

The health care chaplaincy sector in Victoria requires a commitment to social inclusion with chaplains from a range of faith groups and denominations now caring for people in various settings. This requires in a Christian chaplain a certain combination of robustness, respect, discernment and delicacy in dealing with all those they encounter, yet our chaplains continue to find they have many opportunities to model Christ, to pray, and to work with the Holy Spirit in caring for others in their various roles.

If you would like more information about chaplaincy and pastoral care ministry, opportunities and training, please contact the Chaplaincy and Pastoral Care Coordinator of the PCV, Mrs Kathy James at chaplaincy@pcvic.org.au. She would be very pleased to hear from you.

WANTED TO BUY OR SWAP

Rochester Presbyterian Church would like to buy 20 small green Rejoice! hymn books, or would be willing to swap for 20 blue melody line hymn books.

Please contact Leanne on 54841028 or email her at ljp1850@bigpond.com.



Harvest Thanksgiving in Moe



St Andrews Presbyterian Church Moe celebrated Harvest Thanksgiving with a special service at the end of January. The response from members of the congregation saw an abundant array of home grown produce along with groceries arrayed at the front of the church.

Time was provided during the service for members to bring

their gifts up to the front, while the organist played the hymn All things bright and beautiful. The message taken from Ecclesiastes 5:18-20 explained clearly that the purpose of Harvest Thanksgiving is to recognise that God controls the natural world and to show we are grateful that he has blessed the work of our hands and given us a harvest. There are two truths: the work and joy of harvest, and thanksgiving.

At the conclusion of the service, lunch was shared in the hall and members were able to speak personally about their thankfulness to God.

Later the produce was distributed to needy families in the area.

Ruth Ure

Moe Presbyterian Church

Evangelism training takes off around Victoria

City and Country Presbyterians alike have been taking advantage of evangelism training opportunities provided by the Ministry Development Committee and the PCV Training Officer.

Three Evangelism Clinics were held in 2011, hosted by the South Yarra, Hamilton & Bendigo churches, each hosting two consecutive weekends of training. Friday nights, with the theme of 'Understanding Your Neighbour' set some of the context for evangelism, focussing on Postmodernism, Islam, Mormons and Jehovah's witnesses. These evenings were well-attended and were led by PCV Ministry Development Director Rev Dr Robert Carner and Home Missionary Kamran Nazir, who is cross-cultural pastor at our Dandenong congregation.

The XEE training over two Saturdays was at the heart of the weekends, training participants to make and use opportunities to share the Gospel. At South Yarra, the Saturday training was led by XEE Director Langdon Stewart. PCV Training Officer Rev Nello

Barbieri joined the team at Hamilton and Bendigo. The XEE program, a reworking of Evangelism Explosion, includes professionally produced multimedia materials, and more importantly, effectively trains Christians to evangelise their friends and family in an intentional way. Participants were both equipped and encouraged.

Following the 2011 clinics, Robert Carner commented, 'XEE is an excellent tool, and it was wonderful that so many people from our churches around Victoria came eager to learn how to use it to share Christ with the folks around them. I'm excited about doing it all again in 2012.'

Evangelism Clinics are planned for later this year at Bendigo (20-22 and 27-29 April) and Ballarat West (24-26 August and 30 August-1 September). To register, contact Rev Philip Burns at Bendigo (philipjburns@gmail.com), or Rev Ian Hutton at Ballarat West (iahutton@bigpond.com).

House warming celebration for the Rev Dr John Woodward

It was a great house 'warming' for John Woodward as his air conditioner had to be on full blast all the time we were there! Ballarat Presbytery members and families enjoyed good food, warm fellowship, fun games and Christian encouragement at John's new home in Creswick.

The winner of the game didn't get a prize, just exemption from washing dishes.

Just joking, everyone helped out. Special thanks to John's neighbor, Diana Cooling, who worked the ministry of 'Martha' throughout the evening! Diana and her husband attend regular public worship at Grace Presbyterian Church. Thanks also to Ann Hutton for all her work behind the scenes in coordinating and making sure that everything went well. Thanks to everyone who brought extra food to share. Sarah Hutton was such a gem in making sure that the two boys were well-entertained and out of trouble. Moderator of Presbytery gave a short devotion on Jeremiah 29:11, encouraging everyone about God's abundant blessing and guidance. It was special encouragement for John as he retires from full-time ministry, and handles the recent passing of his dear wife and partner in ministry, Lyn.

