

True stories of faith

PTC exit students share their journeys



Stephen Jones used to work in prosthetics. Now he, with his wife Martina and children Xavier, Aliana and Holly, has moved to Melton where he hopes to 'benefit people for eternity'.

Stephen Jones to Melton

Born in NSW and spending the first few years of my life overseas, I grew up in Colac from when I was four. I then moved to Melbourne

for university at eighteen years old. I started a science degree majoring in Astronomy and Physics at Melbourne Uni but transferred after a year to a Prosthetics and Orthot-

ics degree at Latrobe Uni. After that I worked as a lecturer in prosthetics and then got a job with a private practice in Wollongong. We lived there for four years before moving back to Melbourne to start at college in 2011.

Martina grew up in Port Fairy and moved to Melbourne for Uni at the end of year 12. She studied a double degree in nursing and health promotion and then worked as a health promotion officer and mental health nurse before we had kids.

I became a Christian at uni through the ministry of the Christian Union and Pete Leslie at La Trobe university. I started going to Bundoora Presbyterian. I was encouraged into ministry by Pete, but didn't make the final decision until I had been working in prosthetics a few years. I loved the job but I wanted to be involved in work that benefitted people for eternity, not just here on earth. I left my job and did a ministry apprenticeship at Wollongong Anglican Cathedral for two years under Sandy Grant and Lionel Windsor. After then we came back to Melbourne to study with those we were going to be working alongside.

Theological study has equipped me to think theologically about the world and given me the framework from which I can keep studying my whole life. Doing an apprenticeship was very helpful before college so I knew what

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National Training Event Mission at Surrey Hills Presbyterian

In November 2014, a team of twelve students and staff workers from the Deakin University Christian Union came to Surrey Hills for five days to partner with our church in reaching our community for Christ. Having experienced the

joy, excitement and challenge of being on several NTE missions during my time at RMIT, I was keen for our church to participate in hosting a NTE mission team. In God's providence, we have our

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Submission
deadline for
next edition:
1 May

National Training Event Mission at Surrey Hills Presbyterian



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own Deakin Uni Christian Union Campus Director, so it was easy to organise.

It was such a great joy to see the enthusiasm of the young men and women keen to be exposed and involved in the various ministries of our church. In partnership with our church, the team visited a retirement home, boldly went around our neighbourhood door-knocking and looking for opportunities to share Jesus, and invited the community to our Christmas events. They were also involved in our Playgroup, our Christianity Explored course, outreach BBQ event at Mont Albert, many growth groups throughout the week, led our youth group, participated in our 'Man vs. Food' evangelistic/cooking event, helped with our Sunday school and both Sunday services. The mission presented a great opportunity for the team to see from the inside the workings of our church and to gain valuable ministry experience.

The mission was not only great for the team but was such a great blessing to our church. The mission was a great opportunity for our church to keep mission at the forefront of our agenda. But it also allowed our church to love, serve and show Christian hospitality. Several members joyfully opened up their homes and billeted the students, provided lunch, and shared their lives. Our Elder Barry Dimelow shared with the team the changes in our church over its 128-year history and also the changes and challenges facing Christians. Our Session Clerk Keith Watson and his wife Jill shared about their life, the church

and Presbyterianism.

We always pray that our Lord will send out more workers into his harvest field, and mission opportunities like these give us a little glimpse into the way in which our Lord works in our world, through willing saints of the Gospel.

Rev. John Huynh



Pictured:

1. NTE Team with YOSHi
2. Meeting with elders
3. Outreach event
4. Team with YOSHi helping with mulching
5. Man vs Food event
6. Team leading YOSHi



FELLOW WORKERS

Ballarat Presbytery News



Rev Luke Isham and his family are settling in to Horsham life. Photo courtesy of the Wimmera Mail Times.

New ministry begun

It is always a joyful occasion for a parish that has been without full-time ministry to have a new minister. The vacant parish of Horsham-Marnoo has a new minister.

On Thursday 15th January the presbytery of Ballarat travelled to

Horsham for the glad task of appointing the Rev Luke Isham to the parish. Horsham, as a congregation, is looking forward not only to Luke's ministry but to a new assessment of its place and witness in Horsham, the community, and to the leadership their new minister will provide in this. It was also a very special occasion for Luke himself who, coming from another denomination, has now become a minister of the PCA. He comes from Tasmania where he was studying for the last three years to fulfil the Reception of Ministers requirements, while working for the local Hobart branch of the Austral-

ian Fellowship of Evangelicals Students. He's married to Amy, a Librarian and researcher, who is currently home schooling their two children, Evangeline and Solomon. While Luke is also a member of the Australian College of Theology academic board, he and Amy enjoy the warm, practical and open nature of small town ministry. His focus for the first year is to simply 'love Jesus and love people.'

New ministry to begin

The people of the vacant appointment parish of Ararat look forward with eager anticipation to the appointment of the Rev Rod Waterhouse as their minister on 10th February. They are a small but very enthusiastic group of people who hope for the Lord to do great things in their midst and in their community.

As a presbytery we are thankful to the Lord for the provision of ministers in these vacant parishes and for this opportunity for the advancement of Christ's Kingdom.

*Rev Luke Isham and
Rev Keith Allen, Clerk of Presbytery*

'Epic Explorers' in Geelong West



Singing time at Epic Explorers!

