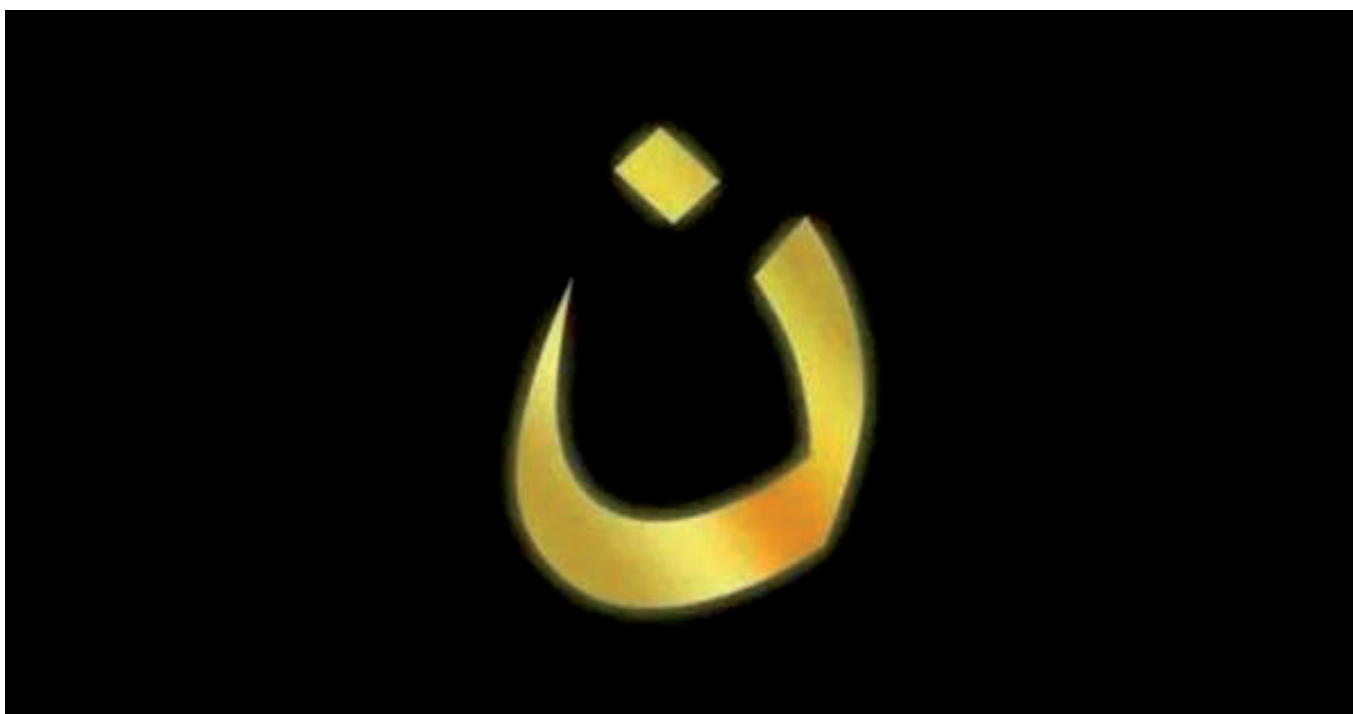


Islamists take Iraq's largest Christian city; Christians must flee again



This is the arabic letter 'n'. Many Christians have already changed their [social media] profile picture to the arabic letter for 'N' in solidarity with Christians who've had the letter painted on their homes in Mosul, Iraq.

On the use of the 'n' symbol, one Islamic expert wrote recently on Facebook:

'I think for many years now, Christians have seen the treatment of their brothers and sisters in various places around the world and not known how to express themselves. ISIS has inadvertently given us a symbol of solidarity for Christians who are suffering.'

Changing your profile picture to the 'n' symbol is one way to show solidarity. **Read about more that you can do on page 2.**

Friday 8 August 2014

Iraq's largest Christian city, Qaraqosh, was captured overnight by The Islamic State (IS, formerly ISIS), forcing thousands more Christians to flee. The city was home to around

50,000 Christians. Other Christian towns including Tel Kerif, Tel Askof and Qaramless have all reportedly been emptied of Christians and other minority groups.

The extremists have made it 'within striking distance' of Kurdistan, according to news reports, the autonomous region in northern Iraq where many

Christians have fled after being driven out of their homes over the past three weeks. The BBC reports that up to a quarter of Iraq's Christians are now on the run.

The Chaldean archbishop of Kirkuk, Joseph Thomas called last night's events a Christian 'catastrophe'. The United Nations have said that other mi-

**Australian Presbyterian World Mission and Presbyterian Inland Mission*

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Not according
to plan

Submission
deadline for
next edition:
1 November

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norities, including Yazidis, an ancient religious community, have also been forced to flee. Thousands of Yazidis fled to the mountains behind the town of Sinjar and there they remain, waiting for rescue.

The Guardian reports that those who remain in the cities have been given 'the same stark choice' as those in Mosul: flee, convert to Islam, or be killed.

Three weeks ago the Christians of Mosul (the city next to the ruins of ancient Nineveh) were given the ultimatum: convert, pay a tax of \$400 a month (more than they can afford), leave or die. All who could leave, fled. After 2,000 years ancient Nineveh no longer has a Christian community.

Now many are on the move again. The Islamic State movement is now sweeping through the plains of Nineveh province, the traditional refuge for Christians.

A Bible Society team in Iraq is still on the ground in this dangerous situation, providing food, hygiene and Scriptures to the Christians of Northern Iraq. They have appealed to Bible Societies around the world to help.

This is an unusual project for a Bible Society, normally focused on making the Bible available. But as the only Iraqi-run Christian organisation in the region, our brothers and sisters have felt impelled to help. They are providing aid packages and Scriptures to the Christian refugees.

Dr Mike Bassous, General Secretary of Bible Society Lebanon which oversees work in Iraq, says, 'Every few years, Iraqi Christians are displaced and forced to leave their homes. They are a marginalised, peaceful minority who have paid the highest price in Iraq's instability over the past two decades. They need all the support we can provide. Our team in Iraq has been providing physical and spiritual support to the displaced families to ease their anxiety and provide temporary comfort and encouragement.'

This Bible Society presence means Australian Christians can do something for the Christians who have fled their homes in Iraq.

