

THE BEST JOB IN THE WORLD?



'Being a minister must be the best job in the world!' exclaimed a young man.

His friend shook his head. 'It depends what you mean by "best". It's not an easy job, but it's certainly one of the most worthwhile in the world.'

This year, six faithful men have progressed from theological student to PCV minister. How did they choose such a worthwhile job and where have they been appointed? Read these personal stories to find out.

Adam and Tracey Humphries Brimbank Presbyterian Church

'I grew up in the Grampians in a small town called Pomonal. I moved to Melbourne for university where I studied arts and science, before working as a scientist for a few years. Tracey grew up in Rochester. We married after meeting at uni where she was studying law. She worked as a lawyer before we had kids: Charlotte (5) and Noah (3).

'I became a Christian while at uni, and my time with the Christian Union

encouraged me to explore ministry.

'After completing an apprenticeship—split between the LaTrobe CU and Bundoora Presbyterian—I knew that God had been preparing me for ministry all my life. I decided to apply to be a Presbyterian candidate.

'Theological studies helped to sharpen my theological framework and gave me greater skills at interpreting the Bible. My student placement at Brimbank PC, in the western suburbs of Melbourne, gave me the opportunity to serve in a church in its earlier stages of growth and exposed me to new ideas on how to run a church service.

'I'm really grateful to God that I have been appointed to Brimbank. Since I had my SFE placement there it means we know the people well. This is especially important since at the end of January my wife and I will be having our third child; he has Spina Bifida. It will be a very emotional and busy time for us so it helps that we already have a good relationship with the congregation. I plan to spend my first year in ministry getting to know the congregation even

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Pictured: Tracey, Noah, Charlotte and Adam Humphries are grateful to be at Brimbank.

Sent by God: the testimony of Len Pearce

The Ararat congregation recently hosted a visit from Len and Wendy Pearce, who have spent decades serving God in the Middle East. Following the visit, Len was asked to share his testimony. Be prepared; his words may change you. (*Some place names have been changed for security purposes.*)

'Wendy and I have been in the Middle East since 1973, except for the

years when our boys were in late primary and high school, and we pastored at Heathmont Presbyterian church, followed by some time working in Prison Fellowship. Now all our sons are involved in mission in one way or another, taking up the baton, while we have run out of years. It is a great privilege for us as parents, as well as a big responsibility, and all by the grace of God alone.



Len urges us not to live 'half-baked' Christian lives.

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Deadline
for next
edition:
1 May

Every youth leader's dream

I look up from my Bible as the sound of laughter distracts me. It's a sunny afternoon at Phillip Island, and I'm one of about seventy delegates at *Engage*'13 currently writing a Bible study.

I'm out on the front deck at 'The Island', a great CYC campsite that is currently strewn with youth leaders who are studying Matthew chapter six. They're across the deck, in the dining room, next to the pool, under the table tennis table, and sprawled on the lush grass. There's also a brave rabbit nibbling on the grass just a few metres away.

It's been invigorating to hang out with so many youth leaders from all over the state. Everyone's been exchanging stories and ideas, encouraging each other, offering to help people they've only just met, and bonding over good food, coffee in Cowes, or a swim in the pool. I heard one girl say, 'This weekend is every youth leader's dream!'

For me, like many others, this is the first Bible study I've ever written. As I gaze around, one of my leaders walks up. 'How are you going? Got questions? Can I get you a drink of water?' She asks. I'm extremely grateful for the teaching, encouragement and help

from our experienced (and fun) strand group leaders. They've been taking us through a handy model for writing New Testament Bible studies all weekend. Now we're learning to put it into practice so we can run better Bible studies that really get to the heart of a passage, and help us, and those we lead, to live out what God's word teaches us.



I thank her and accept the offer of water, refocusing on the page in front of me. I'm making progress.

This morning the keynote speaker at *Engage*, Rev. Raj Gupta, talked revealingly about the 'Lord's Prayer'. I don't always take notes but I've found Raj says so many noteworthy things that I can't put my pen down.

He pointed out that Jesus said, 'This, then is *how* you should pray' (italics are mine), which points more to the attitude of our hearts than the specific words we say. I know many things Raj has pointed out from Matthew will stick in my mind long after the conference, and change the way I live each day.

I've been challenged, too, by the afternoon workshops I've attended on 'The personal life of a leader' and 'All of life discipleship'. Issues that previously confused me about discipleship were cleared up; when I get home, I know what to do!

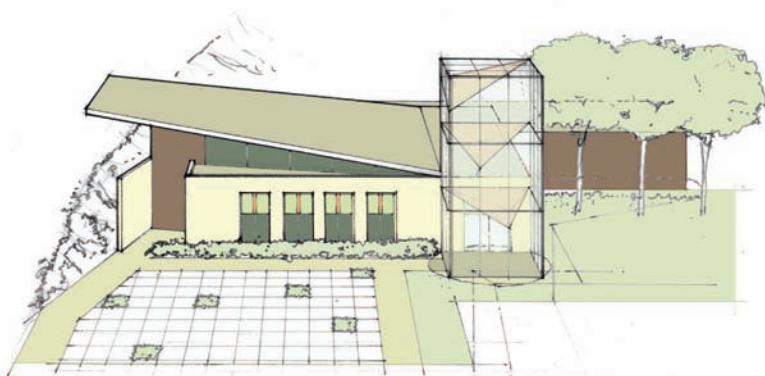
I spot the source of laughter that first distracted me. She has apologetically clamped her hand over her mouth and she's writing, but her shoulders are still shaking with giggles. Perhaps she's thought of a hilarious illustration to go with her Bible study.

Not for the first time, I think of the youth leaders I know who couldn't make it to *Engage* this year, and I make a mental note to tell them: 'You have to come to *Engage* in 2014!'

Chiara Bilyj

The new Engage youth leaders conference aims to equip youth leaders with God's word. It was held from 25-28 January and will, God willing, continue for a long time.

Exciting building project for Kirkbrae Presbyterian Homes



Donations towards building this chapel will be gratefully accepted.

Kirkbrae Presbyterian Homes, set in thirteen hectares of beautiful trees and gardens, offers facilities for independent living together with hostel and residential care accommodation.

Situated at 794 Mount Dandenong Road, Kilsyth, Kirkbrae is just one hour's drive from Melbourne, yet with a country atmosphere, nestled at the foothills of the Dandenongs.

With ninety independent living units and 110 residential care beds, Kirkbrae offers a friendly, caring, Christian

community managed by the Social Services Committee of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

Kirkbrae presently has over 220 residents and 160 staff members. Now, with plans in place to redevelop the Retirement Village, an additional 120 residents are anticipated.

The first stage of redevelopment, four new free-standing units and a cluster of eight units in a parkland setting, has been approved by the committee. They will be built as one and two bedroom units with an

ensuite/bathroom, a study/flexi-room, kitchen, living and dining rooms and a secure car garage with entry directly into the unit.

Also approved in the first stage of the redevelopment are a two-storey administration building, and maintenance building. The committee will call for tenders for the twelve units and the administration building in March, with the completion date for the first stage to be by December. The estimated expenditure for the first stage is \$6.5M and was approved by the General Assembly in October last year. The construction of the maintenance building has already commenced.

Another decision made by the committee as part of the Master Plan for Kirkbrae is to build a dedicated chapel in the Village.

Since the first residents moved into Kirkbrae in 1961, church services have been held in the Village Community Hall. This has worked well over the years, but sharing the hall with other Village activities is restricting.

The committee now believes that with the approval of the first stage, and a new community centre in second stage, planning should commence for



FELLOW WORKERS

NO VACANCY: Colleague and successor called to Heathmont

At its December 2012 meeting, the presbytery of Maroondah placed a call from the Heathmont congregation into Dean Carroll's hand.

This was the culmination of a process begun in October 2011 when I outlined my vision to the elders that a colleague and successor be sought to replace me upon my retirement in 2013. The elders unanimously endorsed the idea and appraised the congregation of what was entailed (as far as we could determine from the Code). The congregation gave its whole-hearted assent, and so it all began.