Geelong West Presbyterian Church held our annual Summer Holiday Program in January. We ran a program called 'Epic Explorers' which is the children's edition of the Christianity Explored series.*

Over five mornings, the children looked at passages from Mark's Gospel and discovered who Jesus is as they heard how he called his disciples, performed miracles, showed his authority and revealed himself to be the Son of God. They then learnt about why Jesus came, explored the problem of sin and the offer of forgive-

ness. They learnt about Jesus' death and resurrection and also what it means to follow Jesus. We praise God that fifty-five children heard this good news and two children became Christians. The children enjoyed participating in games, craft, songs, discussion groups, team activities, learning Mark 10:45 and eating yummy lunches provided by members of the Church. The week ended with a colourful dress up day.

*I highly recommend the Epic Explorers program; it can be purchased from The Good Book Company.

*Tash Angel
Geelong West Presbyterian Church*



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Recently Added Feature

EVENTS FINDER

True stories of faith

PTC exit students share their journeys

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questions to ask at college.

I am so excited to be ministering with the people at Melton Presbyterian. We feel like it is an answer to prayer and can't wait to get to know the congregation and start a regular preaching ministry. My approach will be similar to that of Mark Dever, the four P's:

- Prayer—I am going to commit everything we do before God in prayer;
- Preach—I am going to commit to spending time preaching and preparing to preach the gospel well;
- People work—I am going to commit to working hard at developing relationships with those in our congregation and community;
- Patience—I am going to commit to being patient in seeing what God will do in Melton.

Please pray for our kids as they make the transition to a new life in Melton: Xavier (2008), Aliana (2010), Holly (2013).

Russ and Aimee Grinter to Reforming Church in South-East Bendigo



I grew up on a wheat and sheep farm at Temora, in southwest NSW. After school I headed to that same farm to continue as a fifth generation farmer, but God had other plans for a different type of planting work.

After studying in Wagga as an Agriculture student, and then some time in the UK, I spent four years in inner Sydney studying theology at Moore College. Since then, Bendigo has been our temporary home.

Aimee grew up in Perth, South Perth to be accurate (that means something to Perth people). She studied science and then nursing, spent a year at a Bible college and since then has been serving a couple of days a week as an AFES (Australian Fellowship of Evangelical Students) staff worker at La Trobe, Bendigo. She is

also a mum! Our son was born in late 2013; we named him Knox because we wanted him, just like John Knox, to 'fear no flesh'.

I grew up in a fine Christian home, and was converted to be a milky Christian at seventeen years of age. For about four years, while working on the farm and studying agriculture, I struggled with grasping grace, and it was reading the Bible one on one with Richard Wilson (of Valley Presbyterian when he was in Wagga serving as a staff worker) that grace changed everything for me.

God also used Richard Wilson to see God-given gifts fanned into flame. I became convicted of the need for more harvest workers in a full-time capacity, which led me to undertake a ministry apprenticeship under Richard and then head into that pathway for life, God-willing.

My theological study prepared my mind for the rigorous job of explaining the gospel in a complicated culture. Ministry experience shapes me to continually rely on Christ more and more, teaching me how his grace is sufficient in my weakness.

We launched Reforming Church at the start of 2013. But things really started before that, in 2012, after a series of events were used by God to see the idea of a church plant at that time planted in our prayers in Bendigo. This all had to do with David Jones, St. John's Bendigo and a rag-tag bunch of brothers and sisters who had gospel conviction, and were crazy enough, to join the team and sow like farmers in season.

The key challenge for my role now is to lead a small team to serve a crowd of people in our suburbs who do not think highly of church, and assume the gospel is a shovel load of religion. This means we need to remember who we are. Christians are not 'do-gooders' who can feel superior about themselves as they serve the church and serve the world. I need to model this as I lead.

Yet this remains our greatest opportunity. This is why we are called 'Reforming' Church. Our neighbours have presumptions about church that the gospel reshapes. Most think we Christians are self-righteous. We are keen to show people that whilst we are Presbyterian in government, and Reformed in theology, we are really broken sinners who are saints because of Jesus, and so we actually are reforming. I first and foremost get to model that in my role as pastor.

Chris and Milka Tirtha to Scots Church Melbourne (Indonesian Congregation)



I was born in Germany and spent my earlier childhood there, but then our family moved back to Indonesia where we lived in Bandung (West Java) until I finished high school. After high school I completed a couple of diploma degrees in Graphic Design and Multimedia at Victoria University in Melbourne. I had the opportunity to work in printing as well as multimedia production companies for a few years. I also spent over a year working back in Indonesia as a creative director for an animation studio.

Milka grew up in Jakarta. We met in Melbourne when she was completing her Bachelor in Multimedia Design at Monash University. She worked as a multimedia designer for a few years. When I commenced my full-time study at the PTC, she worked in childcare.

I trusted Christ for my salvation when one of our teachers shared the gospel with us individually in Sunday school class, back in my home church in Bandung. This was towards the end of my Sunday school years, just before we would 'move up' to the services geared for teen and youth. Not long after that some of the youth leaders began to disciple me (although they wouldn't use that word) and gradually began to involve me in leadership.

In one sense, I have always had a desire to serve in full-time ministry. I would say there were many factors leading up to the decision. But one that has been steadily grown in my mind is Paul's call to Timothy to join him in suffering for the sake of the Gospel (2 Tim 2:3). Full-time ministry



is never meant to be a life of ease, and that's perhaps one of the most helpful things I have learned from the college and ministry so far. I think the college is blessed to have lecturers who are not only theologians but also pastors. They understand the day-to-day challenge of both thinking and acting with a biblically saturated heart and mind.