You can donate to the cause of providing practical help to the Christian refugees in Northern Iraq at biblesociety.org.au/nineveh or by ringing 1300 BIBLES (1300 242 537) during office hours.

See more at: www.biblesociety.org.au/news/islamists-take-iraqs-largest-christian-city-christians-must-flee#sthash.nVlz1MWz.dpuf

From Eternity Newspaper. Used with permission.

Five things you can do to

'They changed our church into a mosque, ruined historic museums, and destroyed a monastery and manuscripts that were 1000 years old. Iraq is gone. Iraq is finished. We're finished. It's impossible for us to go back.'
– Iraqi Christian.



*From Eternity Newspaper.
Used with permission.
Updated Friday 8 August 2014*

If you're like us, you've probably felt outrage and despair reading about the situation in northern Iraq. Islamic militants continue to seize Christian towns.

On Thursday (7 August) they captured Iraq's largest Christian city, Qaraqosh, forcing thousands more to flee. In the process, militants continue to demand: Christians must leave, convert or die. Three weeks ago, Iraq's second largest city, Mosul, which is also the site of the ancient city of Nineveh, was the first city to receive the ultimatum. It now stands empty of Christians. Cities and towns across northern Iraq are emptying of Christians, whose families have lived in the region for thousands of years. They are now sheltering in mosques, churches, refuge camps in Kurdish cities without their belongings.

So far away from the situation, it's easy to feel helpless. But there are some things you CAN do. Here are five things you can do to help Iraq's persecuted Christians:

ONE Stay informed

The situation in Iraq is changing quickly, as The Islamic State (IS, formerly ISIS) seizes more and more territory every day. To support

Christians in Iraq through prayer and letting others know what's going on, it's a good idea to stay on top of the news coming out of the area. *Eternity* is regularly updating its stories on the situation, pulling news from a variety of mainstream media sources so if you don't have time to scan the many news outlets, you can read the most recent *Eternity* summary [at biblesociety.org.au/news]. It's also got links to other stories so you can stay informed.

TWO Be active on social media

Many Christians have already changed their profile picture to the arabic letter for 'n' in solidarity with Christians who've had the letter painted on their homes in Mosul.

On the use of the 'n' symbol, one Islamic expert wrote recently on Facebook:

'I think for many years now Christians have seen the treatment of their brothers and sisters in various places around the world and not known how to express themselves. ISIS has inadvertently given us a symbol of solidarity for Christians who are suffering.'

Changing your profile picture to the 'n' symbol is one way to show solidarity. *Christianity Today* published a letter from a Christian based in Iraqi Kurdistan, in the north of the country, where many of the Christians from Mosul have fled. She said, 'It's encouraging to see that around the world people are supporting us. We are still



FELLOW WORKERS

to help Iraq's persecuted Christians



'Militants demand Christians must leave, convert or die.'

proud to be Christians. We will always be Christians.'

Another thing you can do is share articles, photos and statuses about Iraq's persecuted Christians to build public awareness, because the mainstream media isn't giving it much attention.

THREE Write to your MP

What's the point? We're so far away from Iraq, how could talking to

our Government help? There are a few ways it can help. Firstly, just by talking to them about it, you are raising awareness. Secondly, you can call on the Government to use its position on the UN Security Council to get the international community to pay more attention to the suffering of Iraqi Christians. Some have called what's happening a genocide. It's worth raising it with your local MP as a matter needing attention. Don't know who your MP is? Find out here [<http://apps.aec.gov.au/esearch/>] via your electorate.

FOUR Pray

The first and perhaps most powerful thing you can do is pray. Bible Society Australia has some suggested prayers:

- Please pray for the Iraqi Christians forced from their homes in Mosul

under threat of death.

- Pray for God's protecting hand to be with them and his provision for them is plentiful in this time of urgent need.

- Pray that the Bible Society team in Iraq is safe amongst the crisis and are able to carry out their work to reach families in desperate need.

- Pray that others would recognise the plight of their brethren and provide support for them.

FIVE Give

Donate to Bible Society's Iraq Appeal today.

**Want the latest update on the situation?
Want to donate supplies and scriptures?
Go to
biblesociety.org.au/news**

Pray. Contribute. Weep.

An urgent call from our own Church and Nation Committee

Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Rom. 12:12-15

Dear Friends,

This is an urgent call to all Victorian Presbyterians and concerned Christians to pray for our brothers and sisters in Iraq. As many of you know there is talk that the brutal persecution of Christians in Northern Iraq is turning into a genocide. There are sickening reports of children beheaded, women raped and men killed in the most brutal ways. I warn you NOT to Google unless you are prepared to see horrific

images that will deeply affect you.

The Church and Nation Committee wrote to the Immigration and Foreign Minister last week (8 August) requesting they take immediate action to alleviate the suffering in Iraq, including a willingness to accept those fleeing persecution in Northern Iraq as refugees here in Australia. The situation has deteriorated greatly since then.

Can I ask you to do three things:

1. Please pray the Lord would stir governments to action, that genocide might be avoided. Pray for the persecuted for grace, courage, wisdom and safety, and pray for the persecutors that they might see the wickedness of their ways (and repent) or that they

may be stopped from doing evil.

2. Consider writing to the Hon. Julie Bishop MP, asking her to do all in her power to ameliorate the suffering of Christians in Iraq, as well as offering Australia as a safe refuge for fleeing Christians. (Julie.Bishop.MP@aph.gov.au)

3. Consider making a donation to Barnabas Fund to help ameliorate the suffering in Iraq. (<http://barnabasfund.org/AU/>)

May the Lord have mercy on his people at this time.

*In Christ
Rev Darren Middleton
Church and Nation Committee*

Flourish on Higher Ground: inaugural conference encourages women



Flourish conference speakers, left to right: Fiona Bligh, Elspeth Slater, Sonya Rutherford and Anne Elliot.



Encouraged by the annual Women's Conference at the Griffith Presbyterian Church in NSW and by their own minister, the Flourish Women's Ministry Committee at St. Andrew's Clayton held their inaugural women's conference, 'Flourish on Higher Ground' on 1 March 2014.

On a sunny Saturday, sixty five ladies from the Flinders Presbytery and local Christian churches gathered for a day of encouragement, teach-

ing and fellowship. There were four inspiring talks: 'Flourish as a Single' by Elspeth Slater, 'Flourish in Mind' by Anne Elliot, 'Flourish in Marriage' by Fiona Bligh and 'Flourish in Body' by Sonya Rutherford.