Seeking a colleague and successor confronted the session with the significant dearth of funds at Heathmont to pay for the dual ministry period. Heathmont's vision for a colleague and successor was shared with the Ministry Development Committee. We met enthusiastic agreement and an undertaking to fund the position for six months, as a test case to determine how a congregation where the minister was anticipating retirement could avoid the often-negative effects of the resulting vacancy. This welcome grant was pivotal to the realization of Heathmont's vision and the congregation is most grateful to the MDC as it supports our vision in this very practical way.

The process has not been without its hitches. A flawed understanding of the Code entry on my part and uncertainty on presbytery's part as to what the Code required was the subject for some discussion and email traffic. This hiatus was successfully negotiated with the help of the Assembly Clerk, John Wilson, and the enthusiastic good will of the presbyters.

Advertising for the position began in July, 2012. Nine expressions of interest were received, (including three from America), all of which were

thoroughly evaluated by the congregation. At the pointy end of the proceedings, presbytery appointed Rev Brian Harvey as Interim Moderator to lead the congregation through the vacancy that occurred due to the presbytery declaring a position to be filled, namely, that of colleague and successor to the incumbent, Rev. Andrew Venn... me. One of the strange aspects of the process is that, where a colleague and successor is being sought, the parish is in a 'vacancy' when it has a minister.



Dean Carroll and Andrew Venn will work together at Heathmont for the first part of 2013.

Despite some administrative glitches, the overall process of securing a colleague and successor prospered at every turn. All at Heathmont prayerfully sought God's will at every stage and trusted Him for the ultimate outcome, whether that was to be an ordinary vacancy at my retirement or the provision of a colleague and successor. The congregation was prepared to forego having a colleague and successor if God did not present what they all agreed was the right applicant. This did not turn out to be the case.

The Rev Dean Carroll (appointment minister to Woori Yallock) indicated that, unbeknown to us, he had been interested from the first mention of

Heathmont's intentions at presbytery in February 2012. Fast forward to December 2012, and indeed, God has brought about the result we now are pleased to publish.

Dean will be inducted into the position as my colleague and successor at Heathmont, to God's glory, on Sunday March 17th, at 1.30pm. If this edition 'hits the streets' before that happy event, we would be pleased to have you join us and witness God's handiwork and our congregation's joy.

What on earth will there be for two ministers to do in one small congregation? The transitional period (six months) will be profitably spent doing a careful handover, where the experiences, decisions and outcomes of my nearly eleven years at Heathmont will be explained. I aim to give Dean the best possible understanding as to why Heathmont came to be as it is. Even before Dean arrives, the valuable process of mutual sharing and preparing has begun, with our wives taking a very prominent role as their experiences are also a vital element of the ministry equation. Even as I write this before Dean and Sandy have arrived, we are already meeting (along with a flurry of emails and texts) for prayerful discussion and planning to give Dean and Sandy the best possible start in what, for them, is a new work. Armed with such intelligence, Dean will not have to operate in a fog of unknowns, but will be ministering confidently and profitably, with my continued (albeit, short term) support and encouragement, from day one. I am already finding our sharing invigorating. Seeing a vision become a reality is thrilling, to say the least. I cannot thank God enough for this amazing end to my time in full time parish ministry.

Rev Andrew Venn
Heathmont Presbyterian Church

Kirkbrae project: continued

a future chapel.

In May, the Social Services Committee agreed that our architects, Thomson Adsett, should draw up plans for a contemporary 100 seat chapel, a gathering space for after church services, a chaplain's meeting room, a kitchen facing the gathering space, storage area, toilets and an air lock tower.

Pleased with the architects' plans, we then asked them to seek construction costs to build the chapel. It was estimated that the total building works for the chapel would cost \$1,246,000. This figure was regarded by Thomas

Adsett as the upper limit for the building of the chapel.

To raise funds to build the chapel, the committee sought approval from the General Assembly to conduct a state-wide appeal to members of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria. This was granted by the General Assembly in October and a trust account has been opened to accept donations to build the chapel. The account at the National Bank is in the name of Chapel Trust Account, a/c 083-170 147953404.

The committee is also very pleased that the Rev Andrew Bray, a past Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, has accepted our invita-

tion to be the Patron of the Kirkbrae Chapel Appeal.

Raising funds in this way will give focus to our Christian faith and the building of the chapel will provide residents with a special place to worship Almighty God.

This is an exciting time for Kirkbrae as we commence the first stage of our redevelopment and announce the decision to build a dedicated chapel. This reminds us all that Kirkbrae is Presbyterian owned and run and that Jesus Christ is our foundation.

Robert Lowe
Convener
Social Services Committee

The best job in the world?

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better and working on preaching well.'

Aaron and Gabby Boyd Darebin Presbyterian Church

'I grew up in Bendigo, in a family that went to church, regularly read the Bible and prayed together. But it wasn't until I was at a conference when I was fifteen that I was born again. I heard the gospel and for the first time it was personal rather than abstract. I understood that I was a sinner who needed to be forgiven and that God had made this forgiveness possible through Jesus' death on the cross.

'After I finished high school, I studied an Arts Degree at La Trobe University. While doing this I worked part-time as an instrumental music teacher and as an integration aide with children with disabilities.

'I went to the same conference when I was seventeen and felt called by God into full-time gospel ministry. Since that moment, I was involved in youth ministry, high school ministry and university student ministry. In those contexts I was able to keep testing my calling to ministry and my gifts for ministry.

'Gabby and I got married at the end of 2006; she's from Bendigo too. After school she studied Occupational Therapy and is now working in the field of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services. She helps to run a group therapy program called Groupworx for young people—it's pretty full on!

'My theological studies taught me a lot about how to understand and preach the Scriptures well, and my student placement was with PCV church planter Richard Wilson at Valley Presbyterian Church in Doreen, on the Northern outskirts of Melbourne. Since Gabby and I were preparing to church plant in Thornbury it was excellent to be a part of another plant, and get first-hand experience of all the "grunt work" that goes into getting a church "off the ground". It was helpful to grill Richard with lots of questions and learn from his successes and even from his mistakes!

'We've lived in Thornbury and North Fitzroy over the last five years. It's great to be now starting Darebin Presbyterian Church in our neighbourhood—we love the Inner North of Melbourne!

'I'm both excited and daunted about my appointment to DPC. I'm excited because a long season of preparation is nearly over and now it's time to launch. I'm also excited because

I believe God has given us all the resources we need in the power of the gospel and the power of the Spirit.

'On the other hand, I'm daunted as I feel the burden of leadership and become conscious of my own weaknesses—however all of this is driving me to depend on God even more which can only be a good thing!

'Key priorities when I think about my role next year include:

1. Devoting myself to preaching. I need to give myself enough time to preach well.

2. Investing in training and equipping. I need to invest time in training the whole church plant core team, but particularly I want to invest in the young men in the church, some of whom I hope might become elders in the church and/or enter full-time ministry.

3. Modelling evangelism. I need to put some time into building relationships in the local community, getting to know people and having conversations about Jesus. I can't expect the church to do evangelism if I don't do it myself.

4. Taking time to rest. I know that church planting is going to be very busy (as is all pastoral ministry)! I need to remind myself that God is sovereign, that everything does not depend on me, and that he commands me to rest.

'Please pray for me, and for us!
And check out darebinpc.com.au.'