Before becoming a candidate for the ministry I was an elder at Scots' Church with a special focus on the Indonesian-speaking congregation. I served alongside two other elders from the Indonesian congregation, one of which was Dr Sen Sendjaya who is also a teaching elder there. I also worked as their youth pastor on a part-time basis.

I have commenced my appointment as the full-time minister at the Indonesian congregation. Thus far we have tried to identify which areas need our focus. Given the size of the congregation, they are quite substantial areas. I'm blessed with a gospel-centred leadership team that's largely on the same page when it comes to the focus of our ministry: Word and prayer. However, translating that into the regular life of the church requires a lot of thought, prayer and hard work. I'm also glad that the leadership agrees that in the first few years, we ought to re-examine and rebuild our foundations, through biblical teaching and pastoral care. At the same time, we are a transit church, with our students coming in and out of Australia every two to three years. This means that as a church we need to operate on as lean a basis as possible, while ensuring that our members are disciplined at their various levels of spiritual growth.

Chris Duke to Essendon and Clifton Hill



I've lived almost all of my life in Ballarat, after having been born there.

After completing my first degree in Metallurgy I lived in Melbourne for about two and half years. My work experience includes working as a Metallurgist (in Canada, Sydney and Richmond) and teaching Second-

ary Mathematics and Science (in Melbourne and Ballarat). However, I spent most of my career in Financial Services as a Financial Planner, predominantly in my own practice in Ballarat until 2011. At this time I was studying at the PTC and also caring for my wife, Judith, who had early onset Alzheimer's. When Jude passed away in early September 2014 we were just a few months short of being married for thirty-six years.

When I felt God's call into the ministry, Jude and I always thought we would be doing this together, with a view that you're never too old to pastor and minister to people. Jude had always been supportive of Christian ministry and was teaching Art at Ballarat Christian College up until her diagnosis. Having been a Financial Planner for some twenty-four years and having often shared my faith, I had a strong desire to just concentrate on people's spiritual and eternal futures rather than their finances. Studying theology became very important in order to

learn to express the gospel of Christ more clearly and simply. I've been a Christian since I was seventeen years old, having been brought up in a Welsh Presbyterian (Calvinistic Methodist) Church in Sebastopol, but I felt that I needed to understand and know the Bible more. We believe that our God is a God who speaks and has spoken and so there is a great need to understand God's word more as we endeavor to share it with people.

I'm looking forward to getting to know the people of the Essendon and Clifton Hill congregations and ministering there. I'm also looking forward to learning how God would have us connect with and take the gospel to the people in these areas.

Luke and Katherine Brownley to Hume

I grew up in Bundoora in Northern Melbourne. After finishing school, I studied Physical Education at RMIT University. While at uni I was heavily involved with the RMIT Christian Union, which was also where I met Katherine. I worked as a PE teacher at

Craigieburn Secondary College before starting a Christian apprenticeship, which combined the RMIT Christian Union and METRO at Scots Presbyterian in the CBD. I then commenced a Master of Divinity at PTC.

Katherine grew up in Leongatha and trained as a draftsman. She worked in that field until undertaking a Christian ministry apprenticeship at RMIT Christian Union.

I grew up in a Christian family and we attended Reservoir Presbyterian. For as long I can remember I believed in God, but it wasn't until leading on my first beach mission at the end of year eleven that I really started to take my faith seriously and wanted to serve God.

When I was about twenty I was challenged about full-time ministry at a Belgrave Heights Easter Conference and went forward in response. From that point onward I always thought I would end up in full-time paid ministry of some description. Throughout my uni years I learned about Christian ministry apprenticeships and decided that it was a great way to test the water. Confirmation for me was the contrast between



Luke and Katherine met at RMIT Christian Union. They now have three children: Joshua (4), Isaac (2) and Grace (1).

my PE teaching and the opportunity to teach the Bible. PE teaching was never going to be fulfilling for me and I needed to pursue full-time paid ministry. After my apprenticeship my trainer, Steve Williams, recommended that I was suitable for ministry and for me to head to college to train further for full-time ministry.

The great training we received in the Christian apprenticeships (METRO) before college really prepared Katherine and I for what to expect in full-time Christian ministry. College was great for giving us a further foundation and knowledge to become a pastor. My church placement at Donvale PC under Clinton Le Page was extremely useful, gaining many experiences in a church setting under a great mentor.

We are very thankful to God for our appointment to Hume PC. It has been great to start to get to know the congregation and we feel very welcomed. My initial plan is to start preaching through the book of Mark, to get to know the people and the area, and pray lots.

Picking yourself up

Update on Evangelical Presbyterian Church of East Timor (Timor Leste)

I felt terribly sorry for that family. They had worked hard. Their business was thriving. But their legal friend had let them down tragically and the business folded. They went through the courts. Bankruptcy.

Scratching together what they could, they clawed their way back to rebuild. They did. And then came another major blow! I grieved again for them. Given time, up they stood again. My admiration for them grew in leaps and bounds.

That's what happened to a nation during the past decades. Timor Leste.

When I arrived in February 2000 at the time that our own (presently) Governor General Sir Peter

Cosgrove was in charge of INTERFET (International Forces for East Timor), not only Dili was on fire... but most of the country. A radical reaction from the pro-integration Militia!