Each speaker gave wonderful insights from the Bible as well as sharing from their own experiences. One participant said, 'I learnt so much.... [it] really gave me plenty to think and pray about.' Many could echo her words. Thank you to the four speakers for giving so much of their time and themselves.

With a lovely lunch and morning and afternoon teas, there was plenty of opportunity to chat, share and get to know each other better.

We are so thankful to God for all that he has done. The verse on our take home bookmarks was: 'But I am like an olive tree flourishing in the house of God; I trust in God's unfailing love for ever and ever.' (Psalm 52:8 NIV) It seemed very appropriate for the day. As ladies returned home they were flourishing in God's love and encouraged in their walk with Him.

*Kerry Jensen
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Clayton*

Canterbury Presbyterian Youth Group runs holiday club in Skipton

Louise, Uni Student

I was pleased to go along with seven other people from Canterbury Presbyterian Youth Group, to run a five-day holiday club in the small town of Skipton. This is the fifth year we've been able to run this holiday club with our sister church, Skipton Presbyterian Church. Every morning, kids from the community aged from three to twelve would come, and we would sing songs, play games, learn a memory verse, and hear a talk. Musical chairs was the favourite game of all, and the memory verse this year was John 3:16.

This year the talks went through the stages of 'Two Ways to Live', but a kid's version. It was so encouraging for us to hear kids who have never been to church before being so eager to show off the memory verse, so interested in what we were teaching and asking what it meant for Jesus to be their King. Afternoons were spent relaxing from the crazy mornings but also gave us a chance to connect with the wider community. We spent one

afternoon visiting the nursing home in Skipton, where we talked with the members and played a game of lawn bowls. We also had the chance to get to know the church community better by attending the weekly Bible study, and playing a game of croquet with some church members. It was such an encouraging week for all of us who were leading, seeing the work that God is doing out in Skipton, and the impact we were able to have on the kids, and also the impact they had on us.

Marcus

Helping out at the Skipton holiday club was not only a great opportunity to share the gospel with the local kids, but a real eye-opener to the challenges that face many of our country parishes. It made me realise and appreciate just how important city-rural church partnership is.

David, Year 9 Student

It really gave me the chance to talk to other people about my testimony. I

really enjoyed talking about Jesus to the kids at the holiday club. I had a fun time with the kids.

Luke, Year 8 Student

Skipton was a good learning experience. Playing croquet with the world champion—when it was my first time ever playing—was great fun.

Malcolm

I really enjoyed sharing God's story with the kids. It was a great learning experience for me to learn from others who are really good at engaging with the kids and getting their message across. And then for me to have a go was awesome! My talk was on: God won't let people keep saying no to him, God's punishment is that we are shut out of his kingdom forever. We did a skit of a train with free tickets to God's kingdom, the team took turns saying their lines then hopped on the back of the train if they wanted to come to God's kingdom, the rest stayed back as the train went to Heaven (out the door)!



NEW MINISTRY TEAM FOR SORRENTO-RYE

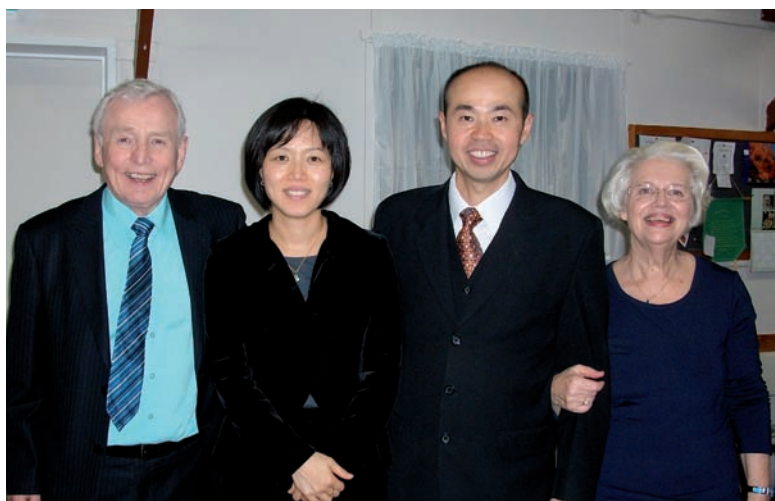
On Friday 11 July, the Flinders Presbytery inducted Rev Hui Lim to the Charge as Associate Minister of the Sorrento-Rye Parish.

The Induction Service, held at the Rye PC, was led by the Acting Moderator for Flinders, Rev Ken Brown. Rev Grant Lawry preached the sermon and issued the Charge.

Hui and Soyoung met at Canterbury PC in 1999 and subsequently got married. As a testimony to God's grace in our lives, members of the YWAM Korean Song Group sang 'Amazing Grace' in English and Korean as part of the Service.

Among the many visitors, parishioners, friends and former colleagues present, were the State Minister for Education Hon. Martin Dixon, and the Councillor for the Nepean Ward of the Mornington Peninsula Shire, Cr Hugh Fraser.

Abundant food was provided for



The Lims and the Brennans: the new team.

celebrations in the Hall after the Service, helped considerably by Rye's Chinese parishioners providing huge seafood platters!

Hui and Soyoung are settling in

well to the Manse, with Nathan commencing Term 3 at Sorrento Primary School. The Parish looks forward with optimism to this new chapter in its life.

Rev John Brennan

General Mission Program Committee 'elated' by contributions

The General Mission Program committee met on Thursday the 24th July to prepare its report on the progress of the program for the General Assembly Meeting in October 2014.

The committee presents to the General Assembly, or the Commission of the Assembly, recommendations as to the amount of money required for the financing of some Assembly committees and some interdenominational enterprises. The total amount is then divided between the presbyteries in accordance with the number of their communicant members and adherents. The presbyteries then divide the required amount between their parishes, again depending on their membership. The parishes then send their cheques to the Collins Street office.

The members of the committee were elated when comparing the contributions received from the parishes through their presbyteries, with the required allocations for the financial year 2013/2014 as set by the 2013 Commission of Assembly at \$207,153. As of the 30th of June 2014, the subscriptions received amounted to \$197,270 which is approximately 95% of the total GMP, an encouraging improvement from the previous year which was only 92%, itself a figure better than previous years.