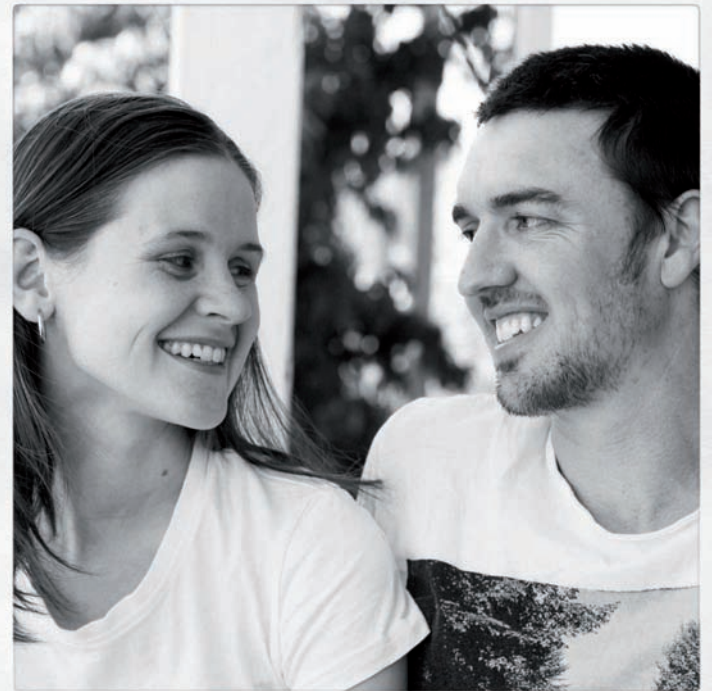
Jared and Jasmine Keath Frankston Presbyterian Church

Jared and Jasmine are from Boort, in northern Victoria. They have five children: Esther (9), Elijah (8), Ruby (6), Myra (2) and Lydia (1). Jared studied Ecotourism and Photojournalism at university, where he also became a Christian. After working in environmental conservation, a desire to make disciples through preaching and teaching the Word led him to study for the ministry. Theological study improved his ability to deal with the biblical text, through learning the original languages.

Jared is excited by the opportuni-

ties presented by his exit appointment as associate minister at Frankston, and says that he feels privileged to work under the leadership of Rev Bill Medley. He intends to approach his role by 'praying earnestly, focusing on preaching and also discipling people on a personal level, and through hospitality.'

Stuart and Adele Withers Rochester Presbyterian Church



'Both Adele and myself grew up in Tasmania. My father was a farm manager near Branxholm in N.E. Tassie. Our household attended an Anglican church. I think my parents felt that this was the kind of thing good upstanding people did, so they went. When I was around fourteen, a new minister challenged them with really believing the gospel and becoming believers; and they did! That changed our household quite a bit.

'A few years later as a young man I was really struggling to make sense of life. What was it all about and what was I meant to do? It occurred to me that death could happen at any time. What purpose was there for me? As my parents started to learn more about following Jesus and I met a few more serious Christians, I began to hear



some real answers to my questions. In year 11, in 1990, I started following Christ as Lord.

'After High School I followed a similar path to my dad, studying Farm Management at Glenormiston Agricultural College (Noorat Vic). I worked for twelve months near Swan Hill in Victoria before returning to Tassie. In



those language skills. This forms the basic approach to reading and understanding the scriptures; essential skills for my ongoing study and teaching. I have also found the theological formation very helpful. Theology will always show its face in what you do and say—in Christian living, and decisions in ministry.

'Along with these more technical subjects, I have found both the college missions and the student parish placement very helpful for my personal development. These enable integration of learning with "real" ministry. For me, intentional mission activity and an awareness of people's different cultural lenses have challenged my thinking. How well do people understand what I am trying to communicate to them?

'In God's great kindness Rochester is now home for us. Having been here for only a few weeks the family is revelling in the great escape from Melbourne. Whilst our time there was good we really are suited to the bush and are very pleased with the placement.

'I have no grand plans for my role in the congregation, other than preaching as clearly as possible from Luke's gospel and getting to know the congregation so that any encouragement and teaching I bring will be "scratching where it itches."

The Withers' kids left to right are: Catherine, Esther, Matilda, Callum, and Harry.

Gary & Carolyn Wentworth

Leongatha Presbyterian Church

'I grew up in the Melbourne suburbs. After studying business at RMIT I became a chartered accountant working in the taxation area. Carolyn and I were married in 1984; she taught mathematics at Lauriston Girls School for four years before our first child was born. We lived in Box Hill before moving to Clayton.

'I became a Christian when I was twenty-one, while attending St. Stephens Presbyterian Church in Surrey Hills. The call to ministry happened later in life for me. Seeking the Lord for the way ahead, I knew I was to be in a ministry role, and it soon became clear that it was to be in full time pastoral ministry. It was quite a rapid change.

'Study for me was a great challenge, because of the volume of work, and partly because of my desire to maintain involvement in church and family activities. It showed me even more the need for prayer, the enormity

of God's grace, and the support of my family, church, and college. I had wonderful support from the minister, Michael Jensen, the Session and congregation of St. Andrews PC in Clayton.

'One of the most beneficial times of preparation for me was my SFE time at South Yarra PC, particularly interacting with Rev. John Stasse. Our discussion times were a great blessing and he provided much practical guidance and wisdom.

'We moved to Leongatha on 15 January. My appointment there is currently on a part-time basis. We've left our three older children (Thomas, Katherine and Jonathan) in Clayton to continue their studies and work, while our youngest child, Samuel, is coming with us and about to start at South Coast Christian School. I need to find two days work to fill the other part-time needs, but we go ahead, trusting in God's faithfulness. The care and growth of the congregation at Leongatha is on our hearts, and we pray for the surrounding community to experience the love of Jesus through biblically-based teaching, and lives that witness to God's faithfulness.

'Please pray that we will be faithful in this calling, and that we will have wisdom in knowing how best to engage with the people here.'

Peter and Gail Roberts Cranbourne Presbyterian Church

Peter Roberts has been appointed to Cranbourne, the same parish in which he has served as a Home Missionary since 2010.

'Being a home missionary at Cranbourne was just what the church needed, and just what I needed. We have both grown in many ways and I think this placement as a home missionary has been successful on many levels. I feel that this is not so much a change, but a testimony of God's grace to me, this congregation and the many people behind the scenes who have been discipling, praying, encouraging, and supporting this ministry.

'This progression to where we are now has always been my hope for this church and many who support home mission have had the same desire. I am privileged to be continuing on in this ministry with a wealth of experience because of the people I have had around me, and I look forward to seeing what God will do next.'

Peter and his wife Gail have five children: Joshua, Elijah, Daniel, Elisabeth and David, aged between twenty and eleven years old.



Tasmania I was employed on a couple of different farms; flocks of the sheep variety, plus beef cattle occupied my energies.

'After fifteen years, moving to Melbourne to

study full-time as a ministry candidate at the PTC was big! It took me some time to stop weather watching; life goes on in the city with or without rain. Training for ministry was a natural progression from my involvement as an elder in my home congregation. Ministry activities, including preaching, snowballed into a growing desire to preach and teach the gospel with all my time and energy.

'The transition back to full time study took time to get used to. I enjoyed learning the original languages of the Bible, along with exegesis using

Sent by God

The testimony of Len Pearce

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‘Wendy came to the Middle East from the UK, in 1973, after being set apart by her church and being sent out by the Holy Spirit. This sending was preceded by domestic science and nursing training, by experience working as an aid in a boarding school for boys, time as a district midwife, then two years at the Bible College of Wales. But the following testimony necessarily follows the early years of the Lord’s work, in Len’s life, due to space limitations!

“As the Father has sent me, even so send I you”. Thus said Jesus, meaning that his sending of us to take the gospel to the ends of the earth will have the same characteristics, sufferings and blessings as Jesus’ sending by the Father. This is a very solemn truth.

‘We really should use the words “guidance”, “direction”, and “sending”, coupled with “the command” when it comes to mission service as we know it. Even the command in Matthew 28:19 reads literally “having gone therefore...” The Lord presumes that we will all be “goers” and all be sent. All we need is direction as to where and how far, and for how long in each place. Sadly, because some of us feel we haven’t heard “the call” we excuse ourselves from the responsibility.

‘We really need to surrender to the Lord to do whatever, whenever, wherever, out of love for Him, so that the Lord can truly guide us into his will. If he knows that we are going to make our own choices, based on what we think we are suited to, or what suits us, then we will never experience his direction and commissioning. How sad that a Christian life can be lived in this half-baked fashion, and we can ultimately be saved by the skin of our teeth, as Job said.

‘Here is a solemn prayer offered by John Wesley as a covenant with the Lord at the beginning of each new year: “I am no longer my own, but Yours. Put me to what You will. Rank me with whom You will. Put me to doing. Put me to suffering. Let me be employed for You, or laid aside for You. Exalted for You, or brought low for You. Let me be full. Let me be empty. Let me have all things. Let me have nothing. I freely and wholeheartedly yield all things to Your pleasure, and dis-

posal, and now, glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, You are mine and I am Yours. So be it. And the covenant now made on earth let it be ratified in Heaven. Amen.”