Some one-third of Timor Leste's population had died, been displaced or had become refugees in other countries, including Australia.

But now, Timor Leste had gained her independence. This new nation sure needed to claw her way back to self-determination, self-preservation and increasing degrees of self-reliance.

Timor Leste, due to the Portuguese legacy, is predominantly Catholic. But there are protestant churches as well—mainly

of the 'Reformed' or Pentecostal kind, but also a growing number of the more Independent kind.

The Presbyterian Church of Australia has entered into a formal partnership with the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of East Timor. It is this partnership in the gospel that took our minister in Darwin, Rev Rob Duncanson, and I back to Timor Leste a few weeks ago.

In the past we (or the growing team of helpers) had been there for relationship building, Bible teaching, giving a hand with rebuilding, visiting the congregations and other church institutions, and so on.

But this time we went just to sit and talk. To enquire about the strengths

and weaknesses of our partnership, and the ways in which we would address the weaknesses and make the strengths stronger.

'Just to sit and talk.' Well, yes. But with an eye on the questions of seeing the gospel at work, we can set aside that little word, 'just'!

This was a significant time. For



Elders and leaders

has formed, one that is expressed on the framed Partnership Agreement, 'I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now'. (Phil 1:3f)

The nation is now in a good position. One in which there is growth in peace, stability and economic progress.



New Dili Church

The church is always a challenge to us as we visit, for there we see a special commitment to evangelism, prayer and faith in an awesome God...partly learned through the horrific days of the wrecking of their country, displacement of her people, the loss of goods and in some cases family members. In other words, they have been through the 'refiner's fire' and the 'manifold trials' of which the apostle Peter speaks.

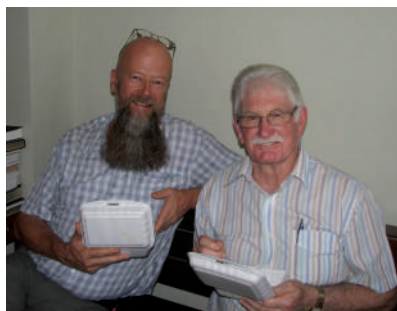
It's always a challenge to us, who live so comfortably.

Do they have issues that need to

be addressed, and problems to solve? Of course! Which church doesn't? But the openness and willingness of our dear friends to allow us into the ups and down of their (personal and church) lives gives us a very big 'heart'

to continue to build this special gospel relationship.

As they have picked themselves up and pressed on, they have shown us (who are part of a growing team of helpers), that despite, or because of, affliction, we can press on with confidence in our eternal, sovereign God of all



Rob Duncanson and Robert Benn in Dili

over the years a bond has been established. A special relationship

grace.

For that we thank them very sincerely.

Very soon, the new church in Dili will be officially opened. The event will be something like the 1934 opening of The Church of St Andrew in Canberra, our church in the Nation's Capital.

Dignitaries will gather, from church and state. The village folk, who are participating with the city congregation in this great event, will be there and partner churches will play their part. Our own Moderator General of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, Rev David Cook will be the guest preacher.

Together we will sing, 'To God be the glory, great things he has done' with special passion!

I thank Rev Kevin Murray and the APWM team for the privilege of spending this week 'just to sit and talk'... and of course, to bathe the whole process in prayer for this fledgling church in Timor Leste.

Of course, if you wish to 'lengthen the cords and strengthen the stakes' (Isaiah 54:2), we sure can use your help. Just contact the APWM office: Rev

Kevin Murray, 81 Shaftesbury Road, Burwood, NSW

2134. Ph. 02 8073 7490. national@apwm.org.au



Robert Benn preaching in Dili Church

Rev Robert Benn

As the then National Director of the Australian Presbyterian Church of Australia, Robert was the first person from the PCA to visit Timor Leste immediately after the Militia activity, has visited many times, and continues to work with the APWM team for Timor Leste.



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TOPICS INCLUDE:

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- preaching when you lack style
- discipling
- preaching to the heart
- the value of preaching clubs



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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
AUSTRALIAN PRESBYTERIAN WORLD MISSION

2015 #1

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

MOTOR YAT: The Doors Have Opened

As the civil war in South Sudan continues, Motor Yat remains in Ethiopia serving in refugee camps. He writes "People are coming to centres on Sunday for Bible studies, choirs and women groups are practicing.

We are planning to distribute some hymnbooks to the centres. We need your prayers so that this need can be fulfilled. People have left South Sudan because of the war in greater Upper Nile. They have left everything behind.

We are praying for the needs of refugees in the camp to be fulfilled in God's time. They request some Nuer Bibles for some elders and ministers but it is very hard to get the Nuer Bible.

The ten Presbyterian centres in the camps have a need of, ten blackboards [or white, green etc.] for adult education in the Churches. The aim is for adults to learn to write and read the Bible in their mother tongue. This is the time for them to learn because they have enough time in the camp.

In Ethiopia, I have been connecting with the ministry of the Presbyterian Church in Gambella, sharing the gospel. More

recently I have had meetings in the head office in Addis Ababa, and we discussed how I could partner with the Church in Ethiopia. The office is very keen to work with me and the wider Church in Australia, in the future, God willing.

God opened many doors for me to preach the gospel among Ethiopians in Addis and the rural areas. I have seen Islamic missions growing very fast in Ethiopia especially in rural areas because of the support they offer to needy Ethiopians."



MOTOR YAT PREACHING

What is Your Purpose in Life?