Everyone mingled freely with one another, and all too soon, it was time to go home!

The Rev. Willem Vandenberg brought the social to an end with prayer before hitting the Western Hwy back to Horsham.

Ballarat Presbytery is delighted about John's decision to continue his clerkship and is praying for God's richest blessing on him as he ministers to Presbytery and the wider Church.

Hui Lim

*Social Convenor
Promotion Officer*

Induction of Robert White to Geelong West



Having been without a minister for the last three years, it was with much joy and thankfulness to God that the congregation of Geelong West Presbyterian Church celebrated the induction of Rev. Robert White.

The service took place on Friday the 3rd of February 2012 with approximately 120 people in attendance. Rev. Darren Middleton led the service and preached from John 21, challenging us to rely not on our own standing before God but only on the grace of our Saviour. Following the service, many stayed to informally welcome Robert and his wife Sue over supper.

The congregation look forward to working with Robert and Sue to proclaim Christ to the people of Geelong West. The church has much to thank Interim Moderator, Rev. Peter Orchard for, as he has overseen many changes recently including the election of three new elders, the selling of the manse and the demolition of the hall stage to make room for the growing evening service. Rev. David Martin has enthusiastically taken on the care of the evening service, Church on Pako, during the time of vacancy and both he and Robert are looking forward to working together as the church continues to employ David for one day a week.

Thanks be to God for the provision of a teaching elder for our church!

*Drew Chittenden
Session Clerk*

MODERATOR'S MESSAGE OF HOPE FOR CHURCHES



The current Moderator of the PCV, Rev Dr Robert Carner, has been even busier than usual since his induction in October. Robert's sermon at the opening service of the Assembly, 'Does the Church Have a Future?', answered the question with 'Yes!' – but only as we venture boldly into our community with the Gospel, not fearful of the 'giants' we may encounter, but trusting in God for protection and fruitfulness. Another highlight of the Monday evening and Tuesday morning services was the musical ministry of Mr Greg Salter, who led the congregational singing with a very able group of musicians from the Donvale and Caulfield congregations. Greg also shared two of his own compositions: Messiah and Only You.

Since October, the Moderator has been visiting churches in the Presbytery of North Western Victoria. He urges the wider church to remember all rural and remote congregations in prayer. 'A number of these parishes struggle with low numbers, impoverished finances and discouragement on many fronts. Some do not see that they have a future and others are functionally just hanging in there in maintenance mode. We need a spiritual awakening and belief that Christianity (including the Presbyterian Church) can and will again make a positive impact upon our society!

'One goal is to encourage each other and become the "on fire for

Christ" disciples that we ought to be. Part of this encouragement may come through "Sister-Church" relationships. Mornington–Dromana Presbyterian Church has become a sister church to Briarwood Presbyterian Church of Birmingham Alabama, the home of the "Embers to a Flame" ministries. My message remains the same: we need a strengthened relationship with the Lord, seeking Him through prayer. We need to discover and live His vision and we need to build relationships within and beyond the borders of our individual congregations. Training and mentoring remain key to partnering with others to help them fulfil their calling.' Later this year Robert will be bringing the greetings of the General Assembly to congregations in the Presbytery of Melbourne North.

In March and entering the first week of April, Robert and his wife Coral are planning to visit the Mihalyi family of Donvale PC, Australian Presbyterian World Mission missionaries in Buda-

'Training and mentoring remain key to partnering with others to help them fulfil their calling.'

pest (Hungary), the Presbyterian Church of Pakistan along with APWM missionaries in that country, as well as John and Lynette Ellis in Dehra

Dun India. John and Lynette are at a cherished mission field, and recently hosted a number of our young adults on a short mission trip in association with the PYV. Each location will provide opportunities for preaching and Bible study. Pakistan includes speaking at a Seminary Graduation and touring rural churches. Coral will also be speaking to women's groups in both Pakistan and India.

Robert is fully committed to use both the role of Moderator and that of Ministry Development Director to encourage, equip and resource our churches to accomplish the ministry of inreach, outreach and upreach!



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Presbyterian Inland Mission: vision for the future, gratitude for the past

From the earliest days of their existence in Australia, the Christian churches have had a concern for the spiritual and physical needs of those who lived beyond the major concentrations of population on the coast.