‘Let me pick up on that eventful week in August of 1971 when everything came together with a visitation by the Lord. Peter Dahlen had spoken at the seminar at the MBI. If someone had not drawn a camel on the blackboard, we would not have known that Peter was from Arabia. He came to the lectern and for the next fifty minutes preached with fervor and clarity from John chapter fifteen and then sat down. That was his address!



Wendy and Len Pearce first met at language school.

After lunch I spoke with Peter, and was given literature to read. Peter asked me to come and see him again before he departed from Melbourne, and I did, after reading the literature. One booklet by Dr Lionel Gurney

particularly caught my attention. “Doc” referred to three tribes in the Arabian area who had never heard, and who didn’t have any Scriptures in their own language. These languages were S and M in

Arabia, and B in Sudan. I returned to see Peter before he moved on and he said, “Let’s continue to pray about all this, and let’s see what the Lord will do”.

‘At that time I was studying Old Testament Hebrew at Melbourne University to prepare myself to work “among people who had never heard”, as the Lord had commissioned me at conversion. I was strongly persuaded that any such peoples would also need a Bible. In the week after Peter’s visit, after hearing about S, M, and B, for the first time in my life, I went to

my Hebrew lecture about 10 minutes early. I found myself alone with the lecturer, Dr Adam Murtonen. He was sitting at his desk working, when suddenly he turned and began talking to me. For six months I had been in his lecture and he had not spoken privately before. He knew nothing about me. He started to tell me all about himself, his family, his home country (Finland), why he had come to Australia, and how he came to be a lecturer in Hebrew. Then, without prompting he said, “Mr Pearce, you may be interested to know that I have an interest in the languages of Arabia”.

‘I responded immediately, “Actually I am very interested. Which ones?”

‘He said “S and M”, and I discovered in the next week that he also knew B from Sudan.

‘The same languages brought to my notice! I later found out that Dr Murtonen and one other scholar in Europe were the only two in the whole world at the time, apart from the tribes themselves, who were speakers of S and M! How could one of them just “happen” to be my lecturer and “happen” to mention it the week after Peter’s visit? This was clearly the Lord! Out of the mouth of two or three witnesses every fact will be confirmed!

‘From that day forward all energy and every step has been taken with S and M sealed in my heart. I was permitted in 1972 to do one whole year of study in the M language under Dr Murtonen, as preparation for doing an MA thesis in the language, which had never been done. Dr Murtonen preferred me to study M because he said he knew it better than S.

‘During 1972 I tried twice to get to the M people by writing letters (supported by my professor). There was no reply from one government, and the other government told me that there was a war in the area of the M, so they could not permit me entry. As a result I applied elsewhere, and was accepted to “come to learn Arabic and prepare for the day when the Lord opens the door to S or M”.

‘I arrived on November 23rd 1973, and unbeknownst to me at the time, Wendy was to arrive three weeks later and we were to enter the same language school, together. All was happening in divine providence. Within two years we were married and our mission family began to grow, in the field, and by the mercy and grace of God.’

Len Pearce

Submitted by the
Ararat Mission Committee



FELLOW WORKERS

The indomitable man of vision

One century ago, the Rev John Flynn was appointed Superintendent of the newly formed Australian Inland Mission. This is the fourth of five articles, by the Rev Robert Benn, continuing the story of the life of one of our own whose faith and service we must not forget. To read previous instalments of this story, download the June, September and December newsletters from our website: fellowworkers.pcvic.org.au.

Two thousand pounds! Enough to purchase eight A Ford Tourers! This bequest came from Hugh Victor McKay of the Sunshine Harvester Company and member of the local Presbyterian Church in Melbourne. 'And £2000 per annum if AIM's Aerial Medical Experiment proceeds.'

This made the Board concede, 'If H V McKay supports the enterprise, there must be something in it.' But for John Flynn, there was still a seemingly insurmountable problem. Wireless communication. 'We can't have Flying Doctors without communication from patient to doctor and aeroplane.'

George Towns was an ex-army radio operator. 'Mr Flynn, you need Alf Traeger. He's a genius in the field of wireless communication!' Flynn went to the garage where this young Lutheran Christian lad worked. 'I'm happy to employ you for six pounds per week with AIM.' Traeger, knowing this was his 'dream job', turned to his friend. 'I'd have done it for three!'

It was 1926.

Very soon Flynn and Traeger were on their way through Oodnadatta to the Alice, to set up the first experimental wireless station. After plenty of trials, eventually the equipment was working. As they worked and experimented, John Flynn continued to dream his dreams of medical services, flying doctors, patrol ministries and a voice for the dumb. 'We will cast our mantle of safety over the inland,' he breathed. The Alice was ready to speak.

They went to Hermannsburg Mission to set up the first experimental outpost station. Alf was delighted to be there. Hermannsburg is where

Albert Namatjira was born, learned the gospel of grace, and began his career as artist.

'Hello. Hello. Receiving!' Success.

Soon they were on the camel tracks again, heading to Arltunga Police Station to equip the second outpost. The policeman was overwhelmed. 'We must have this equipment in every police station!'

Other experiments had been dubbed, 'successful failures'. Not this one. Rev Andrew Barber and Dr George Simpson, both of Hamilton, Victoria received the commission from Flynn, 'Take the Dodge. Find the very best place in the inland for the first Mother Station.'

'Mr Flynn, you need Alf Traeger. He's a genius in the field of wireless communication!'

Soon, with many clouds of dust and miles behind the Dodge, the men settled on Cloncurry as the most suitable place for the Mother Station. Within a short time 'Mother' was receiving communications from 'Baby', set up on Sir Sidney Kidman's Augustus Downs in the Gulf country.

Nothing could then prevent AIM from following in the footsteps of Hudson Fysh of Qantas – transporting Australians by air. But for Flynn, this wasn't a commercial enterprise. His aeroplanes were to be used for Christ and the continent.

1928 was a great year for AIM. Fysh commissioned the DH50A as the plane for use by the AIM. They called her VICTORY. Actually she was meant

to be VICTOR, named after Hugh Victor McKay, but the signwriter made a mistake! This did not disturb the McKay family though. It was a good name. AIM's Flying Doctors were now in the air ministering to outback folk through the Aerial Medical Service.

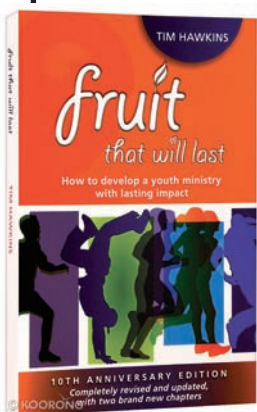
Dr Kenyon Welch was the first flying doctor, and Arthur Affleck was Fysh's choice for first pilot. Over 200 patients were treated, thirty-seven patient transports took place, 3000 miles flown and an estimated four lives were saved. And Arthur Affleck had landed and taken off on the most unimaginable landing strips... with no mishap!

Meanwhile, across the continent, cottage hospitals were being established by local people, backed by Flynn and his team. More and more patrol ministries began, and nursing sisters came inland to give a hand. Some of the situations they entered called for phenomenal cultural adjustment.

Generally speaking, behind every new cottage hospital was a story. A tragedy or death would occur, and people would rally to prevent such a thing happening again. By the end of the Second World War, fifteen hospitals had been established across the nation – three in Qld, three in the NT, five in WA and four in SA.

How Flynn praised his God for Alf Traeger! Morse code was excellent. But what if you can't spell? Alf continued to experiment. First a keyboard, then voice, and talkback radio became reality. With delight he wrote to patrol padre Fred McKay, 'I have always believed that God guides our lives. But it was certainly God who brought Flynn to me.'

Rev Robert Benn



PTC Media has a range of resources for Youth Group leaders, as well as our own PTC Media Bible study materials.

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All prices plus postage. Please look on the front page of the college website for the latest 12 page PTC Media catalogue. Contact Mignon Goswell, PTC Media Manager, 0400 880 515, ptcmedia@hotmail.com.