GRANVILLE & IBOLYA PILLAR

Granville Pillar lectures at a university in Hungary and writes "In my Oral Communication Skills class, within the context of the topic: What is Your Purpose in Life? I posed the question: "What are the two most important days in your life?" To my surprise, one bright student gave the answer I was looking for: "The day you are born, and the day you find out why you were born." This was the catalyst for some deep and interesting discussions on their priorities, problems and purpose in life. As with any question I ask of them, my students always ask me to give my response. I was able to share openly my testimony, and tell them when (August 14, 1977), where (in a hospital bed in Johannesburg), and what God showed me what my purpose in life was (to love God, and to love others, which I said summed up the basic teaching of Jesus). Following on from this, I said that my mission in life, which is the practical application of my purpose, was to make a difference in the lives of my students, for the good, through my teaching, and my love for them. This was one of the few opportunities I have had this semester to speak openly to my students about my main motivation for what I do, and about the One who is behind it all. We know that Jesus has sent us here to plant the seeds of the gospel in the minds of our students, and it is our prayer that in His sovereign will and providence, these seeds might be watered, grow and, through the work of the Holy Spirit, will bear fruit for the kingdom.

Ministry Opportunity in Vanuatu Lecturer: Talua Ministry Training Centre

APWM is looking for a full-time lecturer for the Bachelor of Ministry program at the Talua Ministry Training Centre, Vanuatu. We need someone with a

Master's degree in a theological discipline, preferably a research Master's degree. Cross-cultural experience would be a great advantage.



TALUA BACHELOR OF MINISTRY CLASS

Appointments to Talua are for 2 years and commencement would be from mid-2015 onwards.

Please contact Kevin Murray kevinmurray@apwm.org.au or 0421 366 720 to find out more.

“

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

Mount Magnet:

Surendra & May'an Wesley

We praise God that Surendra & May'an Wesley have been granted a visa to serve in Australia. They arrived in Australia in mid January and will commence service in Mount Magnet possibly in mid March. In the meantime they will be meeting with APWM and PIM representatives, various supporters and undergoing orientation to PIM ministry.



National Office

We bid farewell to our Office Administrator, Rob Falls, who has left APWM to take up a ministry internship with the Evangelical Union at Sydney University. We have created a new full-time position called 'Director's Assistant' and will soon be filling the role. In the meantime, if you want to contact the office by email please continue to use the address national@apwm.org.au



John & Kara Dekker In early February John & Kara's support level was at 85% and we are looking for pledges to meet the remaining 15%. If you would like to join their support team then please contact the APWM Office very soon. They will be commissioned for service at

Talua in Vanuatu on Saturday 14th February at the Frankston Presbyterian Church commencing at 3:00pm.

Joshua Ling (Macquarie Chapel, NSW CMS, Australia) Joshua serves with the Church Missionary Society as a Partnership Facilitator and was recently approved as an APWM missionary.

Joy Hill (Donvale, VIC, Pioneers, Hungary) will be returning to Hungary in early March 2015. She will serve as personal assistant to the Budapest Pioneers team leader as well as serving the wider team.



Stephen & Naomi L (Hurstville, NSW, SIL South Asia) A few years ago Stephen was refused re-entry to the country where he had been working on a translation for many years. Stephen and Naomi are now in Thailand where they will continue their translation work.



Joy Venning (Canterbury, VIC, APWM National Associate, South Asia) writes

"November has been a dream! With classes finishing up and exams out of the way, this month has had much more time for different opportunities. Probably the biggest (and most delightful) change I've noticed this month, has been in relationships with the women on campus. Despite some language

barriers, cultural differences, and age differences, it's been so great to spend more time with the women that God has placed me among. It's been wonderful to form deeper friendships with some mothers who are my neighbours, and some of my students. There are at least 50 women on campus here, who I interact with daily, so there have been heaps of opportunities to spend time together:

- I spend most morning chai breaks checking in with my students

- Some of my neighbours pop by in the evenings for tea and a chat
- I've been able to spend some time with the girls in my Bible study outside of the group
- Some of the senior students meet me each week to talk about their practical ministry that week
- It's been great to spend more time visiting some of our faculty wives and their newborn babies
- We've made a few shopping trips to help some families prepare for the winter

I'm really thankful that these relationships have been flourishing, and I learn a lot from spending time together. As friendships grow, the women are open to talking more deeply about life, and sharing their struggles and concerns. We often speak of God's faithfulness, and his deep love for us through Christ. It amazes me again and again how the simple truths of the gospel apply so clearly in so many different situations that I've never had to think about before. It's wonderful to pray for these women who are quickly becoming dear friends."

Alex Kowalenko (Carlingford, NSW ECM, Portugal) writes

"For the last 9 years I have been working with the Portuguese Bible Institute, training the next generation of evangelical leaders in the Portuguese church. The work has been challenging, but in the end rewarding and exciting, as we have seen many trained men and women go into Portugal and be involved in pastoral work, church planting, theological education, youth and children's ministry, and outreach ministries.

Over the last 9 years my capacity to work in Portugal has also increased, as I have become more fluent in the language, I am understanding more the Portuguese culture, and grown in conviction that this ministry is effective as it multiplies workers and leaders in Portugal, with the aim to strengthen the Portuguese evangelical church and also to reaching out to the wider Portuguese community with the good news of Jesus Christ."