The present trend is a blessing for the Assembly committees and Interde-

nominal enterprises which rely on the GMP funding for the continuance of their ministries. The GMP committee does not receive funding from any other source and so, when the contributions from the presbyteries/parishes fail to meet their respective allocations, the recipient committees and enterprises receive a corresponding shortfall in their funding.

The committees to be funded are decided by the 2013 Commission of Assembly. They are the Australian Presbyterian World Mission (Victoria) – APWM, the Theological Education bursary fund, and the Theological Education training officer. The Presbyterian Inland Mission (PIM) also

receives a contribution.

The interdenominational enterprises concerned are the Australian Christian Lobby, (ACL), Access Ministries and the Council for Chaplaincies.

The members of the committee are most thankful for each presbytery, parish and their members who have contributed in full to the allocations, and a special thank you to those who have contributed additional to their allocation. It is not too late for parishes who have failed to meet their allocation by the end of June, to subscribe now as the GMP is a mission program of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

*Norm Sharp
Convenor*

General Mission Program Committee

Special event at Skipton Lismore Parish

On the 14 May, Skipton Lismore Parish hosted a special event at Lismore Sunday School Hall to hear Melbourne speaker Beth Allison.

Beth spoke both personally and passionately about death and hope, to a group of ladies (around 20)

from the Western District, and was well-received by everyone in the hall. Once again, our church ladies put on a beautiful spread of food for lunch, which was enjoyed by all. This event was organised by the Western District CWCI committee.

*Rev Hui Lim
Formerly of the Skipton Lismore Parish*

Over 100 gather for baptism at Darebin



Darebin Presbyterian Church kicked off at the beginning of 2013 with a core team of thirty from Bundoora Presbyterian Church under the leadership of Rev Aaron Boyd and his wife Gabby.

The church meets in the Aboriginal Advancement League Building in Thornbury and has grown steadily since then.

Last month they celebrated the baptism of two new Christians, Aglin Paige Chiang and Evan Pell.

Paige is a university student from Singapore who became a Christian

through a Christian Union camp at La Trobe University. She testified about God's work in her life to find strength and courage through hard times.

Evan spoke of how he grew up in a religious family but previously found his identity in being a moral and self-righteous person. It was meeting the living God in Christ, and coming to understand his grace, that has given him a whole new identity.

Both Paige and Evan have now become full members of this growing church in the Inner North.

Richard Wilson



Top two photographs: Aglin Paige Chiang and Evan Pell were baptised on the same day. Bottom photograph: Aaron Boyd, his wife Gabby and their daughter.

HMWA 80TH ANNIVERSARY

HMWA... just another acronym?

Home Mission Workers Association is a committee of Presbyterian women who meet bi-monthly for the purpose of providing care, encouragement and financial support for Home Mission Stations, Home Missioners and student candidates for ministry.

HMWA was formed in 1934 during the depression years, as women of the church saw the great need of the Home Mission Stations in the states of Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania. Home Missionary allowances were barely enough to support Home Missioners and their families. Church buildings and manses were also in great need of funds for equipment and furnishings. Added to this were the

needs of men looking for work who would call on the church for food, clothing and money. HMWA sought to extend its loving care and concern by maintaining an understanding of the conditions in which the Home Missioners were living. In the 1960's financial needs arose due to expansion of buildings, halls and manses. This expanded the assistance to cover debt reduction, while not changing the continued need for loving concern to be expressed to the Home Missioners themselves. An annual fete was held in the Lower Melbourne Town Hall for fundraising until 1954, after which fundraising was done at a local congregational level and 'Links' were appointed to maintain a connection between the committee and congregations. After 1970, HMWA received a Legacy, which was invested and the interest used for distribution. HMWA maintains a close relationship with the Ministry Development Committee, which helps keep us informed

of needs within Home Mission Stations.

This is our 80th year of women quietly working 'behind the scenes' as a part of God's work in our church. Much has changed in the church and the world in eighty years but we know that God does not change and he will continue to build his church. So we go on for the present believing that we are doing his work. Turning eighty is significant and we would like to celebrate with as many as are able to join us in November. Please notify your congregation of the invitation to our Thanksgiving and Dedication service, followed by lunch, and of course a cake!

HMWA—an 80 year old acronym—worth celebrating!

Carolyn Wentworth

The HMWA Thanksgiving and Dedication Service will be at 11am on the 13th November, at the Robert White Hall, at 156 Collins St, Melbourne.



FELLOW WORKERS

*Join us to celebrate
the*
****80th Anniversary****
of

HMWA

**HOME MISSION WORKERS
ASSOCIATION**

*At our
Thanksgiving & Dedication
Service*

Thursday 13th November

*11am in the Robert White Hall
156 Collins St. Melbourne*

*Followed by lunch (provided)
and celebration cake*

Guest Speaker - Rev. David Currie

R.S.V.P. Monday 3rd November

Barbara Firth - 9580 2908, bfirth4@bigpond.com

**HMWA supports Home Mission Stations, Home Missionaries
and Student Candidates for Ministry**

Partnership



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
AUSTRALIAN PRESBYTERIAN WORLD MISSION

2014 #3

www.apwm.org.au • 81 Shaftesbury Road, Burwood NSW 2134 • (02) 8073 7490 • national@apwm.org.au

The Australian Presbyterian World Mission exists to glorify God by facilitating the spread of the gospel to people overseas and Aborigines within Australia.

Malawi: OUR FOUR MONTH MISSION WITH ORBUS AND PRISON MINISTRY JOHN AND SUE STEENDAM

ORBUS is a school for orphans and vulnerable children. It is mainly financed by the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

SUE What a privilege it is to be used by God for His work in this very poor country. We worked in conjunction with the CCAP (Church of Central Africa Presbyterian) Blantyre Synod. This year I was able to work alongside the prison Chaplain Rev Stanley Chimesya who ministers to more than 20 prisons in the southern region of Malawi. In total, these prisons hold approximately 20,000 inmates — men, women and children. The conditions in these prisons are terrible. Inmates are given just one meal of nsima (maize porridge) a day, with no meat/vegetables/fish etc. If inmates' families don't live close by to bring food and other needs, then the prisoners suffer greatly. In many of these prisons, the inmates need to sit up to sleep, leaning against each other's knees, as there is not enough room for them all to lie down on the ground to sleep. They are in desperate need of blankets, soaps, clothing,

medication etc. In the tiny clinics, the stock of medications is in alarmingly short supply. I have seen very sick men break a panadol in half to share.