Partnership

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
AUSTRALIAN PRESBYTERIAN WORLD MISSION
WWW.APWM.ORG.AU



WHOSE CHURCH?

Late last year I had the privilege of travelling to Japan and was able to spend a day at the Presbyterian Church in Japan's Assembly. It was encouraging to be with church leaders who are determined to see the gospel go out among people who are resistant to its life-giving message.

I was also able to meet various church planters ranging from those in the heart of Tokyo city, to those in the outer suburbs, to those in areas affected by last year's devastating tsunami.

Only 0.55% of the Japanese are Christian and only 0.22% attend church regularly. What does Satan say to a church like this, that is relatively small? "Give up. You'll never get anywhere. This church won't grow." Satan repeats that message time after time across the earth wherever the church seems small.

But what does Jesus say to churches like these? What does he say to us? "I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it."

(Matthew 16:18). That promise of Jesus sustains the church in any location and in any age.

Yet if we are honest, there are times when we think: "Jesus, why don't you build your church much faster or in a better way?" But it's not our church. The church belongs to Jesus. He is the one who is building it and we have the marvellous privilege of being involved in the greatest task ever given to anyone — making the name of God known everywhere.

To those who pray, to those who give — thank you! Jesus is using your prayers and your gifts to build his church. What a marvellous day it will be when we are able to see the final product! What a glorious day of praise to God that will be!

KEVIN MURRAY



SCHOLARSHIPS

One of the most effective things that we can do in cross-cultural mission is train nationals to minister to their own people.

APWM does this primarily through supporting theological education. Please consider sponsoring a student from one of the following countries.

BANGLADESH

In Bangladesh we support the Presbyterian Theological Centre in Gazipur which is the Bible College of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Bangladesh. We have no resident missionary, however from time to time we send Australians to teach short courses for ministers and evangelists. The cost of a scholarship for a student is \$1200.



PRESBYTERIAN THEOLOGICAL CENTRE,
BANGLADESH

VANUATU

In Vanuatu we support the Talua Ministry Training Centre, the Bible College of the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu, where the Connors and Williamsons serve. The four year Bachelor of Ministry program is Vanuatu's first indigenous Bachelor-level program. It offers a higher level of training at a fraction of what it costs to send an individual or family overseas for training. A full Bachelor of Ministry scholarship costs \$4000.



TALUA MINISTRY TRAINING CENTRE, VANUATU

INDIA

Vijai Tagore is a lecturer at the Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Dehradun, India. APWM has brought Vijai and his family to Australia to study for a Master of Theology degree at PTC Sydney. They have ongoing support needs.



MYANMAR

In Myanmar we support the Reformed Bible Institute, the Bible College of the Evangelical Reformed Church of Myanmar led by the Rev Dr Thang Bwee. We have one resident missionary, Martin Eagle, who teaches at the college. We are very grateful that through current sponsors, the cost of student scholarships has been met. In addition we provide support for rural pastors for whom we only need a few more sponsors at \$480 for each pastor.



REFORMED BIBLE INSTITUTE, MYANMAR

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SPONSOR A STUDENT OR CONTRIBUTE TOWARD A SCHOLARSHIP THEN PLEASE CONTACT APWM NATIONAL ON 9792 1373 OR EMAIL NATIONAL@APWM.ORG.AU

“AFTER THIS I LOOKED AND THERE BEFORE ME WAS A GREAT MULTITUDE THAT NO ONE COULD COUNT, FROM EVERY NATION, TRIBE, PEOPLE AND LANGUAGE, STANDING BEFORE THE THRONE AND IN FRONT OF THE LAMB. (REVELATION 7:9)”



UPDATES

THEY'RE OFF!

Please join with us in praising God for those that have recently commenced serving overseas:

- J & R (Camden PC, NSW) SIM, East Asia.
- Brian & Judy Cullen (Stanthorpe PC, QLD) APWM National, Vanuatu.

WIRA & DEBBY DHARMA

Wira and Debby Dharma are from Beecroft PC, NSW. They serve with GRN as part of the home staff team. They have recently been accepted by APWM National as missionaries.



DEBBY & WIRA DHARMA

JOHN & ROSE EVANS

John and Rose Evans and family are settling in well to life in Japan. They will be returning briefly to Australia early in the new year for Rose to give birth. If you would like to watch an interview with them then please go to www.vimeo.com/55045822

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS

We currently have missionaries who are available to visit churches to build partnerships



PAUL & JENNY RAYNER AND FAMILY

PAUL & JENNY RAYNER (CENTRAL CHURCH, IPSWICH, QLD) PIONEERS, THAILAND.

Paul and Jenny have been visiting churches to build partnership support. They will be serving at the Grace International School in Thailand where Paul will join the teaching staff. Grace International is a school where many missionaries send their children, so Paul and Jenny's role

will enable other missionaries to reach out with the gospel. They can be contacted on 0413 451 140 or therayners@internode.on.net

KYM AND STEPHANIE SCHWARZ (EPPING, NSW) SIM,



KYM & STEPHANIE SCHWARZ
AND THEIR FAMILY

Kym and Stephanie are seeking to depart for Ethiopia in early 2013 to serve in the areas of psychology and IT support. You can contact them at kym.schwarz@sim.org

EAST TIMOR - LAND!

One of our prayer points over the last few years has been the need for land and a building for the congregation in Dili, East Timor. Each Sunday the congregation meets in the driveway of a church member under a blue tarpaulin. Rob Duncanson writes, "Many blocks of land were investigated until finally a block was found which was in a suitable location and large enough for the church's purposes". From that time you might think that it would be simple. All that would be needed would be to negotiate the price then go to the lands office and arrange the transfer of title, right? Not in Timor Leste.

Until recently there was no such thing as a written property title deed. That would not be a particular problem, but in a country where 30-50% of the population has died or been displaced in the last quarter of the last century and where land has been forcibly taken by invaders and perhaps squatted upon by locals, it is a problem. There is a barely imaginable tangle of land-rights issues and disputes which cover the whole country.

Local negotiations over price with the local landholder, his family and his village were fairly straightforward, but then the whole process had to wait in a processing queue in government departments for two years while they

tried to cope with their overwhelming backlog of land rights issues."

In early December we received news that the sale has now been finalised. Thank you very much to those who prayed and gave gifts to make this possible.



DAVID BURKE & YAS SHIMIZU ON THE SITE OF THE LAND.

ARE WE THERE YET?

How often have we asked the question "Are we there yet?" Every journey has a beginning and an end. Sometimes they are short, easy trips. Others are long and arduous.

For Marilyn and I, that "journey" started about two years ago, when we both realised that God was calling us back to mission work. This time it would be to Vanuatu, specifically in Maintenance and Administration roles at the Talua Ministry Training Centre run by the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu. Its been a great journey so far, and as we pass milestones, we realise afresh how perfectly God leads and guides.

Our goal is to leave for Vanuatu in March 2013. To date we have 36% of our \$44,000 target pledged. Thank you to the churches and individuals who have pledged to partner with us in this journey. This means that we need pledges totalling \$29,000 before we can leave. We need further pledges of \$2417 per



ANDREW AND MARILYN SCHACHE

month. That's 24 people pledging \$20 per week. If you'd like to join our team then please contact:

Australian Presbyterian World Mission finance@apwm.org.au
Andrew and Marilyn Schache rvltn7vs9@gmail.com

MINISTRY IN JAPAN: FOUR CHURCH PLANTING SNAPSHOTS

GRACE CITY CHURCH

Pastor Makoto Fukuda leads the Grace City Church. The church is seeking to reach out to the younger generation to show them that Jesus Christ can answer their deepest questions. The congregation meets in a popular but expensive area of Tokyo which has many affluent married young couples. However, many of these people are so busy with work that there is little opportunity for them to hear the gospel. These people dream of working in the very heart of Tokyo but then discover that such success doesn't answer their deepest questions about life.