Laszlo and Eva Mihalyi (Donvale VIC, Pioneers Australia, Romania) write about a recent camp for teenagers

"At the end of this camp we gave each camper a newly translated, just released Bible, thanks to the funds received for this purpose from PWMU (Victoria). Such a great blessing, indeed. Most kids did not own a Bible or the one they had at home is an old translation and difficult to understand today. Do pray that they will start reading and searching for the truth.

We are finding that working with children is getting harder and harder every year. More and more children are coming from broken families with parents divorced or working abroad, from homes where neglect, alcohol and abuse is their daily experience. We find with most of them that it is virtually impossible to teach

them and their attention span is so very short and they are not interested in anything except modern technology like mobiles with internet access. It is difficult to even have a conversation with some of them... This seems to be a global problem."



FOCUS ON JAPAN

Kevin Murray was recently in Japan to attend the Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Japan, visit the Evans family, hold talks with Church leaders and talk to the leaders of the Osaka Presbyterian Church where Nathan and Tomoko Stewart will be serving.

John and Rosemary Evans and family are doing well in Japan. Due to the arrival of some new team members they had to move house earlier this year and are now living in a strategic location. John continues his study of Japanese and in late 2015 they will return to Australia for home assignment. When they do return to Japan, they and the Chiba City church planting team will be moving towards establishing a congregation. This year the family has battled some common bugs and colds that come with a young family. It's encouraging to see the growing number of Australians who are being led to serve in Japan.



Grace City

While some of the churches in Japan are struggling, others are experiencing very encouraging numerical growth. Two years ago I visited the Grace City congregation and was excited to see a congregation of approximately 70 people who had a genuine heart for reaching people with the gospel. Two years later that congregation has moved to a larger building to accommodate the growing congregation. This congregation is what we might classify as 'International' in nature as it has a considerable number of non-Japanese in attendance.



GRACE CITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

However, many congregations are like the Osaka Presbyterian Church with few members, many of whom are women. For that reason, it is hoped that in mid 2015 Nathan and Tomoko Stewart will head to Japan to assist the Osaka congregation in outreach.

In discussion with the leaders of the denomination it is clear that our partnership is valued and it is a great encouragement to our brothers and sisters.



MEMBERS OF OSAKA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



NATHAN STEWART ADDRESSES THE ASSEMBLY



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN JAPAN ASSEMBLY



GATHERING OF OVERSEAS MISSION WORKERS

What's It Like to Live in Japan?

Asher Evans is the 16 year-old son of John & Rose Evans where the family is part of a church planting team located in Chiba, outside of Tokyo.



Where is home?

Aaaah... that's difficult because I have some friends here but I also have friends and family in Australia. While I would probably consider Australia to be home, it's really where the family is.

What do you enjoy about living in Japan?

There are a lot of different experiences. You can even get things that you wouldn't be able to get at home in Australia. Living overseas broadens your mind. I like to try new things so it is always interesting getting out there and seeing a new event or trying new food.

What's something that's difficult about living in Japan?

The two main difficulties are language and culture because they are so different. At times it can be hard to know what to do so that you can fit in. Although it isn't specific to being in Japan, one difficulty is the uncertainties that come with being a missionary. For example we recently had to make a very sudden trip to Australia and it was hard going back and attempting to keep up with school.

How is your life in Japan different compared to what it would be like if you were living in Australia?

In Australia I was homeschooled and now I go to the mission school which has a lot of different nationalities. Here I am able to experience various festivals which often only happen in Japan. This all broadens my perspective.

What encourages you about the Church in Japan?

It's really encouraging to see young people. I think that the average age of someone attending church in Japan is 60 years. It's good to see the young people that do attend church. These are the future leaders of the church.

E: darrell_thatcher@wycliffe.org



ON TRACK

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PRESBYTERIAN INLAND MISSION

ISSUE 1 2015

PROCLAIMING THE LORD JESUS CHRIST
BY WORD AND DEED

PIM SEEKS A CEO

The PIM is seeking to appoint a full time Chief Executive Officer. Future planning by the Executive that commenced in mid 2013 identified the need for an intentional organizational restructure. It was recognized that for the PIM to continue to develop and progress its work it required the skills and business acumen of a CEO.

Like all mission organizations, the PIM operates in challenging times. Global financial markets, government regulations, changing approaches of ministry, management limitations and a vast mission field make for a complex operating environment. The Centenary Year of the PIM provided the opportunity to look back with thankfulness and celebrate all that has been accomplished, but the Executive knew they needed to look forward. They needed to urgently engage in mission specific planning that would ensure relevant ministry for the next one hundred years.



In January 2014, the full Committee of the PIM resolved to review the organisation's governance structure and administrative processes. After meeting with members of the GAA Trustees, the need for organisational change was affirmed and they kindly offered ongoing help to ensure its implementation.

Central to their advice was the need for the PIM to obtain an employee to focus on management issues and who would work for the PIM in a way similar to that of a Chief Executive Officer. They also provided guidance for a remodelled governance / management structure and approach to business processes.

The PIM resolved that the Chief Executive Officer when appointed would be directly responsible to the Committee through its Executive. The Chief Executive Officer would take on all of the work presently done by the Superintendent and other duties as assigned by the Executive. The position title of Superintendent would remain but functionally the current role of the Superintendent would be absorbed into

the position of Chief Executive Officer. The current Superintendent is remaining as Minister of Scots' Church, Fremantle and is fully supportive of the PIM organisational restructure.