Rev Stanley and I visited about 10 different prisons; often 3 or 4 a week including a reformed prison for children aged 6 to 14. Most were street kids. I led a weekly Bible study with 200 men in Chichiri prison. I also led one in the clinic with the chronically ill and with the women inmates. Large numbers of the prisoners are eager to hear and discuss the word of God. We were able to hand out much needed items such as Bibles, soaps, medication, plastic plates, clothes, food, biscuits, sweets etc. using donations received from APWM, PCV Churches and individual donations.

The people of Malawi are warm-hearted and happy. The God-given opportunities and blessings far outweigh the many challenges we faced working in this very poor developing country.

JOHN We have been going to Malawi for 8 years. As we drive towards ORBUS and the



first distant glimpse of the orphanage buildings, we feel a real sense of excitement and joy. Then, coming along the track through a tall maize crop field, we enter the ORBUS grounds and see the children playing. We are eagerly greeted and welcomed by the teachers and farming staff. It is very rewarding to work alongside these people who are faithful Christians and really demonstrate the "Warm Heart of Africa".

This year our work focused on replacing and repairing the damage done to buildings and other infrastructure due to a couple of robberies about 18 months ago. Funds are urgently needed and so we seek financial help from all Presbyterian churches. Our goal is that ORBUS will be a centre of Christian caring and educational excellence for orphans and other vulnerable children in Malawi.

For further information please contact John Steendam – jssteendam@optusnet.com.au

SEWAH: Who will reach those in the Himalayas?

Who will reach the people of the Himalayan mountain range with the gospel? One of our Partner Agencies, SEWAH*, is doing just that. Led by Bali



SEWAH CHILDREN

and Premla Shepherd, SEWAH is a ministry that reaches out through its Education and Welfare activities. It seeks to meet both the physical and the spiritual needs of people who desperately need Christ. It's all part of assembling that great multitude that no one could count, who will one day stand before Christ and



BALI AND PREMLA SHEPHERD

declare His praise (Revelation 7:9).

From the 27th August until 29th September 2014, Bali and Premla will be speaking about SEWAH in churches in NSW, ACT, Victoria and Tasmania. If you would like details then please contact our office.

• SEWAH stands for 'Society for Education and Welfare Activities in the Himalayas'.

**PLEASE NOTE APWM NATIONAL'S NEW PHONE NUMBER AND ADDRESS
81 SHAFTESBURY ROAD, BURWOOD NSW 2134 (02) 8073 7490**

“

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

Workpartners December 2014

We have another Workpartners trip coming up!

Dates: 5-22 December 2014.

Location: Talua Ministry Training Centre, Santo Island, Vanuatu

Cost: \$2100 - this covers flights (exiting Sydney or Brisbane), accommodation, food and visa costs. This does not include any passport related fees, immunisation or travel insurance costs.

Passports must have at least 6 months validity before departure. Important Dates – full payment must be made by 5th November 2014. All application forms (Workpartners and Visa) must be submitted by the 20th of October 2014 to allow enough time for the sending and processing of your visa application form in Vanuatu. Visit our website for more information: www.apwm.org.au/what-we-do/workpartners/



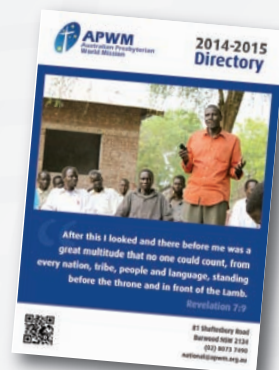
ANDREW SCHACHE & JENERY
MEASURING UP NEW BOYS TOILETS

APWM DIRECTORIES

The 2014-2015 APWM Directory is now available. Copies were recently sent to parishes so if you would like one then please speak to your congregation's mission coordinator or your minister. APWM can supply more if needed.

MEAL FOR MISSION

Each year we encourage congregations to hold an annual 'Meal for Mission' as a way of raising awareness about overseas cross-cultural mission and as a means of providing financial support for APWM's overseas projects. We encourage you to choose a country from the list that can be found at www.apwm.org.au/partner-churches/ There you can download information sheets about each of our Partner Churches. Please encourage those in the congregation to give the cost of one meal toward the work of overseas mission.



New Missionaries Developing Support

Neil & Rowan (Woonona, NSW Pioneers, Southeast Asia) Neil and Rowan are joining a team in Southeast Asia to share Jesus with travellers and seekers. They are seeking to build a team of supporters around them and can be contacted at hippies@swissmail.org



Mick Alley (Grace, NSW, AIM International, Kenya) will be serving in outreach and discipleship among the Samburu people. Mick can be contacted at mick.alley@gmail.com.



Vivien Barton (Tamborine Mountain, QLD, SIM, Kenya) will serve as SIMpact coordinator assisting and mentoring short term missionaries to Kenya. Vivien is currently building partnership support and can be contacted at vivienjaybarton@gmail.com

J (Western Blacktown, NSW, CMS, Middle East) is currently preparing for ministry in the Middle East and is seeking partnership support. Please contact the National Office for details.



Jared (Maroochydore, QLD, OM, West Asia) will be serving in West Asia from mid August. Please contact the National Office for details.

Paul & Elaine (Kingaroy, QLD, ICC, East Asia) will be involved in ministering to abandoned and disabled children. Please contact the National Office for details.



John & Kara Dekker (APWM National, Aspendale VIC, for Talua Vanuatu). John and Kara will take over from Glen & Rachael Connor at the Talua Ministry Training Centre, Vanuatu. John will be serving as one of the lecturers and this year is undertaking PhD studies in Australia. They are seeking to build their support and can be contacted at johnandkaradekker@gmail.com



JOHN & KARA DEKKER

Surendra & May'an Wesley (APWM/PIM, Western Australia) will be serving in outreach and discipleship in the remote mining town of Mount Magnet. APWM is still looking for pledges of support for this ministry to Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people in Western Australia.