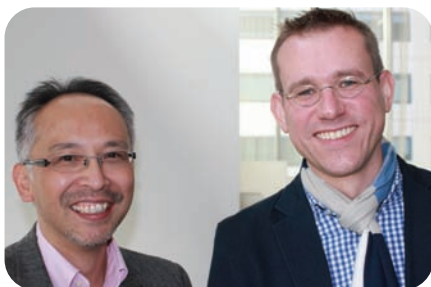


TOKYO'S GINZA DISTRICT

Many Japanese think that Christianity is a western religion. However there is a growing interest in Christianity especially among young people. In the last 3 years many non-Christian magazines have written about the connection between art, architecture and Christianity. The Japanese who live a more traditional life are more involved in religious ritual and harmony in life but they too find that these things fail to answer their life questions.

How does Grace City Church reach out? Through events such as a ballet that explains the Christmas story. Through music which connects with

people because of the Japanese appreciation of beauty. Through stress management seminars for the business community. Christmas is a good time for outreach because at that time many Japanese are more open to finding out more about what Christians believe.



CHURCH PLANTERS MAKOTO FUKUDA & GEERT DI BOO

Ministry in the city is very expensive and so many churches are reluctant to conduct ministry in the city centre. Grace City Church rents a modest floor space on a Sunday afternoon for 4 hours and pays AUD 1,000 per week!

GRACE HARBOR CHURCH

Japan is a nation of 127 million people and yet there are very few Christians. Consider Seima Aoyagi's story. Seima is from a Buddhist background. As a 17 year-old high school student, he met a fellow student who was the very first Christian he had ever encountered. As they discussed the claims of Christ, Seima came to see that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. It's hard to believe – he did not meet one Christian for the first 17 years of his life.

Today, Seima is a Church Planter serving amongst his own people. Under



SEIMA AOYAGI, ROSE & JOHN EVANS

Seima's leadership, Grace City Church is planning to plant a daughter church "Grace Harbor" with the aim of reaching out through church plants to the Tsukishima/Toyosu/Shinonome area. Seima is in the process of putting together his team as they pray and plan to commence the church at the beginning of 2014. The team recently rented an entire restaurant for an evening so that church members could invite their friends along to an informal meal and presentation. 150 non-Christians showed up and wanted to know more about the Church's plans.

SHIN URAYASU CHURCH

Craig and Ree Colbourne from the USA are long term missionaries to Japan. What keeps Craig going? The promise of Jesus that He will build His church! However this takes time. There's a Japanese proverb "Three years on a rock," meaning that you have to be in a place and stay there to be eventually accepted. Perseverance is respected in Japan.



SHIN URAYASU

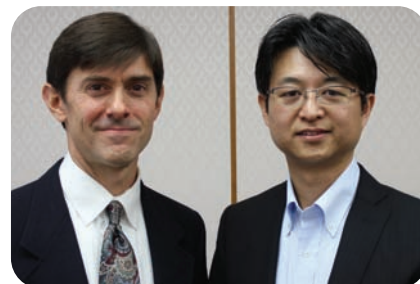
Craig and the team he works with are seeking to reach out with the gospel to the people of Shin Urayasu, many of whom live in high-rise apartments. The church doesn't meet in a purpose-built building but in one of the apartments in a high-rise. On Tuesday mornings a playgroup is held which involves singing, games and a story from the Bible read by Karen Darda (Church Missionary Society, Australia). The team is aiming to start 3 more churches over a 10-15 year period.

SENDAI

Daisuke Kimura served as a pastor in Tokyo for 7 years before God led him to Sendai, one of the parts of Japan that was so badly affected by the tsunami on Friday, 11 March 2011. Kent Muhling from the USA, has been in Japan for 7 years, working first as a church planter and then as a pastor in Kansai before also going to serve in Sendai.

The city has largely recovered from the devastation caused by the tsunami. However there are still many people who don't have homes and who don't have any work. On the inside there is still a lot of pain and sadness caused by the tsunami. Many people who lost homes on the coast have moved into Sendai city itself. These people not only lost their homes but also their communities. Family, work, home and community were all lost at the same time. For many of these people, life has lost its meaning.

Daisuke serves with Kent and together they are planning to plant a Church in Sendai. Daisuke says "We anticipate starting public worship in about two years. First, I want to get to know the city very well and know the things that happen here. I want to taste the pains and the joys of the people who live here. After that we'll be preparing for the sort of ministry presented by the opportunities before us."



KENT MUHLING & DAISUKE KIMURA

SHORT TERM MINISTRY IN JAPAN?

Have you ever considered serving as a short-term missionary in Japan?

The Japan team to which APWM belongs has many needs:

COVENANT COMMUNITY SCHOOL is a small school of approximately 30 students. The school needs the following teachers for at least 2 years:

- **PRINCIPAL** – someone with teaching and educational administration experience.
- **INFANTS, PRIMARY AND HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS.**
- **TEACHING ASSISTANTS**

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE TEACHERS: Applicants need to be mature

Christians with at least a bachelor's degree, outgoing and enjoy teaching in a fairly informal setting. Ideal team members would serve for at least two years.

MUSICIANS AND ARTISTS: Community Arts Tokyo is growing an English Language Arts teaching and outreach program in Tokyo. Musicians and artists of all kinds can serve brief internships up to two years or longer.

Chiba also has active music outreach programs including Gospel Music clubs.

HANDYMAN OR SKILLED CARPENTERS: Handyman skills can be put to use here, especially in the earthquake area.

MUSIC THERAPY: Plans are in hand to carry out a "pilot program" for music as a way of reaching and healing Japanese children traumatized by the 2011 earthquake.

COUNSELLING: Japanese language would be helpful, but skilled Biblical counselling is sorely needed in Japan. Counsellors could train local church leaders or do direct counselling.

MAKE AN OFFER: Many interests and skills can be put to work here. The team enjoy finding ways to put committed Christians to work in areas they love.

You would either serve at your own expense or raise team support to cover your costs. To find out more, contact APWM National or email Kevin Murray kevinmurray@apwm.org.au



BIBLE TEACHING IN EAST TIMOR

BY YAS SHIMIZU

In early December 2012 a small team from Sydney: Rev David Burke, Rev Wilson Fernandes and Mr Yas Shimizu, travelled to East Timor to conduct a Preaching and Bible-Teaching Conference.

Yas is married to former APWM missionary Nerida (Bell) and is a student at PTC Sydney. We asked him to share his reflections on the Conference.

"Those who attended the conference were young & old, male & female, and eager to learn. There were some cultural similarities with my home country, Japan: politeness, shyness, group-orientated and humid weather. Not everyone seemed to own a complete Bible, some had very thin Bibles which were probably not the whole Bible. All meals were prepared by church ladies using wood fires to cook in an outdoor kitchen.

During the teaching sessions I saw the importance of getting feedback from locals and adjusting teaching plans each day to meet the local people's level

of understanding and needs. I saw the importance of knowing the Bible well to teach others. I had the opportunity to preach in public for the first time, and received very encouraging feedback.

It was interesting to hear that a number of people had been sent overseas for theological training. A Brazilian missionary family had sent two young men from Dili to a Presbyterian Seminary in Brazil for 5 years on scholarships. This family's 10 year-old ministry will end soon because two trained young ministers will take their place. The majority of local Presbyterian churches don't have church buildings in the villages. Most ministers and preachers are full time workers in secular fields.

Another thing I learned about cross-cultural mission is the importance of being flexible when facing the difficulties of cultural and language differences, and also the inconvenience of the physical environment such as no clean drinking water, flushing toilets and the risk of disease."



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FEATURE TRACKS

AN UPDATE FROM THE PIM

No. 1 2013

PROCLAIMING THE LORD JESUS CHRIST BY WORD AND DEED

From Dalby to Inland Australia

Newly appointed PIM padres, Greg and Janet Cripps, know that true hope is only found in Jesus Christ. Recognising that there are many hurting and troubled people in isolated and inland Australia they are both excited to be able to work with the PIM. Their desire is to communicate the gospel in both word and deed to people who might ordinarily have no contact with a church, or even a Christian.

Greg and Janet have followed the work of the PIM for many years but were challenged to think about the possibility of becoming padres when their children were getting to the stage of leaving home. They knew that it was an appropriate time to rethink the direction of their own lives, whether to focus more on their farm and business or to move in to a more focused Christian ministry.