The search Committee is seeking expressions of interest from suitably qualified people with both business experience and pastoral skills. Those interested are welcome to call and speak with either Rev Les Fowler or Chaplain Martin de Pyle.





CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

The Presbyterian Inland Mission (PIM) is the inland and outback ministry of the Presbyterian Church of Australia. It has an expanding network of patrol ministries, is responsible for a number of Mission Churches and has a developing range of caring, philanthropic and community assistance programs.

As a result of structural organizational change the PIM is seeking to appoint a CEO. This is a newly created position.

Essential requirements for the role are developed pastoral skills, proven business experience, preparedness to travel extensively throughout Australia and prior to commencement in the role, obtaining a current Working With Children Compliance Check.

The ideal candidate must be a change agent and have appropriate business experience. In addition, a demonstrated ability to work with initiative and facilitate strategic change in management services and processes is crucial.

The successful candidate will be required to monitor and maintain compliance with legislative, policy and contractual requirements. They must also be able to express a personal commitment to the values and beliefs of the organisation.

If you genuinely want to contribute to the lives of those in inland and outback Australia by utilising your pastoral, business and organisational leadership experience then you are encouraged to apply.

A competitive salary package is offered.

General enquiries and a confidential discussion can be made by phoning Rev. Les Fowler (0427 521083) or Rev. Martin de Pyle (0420 981267). Email lfowler@internode.on.net for application information.

Closing Date for applications: 31 March 2015

TASKS OF THE PIM CEO

Although not an exhaustive list, the following will be some of the CEO's responsibilities.

1. Pastoral Responsibilities

- a. Pastoral care for patrol teams and Mission Church workers

2. Administrative Responsibilities

- a. Oversight of all PIM management and administration
- b. Induction training of new Padres
- c. Administering personnel issues, liaising with charitable/philanthropic bodies
- d. Liaising with State Home Mission Committees
- e. Coordination of deputation work
- f. Secretarial responsibilities

3. Compliance

Ensuring that PIM complies with all relevant State, Federal and Church Laws, especially regarding

- a. Employment Contracts
- b. Superannuation and Taxation requirements
- c. Work Health and Safety requirements in all the jurisdictions in which we minister including documentation and training.
- d. Incident reporting
- e. Child Safe legislation
- f. Privacy legislation
- g. Dispute resolution

4. Development and maintenance of a PIM Policy Manual and Patrol handbook.

5. Organisational Development

- a. Strategic organizational guidance
- b. Maintenance of corporate knowledge
- c. Development of best practice financial reporting systems
- d. Refinement of communication methods to all supporters
- e. Development of recruiting procedures.
- f. Review of current publicity, evaluation of its effectiveness and proposals for future publicity
- g. Development of Fundraising processes and activities.

PIM PATROL TEAMS AND PASTORAL TEAMS

- 1 Chris and Sandra Woonings
- 2 Chris and Sandra Woonings
- 3 Surendra and May'an Wesley
- 4 Surendra and May'an Wesley