VANUATU

NEW DAYS AT TALUA

In recent years APWM has focussed its partnership with the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu at the Talua Ministry Training Centre. Over the years we have seen a variety of Australians serving at Talua — Ian & Jenni Smith, Beryl Burke,

Norah Taylor, Robert & Pam McKean, Darrell & Margaret Thatcher, Chris & Leah Balzer, Philip & Sandra Burns, Andy & Rosemary Williamson, Glen & Rachael Connor and Andrew & Marilyn Schache. In addition, there have been many Australians who have taught short courses. What a privilege to be in such a partnership!



BACHELOR OF MINISTRY HOUSING



PRINCIPAL DESIGNATE PASTOR
SELERICK MICHEL

niVanuatu and ourselves. There is housing for the families of students studying for the Bachelor of Ministry degree.

At the end of 2014 significant changes will take place as three long-term staff members finish. The principal, Pastor Fiamia Rakau, will be succeeded by Pastor Selerick Michel. Cindy the librarian is leaving as well as church history lecturer Pastor Masia Nato and an ESL teacher from New Zealand.

2014 will be the final year of service for Glen & Rachael Connor after 10 years at Talua. In addition, Andrew & Marilyn Schache will complete their service. Talua would welcome someone to replace Andrew in his hands-on maintenance/project management role. We would like to



GLEN & RACHAEL CONNOR

I have just returned from my sixth visit to Talua. Talua today is very different from the Talua I first visited in 1990. The standard of education has increased so that it now offers a fully accredited Bachelor of Ministry and a Diploma of Theology. There is a library built by the



ANDREW & MARILYN
SCHACHE

thank the Connors and Schaches for the way they have given of themselves to serve our brothers and sisters.

2015 will bring other changes. God-willing, in January 2015 John & Kara Dekker from Victoria will replace the Connors. In August, Andy & Rosemary Williamson will complete

their service. Who will replace the Williamsons? We are currently seeking suitable people to take on the challenging and yet rewarding task of equipping the next generation of pastors for Vanuatu. Perhaps this is something that God is leading you to consider?

Kevin Murray

A MACEDONIAN CALL

Eighteen months ago, high school teachers Brian and Judy Cullen left their retirement to travel to Vanuatu to teach at the Tata Secondary School in Vanuatu. They have had to work through various obstacles — cultural communication, a lack of electricity, separation from family etc. — but they are finding it immensely rewarding! Brian and Judy will finish at the end of the year and the school would like APWM to replace them.



BRIAN & JUDY CULLEN

This raises a bigger issue. When Independence came to Vanuatu in 1980, the Church gave many of its schools to the Government. However, this has had a negative impact as secular values have led children away from Christ.

The Government now has plans to hand a number of schools back to the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu. This means that the Church now has to prepare for the challenge that this will bring. We have been asked if we could do as we have done in the past and send Christian teachers to help shape the next generation of young people for Christ. Teachers don't just teach information, they model what it means to follow Christ.

Is this something that God is leading you to consider?

VANUATU: POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Theological Lecturer at Talua Ministry Training Centre

Late 2015/early 2016.

Qualifications • Master's degree in a theological discipline, preferably a research Master's degree • pastoral-evangelistic experience • cross-cultural experience (preferred)

Head Teacher English for Academic Purposes

Late 2015/early 2016. Oversee development of the Foundation Year and Bachelor of Ministry students' academic skills, particularly in the area of English.

Qualifications • Master's degree in Teaching English for Academic Purposes or equivalent • experience in teaching.

Primary and Secondary Teachers: Various Locations

From 2015 onwards

Qualifications • academic qualifications appropriate to the area being taught • professional accreditation

Please note that all positions require the raising of partnership support.

PRAYER AND FINANCE Response Form

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81 Shaftesbury Rd, Burwood NSW 2134

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I would like to support the following:

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☐ Please send me the missionary's prayer letter.

☐ APWM ministry in a particular country _____

Please indicate an amount

☐ \$20 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100

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Please indicate how regular your payment will be:

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Account: **Australian Presbyterian World Mission** BSB: 032-260

Account number: 151207

Please write your name and the surname of the missionary you are supporting in the description box.

Please also email finance@apwm.org.au telling us that you have made a deposit and provide the name of the missionary that you are supporting.

Enquiries

finance@apwm.org.au

(02) 8073 7490

www.apwm.org.au/supporting/finance

What can you do to promote mission in your congregation?

A Mission Prayer Slot in Church

Our congregations typically set aside time for prayers of adoration/confession and intercession. Why not have a specific time to pray for mission — local and overseas?

Select some local mission activities such as school scripture • your church's Kids' Club • playgroup • an upcoming evangelism event

Pray for one of these each week as well as praying for one of the missionaries associated with your congregation. If your church uses a data projector then you could put up a photo of the missionary and perhaps give a very short update on the missionary.

A Monthly Collection

Some churches have a monthly envelope they use to collect money for the particular missionaries they support. What about the younger generation? A specific bank account could be set up and they could be encouraged to set up a regular monthly deposit into that account. Some congregations collect people's loose change once a month and use it not to pay for the missionaries' support but for a specific ministry need e.g. a new laptop, travel costs.



Sunday School

If your church supports missionaries who have children then you could have the



Sunday School children send letters, packages or videos to the children. Talk about what it would be like to live in that country and culture. You could have one Sunday where you focus on the particular people group that the missionary family serves.

Mission Sunday Church Lunch

Hold a 'Mission Sunday' at church. Invite a guest speaker, focus on a particular APWM missionary activity overseas and use specific envelopes to encourage people to give the cost of one meal toward the cause of overseas cross-cultural mission. This could be followed by a church lunch.

Other ideas?

Do you have ideas that work in your congregation that could be used elsewhere? Please email kevinmurray@apwm.org.au with your suggestions and we'll share them around.

Have you thought of including APWM in your will?

If you would like to include APWM in your will, then you may like to use these words as a guide:

"I give to the Presbyterian Church Property Trust for the National Committee of the Australian Presbyterian World Mission [here insert a description of the bequest together with the amount of money or description of property or other

gift] free of testamentary charges and duties for [here insert 'its general purpose' or the specific purpose you desire] and I declare that the receipt of the Secretary of the Trust shall be sufficient to discharge to my Executors."

Please provide this wording to your Solicitor when seeking advice and assistance in drawing up your will.