A passion to help serve and minister to people in the bush as well as having suitable gifts to achieve this meant that working for the PIM needed to be seriously considered. After discussion with former PIM padres and then a visit to Laurie and Gwen Peake, Greg and Janet knew it was a ministry of the Presbyterian church that matched their ministry burden. So, after further talks with friends and the Session at Dalby Presbyterian Church (where Greg is an elder) they decided to apply. They also travelled to Melbourne to be a part of the PIM centenary celebrations and met other padres, mission church workers and committee members.

The PIM were pleased to appoint them as patrol Padres to SW Queensland where they will start in April this year. Because of ongoing farm commitments, Greg and Janet plan to predominately undertake their patrols between the months of April to October and then return to the parol area during the summer months as needs and ministry priorities necessitate. Their plan is to remain based on their farm in Dalby and not live in Charleville as former Padres have done.

Developing strong relationships will be an early priority for the Cripps. Greg states that as you get to know people you are then privileged to be able to understand their needs and be able to speak of the hope we have in Christ. When talking about his ministry approach he specifically asked if people would pray that he and Janet would have the sensitivity to take discussions to a deeper and more spiritual level as the situations presented themselves. He also said that he understood there would be people he would relate to more easily, and that he hoped that these people would be brought in to contact with him quickly.

The Cripps' believe that their many years of Christian service have helped prepare them for the unique ministry challenges with the PIM. Greg has worked as a home group leader, taught scripture across varying age levels, worked as a family counsellor and marriage course coordinator. He has regularly preached, mentored and undertaken the work of an



elder. Janet, too, has wide ministry experience and has particularly enjoyed any opportunity to engage in Christian service with Greg.

Greg and Janet both have a rural background. Together they have worked their own farm and run a seed business near Dalby in Queensland. Janet also worked as a registered nurse with many years spent engaging in community nursing. Her particular interest in nursing is palliative care and wound care. Greg has also worked as a motor mechanic, agricultural machinery agent and as an agronomist.

In addition to their mature faith and many practical skills, both Greg and Janet are qualified in Christian counselling and family therapy. Together, Greg and Janet have three adult children who are all supportive of their new area of ministry and Christian service.

One of the positive aspects of the Cripps continuing to be based in Dalby while engaging in work for the PIM throughout SW Queensland is that they will be able to receive a strong level of support from their home congregation. The mission committee of the Dalby Presbyterian Church have established levels of pastoral, practical and prayerful support.

The PIM encourages ongoing prayer for Greg and Janet as they commence their first patrol later this year. Please pray for wisdom and sensitivity as they meet many new people, for courage as they engage in a lot of 'cold calling', for spiritual strength to overcome doubts and discouragements, and for a readiness to communicate the love of Jesus to all they meet.



FELLOW WORKERS

Reflections from a Flying Padre

"I don't like limelight, I'm a bushie at heart," Mr Noble told me almost straight off. But as a part of the celebrations of 100 years of inland mission, one of the AIM's first flying Padres, Glen Noble, was good enough to agree to take some time to share his memories of serving in the Western Australia Gregory Patrol.

The Challenge Accepted

Fred McKay, who took over from John Flynn, approached Noble about manning an aerial patrol the Australian Inland Mission (AIM) had started in WA.

"I had put forward the idea to the AIM about ten years earlier that aircraft would be useful in the outback because of the weather and the distances. Fred was aware of that so he came to see if the family and I would go to the Gregory patrol in the West.

How could I say no? Fred McKay was like a father to us and we had a great admiration for him and for John Flynn. When John died, someone had to step into his shoes and they were pretty big shoes. I think Fred was the best person to do that and I think he did very well."

Noble initially flew an Auster which had been used as a spotting plane in the Second World War. It was so manoeuvrable it could land pretty much anywhere; on roads, beside stockyards, wherever there was a bit of clear ground. In later years, Noble flew a Cessna 180.

"It certainly was a wonderful way to travel round. Some people had the idea that I should be down on the road amongst the dust and mud and stuff, not like a gentleman up in the air. But I found I was able to call on a lot more people with the aircraft than I could have by travelling on the road."



Glen Noble and his daughter Judie Strachan travelled from Kingaroy, Qld to attend the PIM Centenary Celebration in The Scot's Church, Melbourne in September 2012.

On Patrol

The Gregory Patrol was vast; it was about the size of Victoria, covering from Geraldton north to Port Hedland and then inland to the Queensland Northern Territory Border.

"I can think of one example that really illustrates the breadth of the inland mission work. One week I was with Fred McKay at a board meeting at Dampier with all the big CRA mining people, Russell Madigan and his board. So we were there sharing in that board meeting of a mining organisation on the Monday; and on the Thursday I was about a third of a way across Australia in the Warburton Ranges Area at the Blackstone plateau sitting in the dirt under the trees with Aboriginal elders, talking with them and using a bit of their language.

So within one week I was with indigenous Australians and mining executives and of course everything in between. Station properties, schools, main roads workers, camps, fishing villages, plantations and so the list could go on."

Noble makes the observation that people out there in the vast inland are lonely but in many cases they wouldn't admit it.

"They've learned to live and accept their circumstances and live their lives accordingly.

But a visit from the Padre was always well received. People used to jump on the radio and call ahead to let others know that I was on my way. When I arrived I would fly over once, then land and they would come out and meet me. Eventually I got a fold-up motorbike and could ride in from the airstrips."

Reflections

Summing up his ministry, Noble reflects on one chap he met, a social dropout; "I guess you would call him a hippie. He had a little store in Denham in Shark Bay. I used to talk to him about the Lord even though he was anti-establishment, and of course the church is an establishment so he was anti-church too.

When I left the area over there and came back to parish work in Charters Towers, 8 years later, I got a letter from him saying, "Glen, at last I've tracked you down and I now write to you as a brother in Christ and I want to thank you because you planted and watered the seed."

With wisdom gleaned from many years of faithful service, Noble concludes, "That's one of the main things that stood out in my ministry, that while you're there making yourself available to the Lord, and that's the term I used to use, not called to be a chaplain or a padre but just an ordinary person making themselves available to the Lord; and when you're doing that and while it's happening, often you don't see much in the way of results, but the Lord ultimately every so often gives you an encouragement that lets you know that he appreciates you being where he wants you."



A Cessna 180 as flown by Padre Glen Noble.

Rev Glen Noble flew for the AIM for 11 years but had been flying for 20 years prior to this and for another 30 years after concluding his ministry with the AIM

Even though he is now in his 80's Glen Noble still flies and his love for the Lord and the work of the outback padres is tangible in any conversation you have the privilege to share with him.

Addendum

At the end of our time I asked Glen, "If you could give one piece of advice to the Padres currently serving with PIM what would that be?"

"Just off the cuff," Rev Noble said, "I'd also say, 'Be faithful to God and his Word, try and

make His Word applicable to people in their circumstances and everyday life, and just remain humble and open to God to be where he wants you to be.'"

Rosemary Timmins is a freelance journalist, and attends Donvale Presbyterian Church (rosiesgrace@gmail.com).

Refined, Matured and Equipped

While on patrol and engaged in ministry with the PIM, I often reflect on how our loving Heavenly Father has taken Roger and I through experiences and situations which have refined, matured and equipped us for this work.

Nothing is wasted in God's sovereign plan & purposes. We came to know and experience both our Lord's grace and provision as we cared for our disabled sons, Stephen & Jonathan. Both were taken to their eternal home by their Heavenly Father in 2003. The experience of burying our sons has clearly enabled us to get alongside many, mainly in the older group, who, for one reason or another have buried their children.

The experience has also spurred us on to build relationships with so many young men & women, often with their own children, who do not know & love the Lord. What a joy it is to share the love of God with them. Will you pray & support us?

Other issues of life have also helped prepare us. Experiencing the enabling and sustaining of our Lord through breast cancer & major heart surgery have provided numerous opportunities for us to witness and speak for our God. All of life is lived under His rule and can be used in discussion points on patrol to give glory to HIM.



Roger and Margaret Crane.

I'm sure we all have a story to tell to point people to our awesome God; the only One who is worthy of our praise and worship, and the only One who can truly satisfy the deep longings of every human heart. As we speak of God's providential care in our life, speak to those you meet about his care for you in your life, and pray that God will move mightily by His Holy Spirit, to bring many into His Kingdom and grow them to maturity.