A major impetus in the foundation of the Presbyterian Church of Australia was a desire on the part of the Federal Church to reach 'beyond the furthest fences' in word and deed in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Many men and women of the Church were concerned to see this mission carried out. This included John Flynn, who, following personal experience as the Smith of Dunesk Missionary based in Beltana SA, led the General Assembly of Australia in September 1912 to launch what became known as the Australian Inland Mission.

In 1977 the Presbyterian Church of Australia entered a new stage of its life. Despite many challenges, the work of the Australian Inland Mission has continued on through the Presbyterian Inland Mission.

The PIM has developed an extensive network of patrol ministries throughout Inland and Outback Australia and is involved in practical and philanthropic activities as well as sharing of the good news about the Lord Jesus Christ. The PIM has established and maintained centres of Christian worship and witness in remote and isolated

places for local people as well as bases from which patrol work can be launched and supported.

In our Centenary Year we invite support for the PIM Centenary Vision which includes:

- Sending four new Patrol couples out, starting with David and Gae McDonald who will serve in the John Flynn Patrol SA. These workers are raising their own support. Can you help?

- Obtaining a Church building for the Darwin congregation as part of a fresh church planting effort in the NT capital and

- Sending out a church planter to Alice Springs to gather a new congregation and establish a base for patrol work in central Australia.

In addition to this, in September we will also be holding a Centenary Celebration service at Scots Pres-

byterian Church, Collins Street Melbourne. We would encourage you to join with us on what will be a memorable occasion.

For more information about PIM and the Centenary celebrations visit the website at www.pim.org.au

Stuart Bonnington
Superintendent of the PIM

Celebrating 100 Years



Join Us

Thanksgiving Service
Sat 22nd September

Scots Presbyterian Church
Corner Collins & Russell Street Melbourne

Time: 7pm

Supper Provided

Presbyterian Inland Mission
www.pim.org.au

Prepare to declare:

Trainees get ready to share the mercy of God

'And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.' 2 Timothy 2:2

This passage is being deliberately lived out in nine churches in 2012, with fifteen young people beginning ministry traineeships.

Ben Drew (Frankston), Nick Arundell, Stephanie Deroon and Jesse Walz (Geelong West) have begun their first year of METRO, which is a two-year, partly funded, full-time traineeship. METRO is designed to give people a taste of local church ministry and theological study to determine if that is where God is calling them to serve Him.



Above: METRO trainees
Top right: youthMETRO trainees
Please pray for all these young people as they seek to learn and serve.

youthMETRO is a one year training program which aims to grow and develop local church youth leaders, by providing them with the biblical knowledge, support and skills they need to teach the Gospel to young people.

In 2012, Lisa Kent (Broadford), Michael Ellis (Bundoora), Michael Enderby and Naomi Schulz (Hamilton), Jacob Daffy (Malvern), Emily Venning (South Yarra), Christel Erskine, Michelle George (South Yarra), Lauren Walley (Surrey Hills), and Isaac Hayward and Ben McLeod (Warrnambool) are undertaking youthMETRO.

Saturday January 28th saw the first METRO Orientation day, with trainees, trainers and coaches from METRO and youthMETRO gathering for mutual encouragement for the year of ministry ahead.

Those attending were challenged by Rev. Nello Barbieri to consider how Jesus gives us a new identity as the people of God, and a new purpose: to declare the



saving mercy of God. Attendees then split into their respective traineeship groups to further delve into the core elements of METRO/youthMETRO: Being like Jesus (Personal Godliness), Thinking like Jesus (Theological Reflection) and Serving like Jesus (Ministry Skills).

They also spent time in prayer and planning their catch-ups for the term ahead.

Please pray for the METRO and youthMETRO trainees and trainers throughout 2012, for the training they will undertake and those they will be reaching out to.

For more information on METRO and youthMETRO visit metrotraineeship.org.au

Brad Haughey
METRO Committee
contact@metrotraineeship.org.au

New Principal for the College

Over 200 worshipers gathered at Hawthorn on Friday 10th February for the Induction service for the new Presbyterian Theological College principal, Rev. Peter Hastie.

It was a fitting location for Rev. Hastie who commenced his own ministry training in 1977 while the College was at Hawthorn before it moved to the Assembly Hall and then to Box Hill. The Moderator

General, Rt Rev. David Jones, preached on Hebrews 13:8 and past principals Dr Milne and Dr Harman also participated. A welcome presentation was made to Mrs Sue Hastie as well. The entire service can be found online at <http://www.hawthornchurch.org> via the link on the front page.

Rev. Graham Nicholson
Hawthorn

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