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ON TRACK

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PRESBYTERIAN INLAND MISSION

ISSUE 3 2014

PROCLAIMING THE LORD JESUS CHRIST
BY WORD AND DEED

WITH GREAT THANKS TO ALMIGHTY GOD BERT AND PENNY – TEN YEARS WITH PIM

The area which we were originally responsible for was the largest ever covered by a PIM patrol. Its boundaries extended from a line from Forrest on the Transcontinental Railway, across to Kalbarri and then included all regions above, extending to and including the Kimberley. The patrol was massive in area and praise be to the Lord, so were the blessings. It took some twelve months to traverse and was the longest patrol in both time and distance ever carried out by PIM.

While on early patrol work, we visited many pastoral stations and Aboriginal communities. We were privileged to speak of our Lord and to render practical assistance in meeting local needs. Over time, this meant the commitment of donated and personal resources in the purchase of two vehicles for ministry, and to the supply of Bibles and other Christian literature, clothing and food. We are so appreciative of the generosity of Presbyterian congregations in Perth and right across Australia in this, for the many, many gifts which helped so much when on patrol over the years.

One Sunday morning we were at Laverton (in the Northern Goldfields) and found out that there was no worship service in town. We travelled to Mount Margaret Aboriginal Community (formerly the Mount Margaret Mission) in search of a church and were directed to a large corrugated iron building from which we could hear Aboriginal voices singing hymns. We got out of the LandCruiser and quietly walked in through the rear. The Pastor stopped the service and warmly welcomed us. We were the only white people in the

congregation of about 30 people together and mandatory canines between the pews. This commenced a long relationship and I was invited to speak to the congregation on our many future visits.

We had often used the caravan park in Mount Magnet (in the Murchison) as base for patrols. About five years ago funding for the Anglican Parish dried up, which meant that the church property was to be sold, thus removing organised Protestant Christian influence in the town and the huge region around



Mount Magnet. Penny suggested to Stuart that the PIM should consider purchasing it, which would allow for the church to continue on and a PIM Patrol base to be established in the heart of the Mid West Patrol. The PIM agreed and at a very reasonable cost the

Continued on page 2

MISSION TO ALICE SPRINGS CHRIST COLLEGE OUTBACK GOSPEL OUTREACH

During the second week of April this year, 8 students from Christ College, Sydney visited Keith and Jenny Bell in Alice Springs. Together they had the opportunity to do evangelical work, cold calling, Bible studies and outreach initiatives such as letterbox drops.

Valuable opportunities for witnessing were gained through the students' optimism and the students were able to immerse themselves in the Alice Springs' way of life while getting to know the indigenous culture a little as well.



Left to right: Chor Tim Chan, Sei Hee (Paul) Cho, Kyeol Jung, Elise Funnel, Hugh Prattis, Rira Cho, Theodore Potts, David Burke

Continued from page 1

property was acquired, with the Anglican Diocese of North West Australia also generously transferring their church building and property in Meekatharra (two hours north of Mount Magnet, in the Gasgoyne) gratis to the PIM. The vision was to eventually develop another PIM Patrol base up there, to service the North West Patrol into the Pilbara and to the east into the 'red heart' of the continent. We agreed with the vision, but almost immediately I (Bert) was affected by health problems which required two major operations. We were sure that God was saying "Yes you can go to Mount Magnet but there are a few things to take care of first".

We knew something of the struggle that the Anglican Minister had in building a congregation. The main problems being that Mount Magnet has a transient population and that most townspeople generally feel that all is attainable by the strength of the human arm. We worked



on building a congregation and gradually a small number of white and aboriginal people began to attend. Then things took off with a flourish and it was not unusual for meetings to be attended by 50 or more aboriginal people plus children. We took the opportunity to minister and there was much singing, praying and praising God. This was often delivered from the back

yard of the Manse through a loud speaker system which could be heard on the other side of town.

God had given the blessed opportunity to speak His word to these people for approximately 12 months. Then as quickly as it formed, the whole thing dissipated and

people went in their various directions. We were bewildered and devastated as this happened and the biggest quandary and question for us was "why?" There was no easy answer. It can simply turn out that way and as Christians, we should just be thankful that we could touch those lives. We continued to do patrol ministry and conduct church services. We prayed for Aboriginal ministry but did not see how any future situation would come about. The aboriginal community continued to use us to conduct weddings and funerals.

When we first came to live at Mount Magnet, Penny had started a ministry with children, giving an icy-pole in summer and a biscuit in winter to all children who knocked at the Manse door. This gave opportunity for a dialogue with the children whereby Penny could speak about good manners and standards, as well as giving invitations to attend Sunday school to learn about the Lord Jesus. Some aboriginal women continued to meet

Continued on page 3



VIEWS BEYOND THE FURTHEST FENCE CENTENARY VOLUME STILL AVAILABLE

To commemorate the founding of AIM in 1912, Stephen Dyer was commissioned by the PIM to bring together a collection of historical and contemporary photographs in a large format full-colour book entitled VIEWS BEYOND THE FURTHEST FENCE. Stephen was selected because of his photographic skills and his personal commitment to the PIM. Over the years he has visited sites of historical significance to the PIM as well as

travelling through various Patrol areas. Stephen currently serves as an elder of the Kerang Presbyterian Church.

In addition to the magnificent photographs, VIEWS BEYOND THE FURTHEST FENCE contains an historical account of the work of the AIM and the PIM written by Stuart Bonnington. Stuart has done research in church history, with a special focus on the place of the Presbyterians in the Australian story. Stuart combines being the



Superintendent of PIM with ministry at the Scots Church in Fremantle.

All profits from the sale VIEWS BEYOND THE FURTHEST FENCE will go to support the PIM. For bulk orders please contact the PIM Office.

PRESBYTERIAN INLAND MISSION 2014 CHRISTMAS CARDS

1-3 packs @ \$7.60 per pack
4+ packs @ \$7.00 per pack

Contact the Office:

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Order on the Web at:

www.pim.org.au/merchandise.htm



Continued from page 2

with Penny in a ladies Bible group. Penny was also invited to speak and in one talk she spoke on the topics of "The Significance of women at Easter" and "The Crowning Qualities of Womanhood". The ladies enjoyed both talks and later requested copies.