Margaret Crane
North Queensland Patrol

Where was the Local Man?

The need continues

"We haven't seen people like you for years", was the response as he climbed down from the grader and walked across to our vehicle.

Now PIM had not had a team in the area for some time, and the nearest church was nearly 100km away so you would think we could, in a way, accept such a comment.

BUT..... when you had been informed, some way "up the road" that the family on this particular property had suffered a severe personal tragedy some time previously, your heart just aches and you inwardly scream "Where was the local man? Why wasn't he out here ASAP? Was there a local man anyway?" Sadly, in many many places there is not a local man, of any denomination.

It was a couple of years and some three visits later that the man on the place finally opened up and we could talk. It was a special, indeed a very intense and personal, occasion.

Through our own circumstances and in response to a clear call from God we are privileged to be serving PIM in North Queensland. As you travel for thirty minutes (if that) to church next Sunday, think of those for whom church attendance is a major logistical exercise, if not a practical impossibility. Ours is an important ministry as we seek to take the Gospel "Beyond the Furthest Fences". In whatever way you can, please, would you join with us?

Roger Crane
North Queensland Patrol



FELLOW WORKERS

Goldsmith's Step Down From Patrol Work

With sadness, the PIM accepted the resignation of Stephen and Rosalie Goldsmith as Patrol Padres. Stephen and Rosalie have given outstanding service to the NSW Darling patrol for the past four years and their ministry will be acutely missed.



The need to step aside from the patrol work came as a surprise to both the Goldsmiths and the PIM committee, however changes in their personal situation meant that it was a decision that had to be made.

David, speaking on behalf of Rosalie said, "Our time with PIM has been the happiest, most challenging and spiritually fulfilling time of our lives." He also said, "We have constantly delighted in God's marvellous timing as he seemed to lead us each day to so many people that he wanted us to visit."

Stephen and Rosalie remain open to serve with the PIM again in the future.

The PIM committee request that people continue to pray for the Goldsmiths during this time of transition and thank God for the ministry they have undertaken for the PIM.

John Flynn Life and Ministry

For those wanting to know more about the Rev. Dr John Flynn, founder of the Australian Inland Mission, then PIM's latest resource will be just what you're looking for.

During 2012 Robert Benn travelled throughout Australia speaking on the life and ministry of this faithful servant of God. Due to an overwhelming demand, his talk has been recorded to DVD and is available now from the PIM office.

The talk covers Flynn's early years, call to ministry, his life of faith, achievements with the AIM and much more. Robert Benn's presentation is engaging and is certain not to disappoint.

The DVD retails for \$15. Orders can be made on-line at www.pim.org.au or by ringing the PIM office on (03) 9876 1941.

Views Beyond the Furthest Fence

Photographs communicate, but skilfully composed photographs can capture the imagination and communicate even more. In the centenary year of the Australian Inland Mission (AIM), and its successor ministry in the Presbyterian Church, the Presbyterian Inland Mission (PIM), it was appropriate that some of the best photographs taken over this remarkable hundred year period be brought together.

Not only did John Flynn pioneer a remarkably successful ministry to the people of the Outback, but also his own personal interest in photography has ensured that many early scenes and significant moments related to his ministry were captured and preserved for future generations.

Stephen Dyer was commissioned by the PIM to bring together a collection of historical and contemporary photographs in the form of a Coffee Table Book. For years Steve Dyer has been photographing many aspects of the work of the PIM and sourcing photographs to complete an historical record of the AIM and the PIM. Many of the photographs in this compilation have been sourced from the AIM collection at the National Library of Australia. With great patience, skill and attention to detail, Steve has digitally enhanced them so that again they can vividly communicate. We know that Flynn himself would have taken many of the earlier photographs; however, insufficient records fail to allow the credit to go to him. It is likely he would be happy



knowing that those who look at those collated here will be drawn to the Outback and the Gospel work conducted there, rather than to himself and to his talent.

The book also contains an historical account of the work of the AIM written by Rev. Stuart Bonnington. Rev. Bonnington is the Superintendent of the Presbyterian Inland Mission and Pastor of the Fremantle Presbyterian Church in Western Australia.

The work and ministry of John Flynn cannot be ignored. By the grace of God he achieved much for this nation, especially for those who lived and worked in the remoter regions of this vast continent. Be inspired as you read this book and spend time reflecting on the outstanding photographic images. Lift your heart in prayer and thank God for the many workers he both raised up, and then sustained, to carry out this ministry. Also, take time to pray for those men and women that the Presbyterian Church of Australia continues to send out 'beyond the furthest fences' to communicate in both word and deed the love of Jesus Christ.

All profits from the sale of the book will go to support the work of the Presbyterian Inland Mission.

Orders can be made on-line at www.pim.org.au or by ringing the PIM office on (03) 9876 1941

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'I wasn't sure I'd heard correctly!'

Surprising generosity keeps a missionary family together

What a blessing to be the recipient of a generous and cheerful giver! It can be surprising and overwhelming, encouraging and faith-building.

When you experience it, you see something of the character of God. The Australian Presbyterian World Mission (APWM) Committee and I were blessed recently to experience God working in this way.

APWM Victoria is unique among the states in owning three vehicles for our missionaries to use when they are home. All three are five seaters, which posed a problem for us when we knew there were two families of six people coming home this year. Our response had to be, 'Sorry, we don't have a suitable vehicle, you'll need to try your church and family contacts.' One family has obtained a vehicle in this way (praise God!), but this left one family without a vehicle.



This Tarago will be used by missionaries while they are home in Australia.

The solution seemed to be two vehicles loaned by church members.

When I was approached by someone who said they wanted to buy us a 2006 Tarago from the local Toyota dealer, I wasn't sure I'd heard

correctly! I repeated what I thought they had said, and was told I was correct.

This lovely vehicle is currently in my garage waiting the arrival of a certain missionary family, and will be well used by them during their Home Assignment. They will also be living at a manse rent free, and we give thanks to God for the cheerful generosity of the a congregation for making their manse available during their vacancy.

We all know that God loves a cheerful giver; the Bible says so in 2 Corinthians 9:7, and many verses talk about giving generously. Give thanks with us for the extremely generous gift to APWM Vic, which will

serve us well into the future, providing transport to our missionaries when they come home.

*Rev. Dean Carroll
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Ararat men's day out

On Saturday 8 December 2012, some of the men in our congregation attended a day out at Green Hill Lake, five kilometres from Ararat.



Victor Barwick and Frank Raeburn.

Although it was a hot and dusty day, all enjoyed it. There were two kayaks available for anyone to use—and two water pistols! A BBQ lunch was provided as well as tea, coffee and cool drinks.

Mr Victor Barwick, one of the senior members, gave an address about how he came to Christ and his life in general. This was well received. We also played the 'conversation game', which was supplied by Mr Frank Raeburn. It was a real ice breaker!

Seeing the white caps on the lake reminded us of how Jesus calmed the sea, and of how great and majestic he is. It also reminded us that no matter where we are, Jesus is always with



Grant Vayne towed Stephen Harmer.

us. One of our group could not paddle a kayak, so he was towed behind the other kayak and enjoyed the experience so much that he went out a second time. Despite being blown backwards by the wind he did not show any signs of having anything but a good time! It was a blessing to us all to see this testimony to faith and trust. He had trust in the kayak operator towing him and faith in the Lord for his safety and well-being.

All in all, it was a good day and one that we hope to repeat in the future. We also hope that we may be an encouragement and witness to others in the community.

Rev. Grant Vayne



Victor shared how he came to Christ.

Missed an article in a previous edition?

Don't worry, you can still read it. Just go to fellowworkers.pcvic.org.au and click the edition you want to see!

I bet you didn't know you're a journalist.

A freelance, volunteer one, that is. *fellow workers* relies on people like you to write & send in stories.

So encourage & inspire your fellow believers by sending your articles & pics to *fw*!

You can also have the newsletter sent to your email inbox for free!

Just contact ed.fellowworkers@gmail.com



FELLOW WORKERS