Then in early 2013 I received a phone call from George Taylor, an Aboriginal Pastor of NSW. He said that they had received a calling to come to Mount Magnet and minister to Aboriginal people. George is an Aboriginal man of the Badimia tribe which is of the Yamatji tribal area which includes Mount Magnet. He is married to Kate who is medically qualified in the areas of

women's and children's health. They arrived in town in June 2013. They joined our Wednesday night Bible Study at the Manse and showed themselves to be devout, long standing Christians.

George wanted to commence a Yamatji congregation. While not part of the PIM, we were pleased to encourage the Yatmatji congregation in a number of ways. We are delighted and thankful for George and Kate and for their stable Christian leadership for Aboriginal people of this area.

For some years I have officiated at the ANZAC Dawn Service at Mount Magnet. Last year I instigated wreaths being laid for Padres and Aboriginal ADF personell who had served at times of war. This

year I invited George to join me and participate in the delivery of the ANZAC message.

As we mark the end of ten years of PIM patrol and church work, we look back and are very thankful for so much ministry to so many people and to see the Lord's Spirit so clearly at work! To Him be all the glory and praise!

Bert and Penny Pierce

Mt Magnet PIM Church
9:30am every Sunday
Clive and Doreen Griffiths
0420 470 311

MUNGO PATROL MORROWS SENT FORTH

*'May the peoples praise you, O God;
May all the peoples praise you.'* (NIV)

On Friday 7 March members of the Sunraysia Presbyterian Church, and representatives of the Presbytery of North Western Victoria, the wider PCV and the PIM met together for the commissioning of Colin and Alison Morrow to parish and patrol.

The service of commissioning was led by Rev. Phil Burns (Presbytery Moderator) and Elder Tony Zirngast (Clerk of Presbytery and elder at the Sunraysia congregation). Rt. Rev. Andrew Bray (representing the PCV Moderator), Mr. Denis Wright (representing the PIM Committee), Rev. Mark Smith

(representing the PIM Superintendent and preacher for the service), Mr Mike Timmins (PIM Office Manager) and Rev. Dr Robert Carner (PCV Ministry Development Director) were in attendance joining with the Sunraysia people for this significant event for Colin and Alison, the congregation and the Mungo Patrol.

The Mungo Patrol covers South West NSW and North Western Victoria.



Sunraysia members from left to right, Tony Zirngast, Madge Brady, Ann Zirngast, Ros Voullaire, Alison Morrow, Colin Morrow, Robert Tierney, Bev Carter, Isabel Brooks.

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!" – Isaiah 6:8

VACANT PATROLS

DARLING NSW • KIMBERLEY WA • NORTH WEST WA

Contact Stuart Bonnington Superindendent

T: 08 9398 1304 • M: 0423 257 645

E: superintendent@pim.org.au

NT PRESBYTERIANS

"THE DESERT SHALL REJOICE AND BLOSSOM"



Alice Springs:

Sunday 10am 20 Parke Crescent, The Gap
Keith Bell 08 8953 7748

Darwin:

Sunday 10am Kormilda College, Berrimah
Sunday 5pm Palmerston Library
Rob Duncanson 08 8945 7878

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Rob and Jeanette Duncanson E: convener@pim.org.au M: 0413 021 716 Darwin PIM Church

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Not according to plan

By Kirsty, Proshikkhon 2014 lady leader



Then after that we stay back to pray. But this year we couldn't go out at all. Right from the beginning they went out on their own. On the first day they were told, 'Focus on building relationships with the people in the community first. Don't worry if you don't get to tell Bible stories on the first day.' But when the groups came back they said, 'The villagers welcomed us. We were able to tell them the creation story. Then they said, 'Please come back tomorrow.' It didn't go according to plan, but it was even better than our plan!

Communication

As a small group of the foreigners sat

down with their group they handed out the learning materials in Bangla language. The group sat there sheepishly. One lady tried painstakingly for 3 minutes to etch out her name. Then the realisation hit them, 'These people can't read.' We hadn't planned to have illiterates at the seminar. We also hadn't planned to have Hindus and lapsed Christians at our seminar for Christian leaders. But what a great opportunity! We got to help new believers navigate the Bible and understand its big picture. We also had to think about what Bible stories we could use in our contextualisation training, not just Bible propositions. It was unplanned but fantastic!

This year's Proshikkhon didn't go according to our plan, but according to God's plan, and for that, I'm truly thankful.

Change is what God is all about. God has used Proshikkhon to change the lives of many Bangladeshi tribal people. He has also used it to change Kirsty, and can use it to change you as well. Are you willing? Applications are open for Proshikkhon 2015 (Dec 26, 2014 – Jan 26, 2015): email proshikkhon@wycliffe.org.

This year Proshikkhon did not go according to plan. But it ended up even better than we'd hoped for. I reckon it was my best Proshikkhon yet!

In Proverbs 16:9 it says, 'A man's heart plans his way, but the LORD determines his steps.' This Proshikkhon we certainly saw that our plans didn't always eventuate. But looking back now we can see how God orchestrated things so well.

There were three main challenges in this Proshikkhon: change, captivity and communication.

Change

During our training in Maleny (Qld) we prepared the participants to expect change. Day by day we introduced changes to get them used to the idea. But when we got to Bangladesh, the number of changes that happened surprised even us leaders! It seems like our arrival and departure dates were about the only things that didn't change. We were unable to leave the city to visit some ministries. We had to leave the capital early, at just a few hours notice. One group of

participants pulled out. Another group couldn't come, and then they were able to come (albeit a couple of days late). Every day something in the schedule changed. We joked, 'So now we're up to plan W.4.' However, the changes had lots of positive outcomes. For example, one people group arrived early, so they received an extra contextualisation seminar to themselves. This also helped the Australian team to have better preparation, and provided training for more Bangladeshi staff. The original schedule (disappointingly) only had Bible storytelling visits scheduled every second day. But then they ended up going out every day! God made changes for the better!

Captivity

The peace and order situation of Bangladesh was quite unstable when we were there. This meant that we were frequently in lock down. 'You can't go outside today,' our national colleagues said. Normally we foreigners accompany the Bangladeshi staff and participants for the first few days to help break the ice when they go into new communities to share the gospel.

'Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.' Hebrews 10:24

Encourage and inspire your fellow believers by sending your articles and pictures to us at ed.fellowworkers@gmail.com! Plus, did you know that advertising is FREE for all Victorian Presbyterian churches, committees, and official organisations?

Thank you for your support in this ministry. May the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

Chiara Bilyj
Editor



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