- 5 Vacant
- 6 Vacant
- 7 Vacant

- 8 Rob and Jeanette Duncanson
- 9 Vacant
- 10 Vacant

- 11 Keith and Jenny Bell
- 12 David and Gae McDonald

- 13 David and Gae McDonald
- 14 Roger and Margaret Crane

- 15 David and Kathy Alsop

- 16 Greg and Janet Cripps

- 17 Laurie and Gwen Peake
- 18 Vacant

- 19 Colin and Alison Morrow
- 20 Vacant

PIM SUPERINTENDENT
Stuart Bonnington

PIM CONVENER
Rob Duncanson

PIM MANAGER
Mike Timmins

PRESBYTERIAN INLAND MISSION 2015

PROCLAIMING THE
LORD JESUS CHRIST
BY WORD AND DEED

PRAY FOR THE PIM

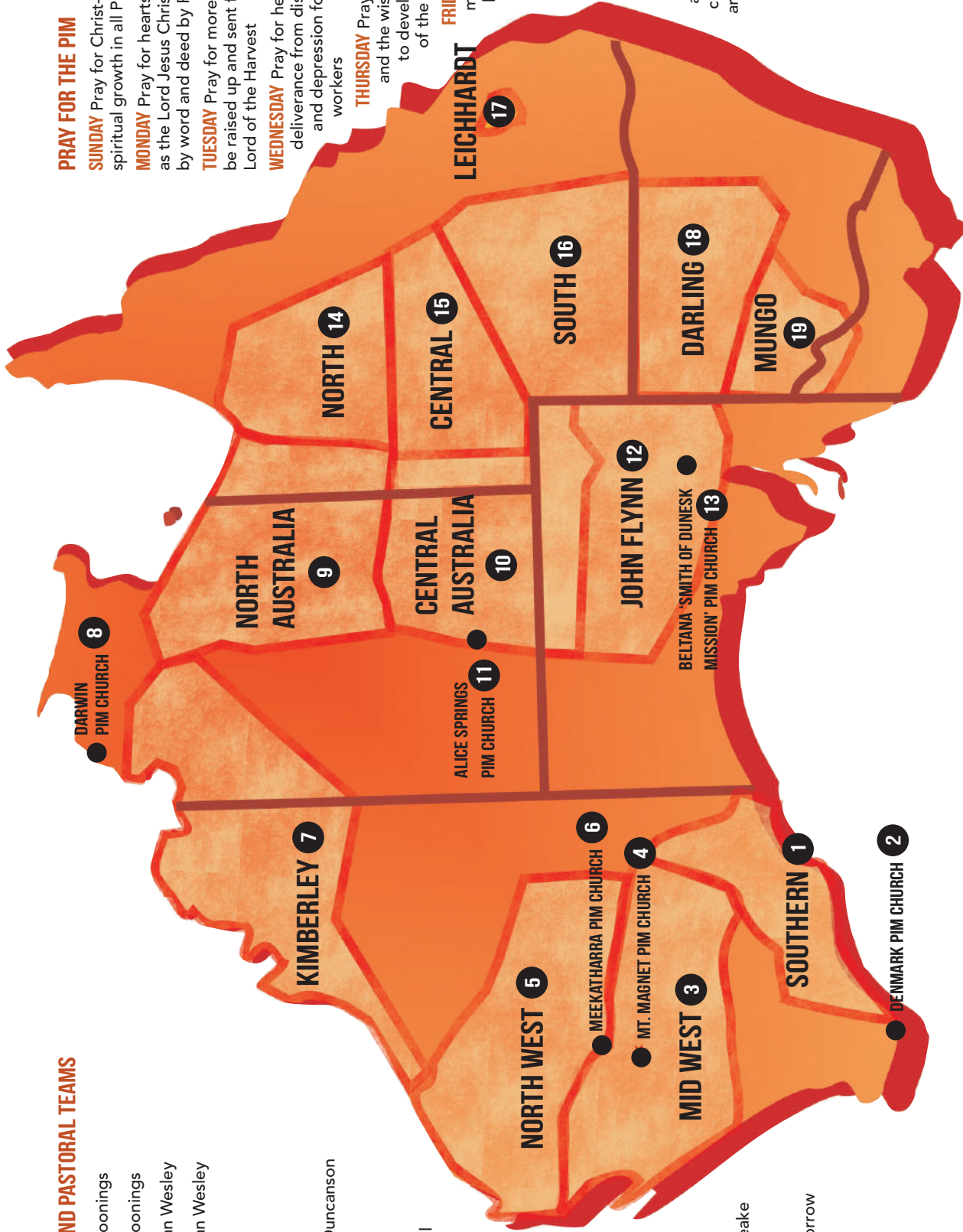
SUNDAY Pray for Christ-likeness and spiritual growth in all PIM workers
MONDAY Pray for hearts to be opened as the Lord Jesus Christ is proclaimed by word and deed by PIM workers
TUESDAY Pray for more PIM workers to be raised up and sent forth by the Lord of the Harvest

WEDNESDAY Pray for health, safety and deliverance from discouragement and depression for all PIM workers

THURSDAY Pray for the finance and the wisdom required to develop the ministry of the PIM

FRIDAY Pray for many people to become and grow as Christians through PIM patrols and churches

SATURDAY Pray that the PIM would be gospel-based and gospel-centered in all areas of its work



TASMANIA 20

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
Rob Duncanson 08 8945 7878

WWW.PIM.ORG.AU

PRESBYTERIAN INLAND MISSION

www.pim.org.au

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David and Gae McDonald

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John Flynn Patrol SA ('Smith of Dunesk' Beltana PIM Church)

Greg and Janet Cripps E: gjcripps@pim.org.au M: 0407 406 628 South Patrol Qld

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Roger and Margaret Crane E: rcrane@pim.org.au M: 0439 515 163 North Patrol Qld

Laurie and Gwen Peake E: lpeake@pim.org.au Leichhardt Patrol Qld M: 0427 486 677

Colin and Alison Morrow E: colinmorrow@pim.org.au; alisonmorrow@pim.org.au

M: 0407 220 005 Mungo Patrol NSW/Vic

Surendra and May'an Wesley E: swesley@pim.org.au P: (08) 9963 4125 Mid West Patrol WA (Mt. Magnet PIM Church)

PIM CHURCH WORKERS

Keith and Jenny Bell E: kjbelle@pim.org.au M: 0438 719 956 Alice Springs PIM Church

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

RESPONSE FORM

Name _____ Phone () _____ email _____

Address _____ State _____ Postcode _____

Donation – PIM general funds	
Donation – PIM Mid West/Surendra Wesley	
Total	

Payment details:

☐ Cheque enclosed (Payable to Presbyterian Inland Mission)

☐ Charge my Credit Card ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard

Card No.

Expiry date ____ / ____

Name on card _____ Signature _____

Return with payment to:

PIM
PO Box 4014
Croydon Hills Vic 3136

Ph: (03) 9005 8256

Fax: (03) 9876 1941

email: admin@pim.org.au

MARCH 2015 15

Presbyterian Women's Missionary Union of Victoria



2014 Annual Meetings

PWMU finished last year on a high note with a very good day of well-attended annual meetings on 9th October.

A thanksgiving and worship service was held in the morning with Rev Heath Easton preaching an inspiring sermon on Psalm 83: 'Do not Keep Silent'.

In the afternoon after a fellowship lunch the AGM was held. A highlight was hearing from missionaries or mission reps in attendance. The Moderator of the PCV, Rev David Brown, brought greetings from the Assembly.



PWMU Calendar 2015

March State meeting—Thursday
March 19th

Country Rally—Thursday April
23rd, Bendigo PC

June State meeting—Thursday
June 18th

Thanksgiving Rally—Thursday
August 20th

Annual meetings—Thursday
October 8th

Meetings begin at 10.30am
Venue: 156 Collins St Melbourne
(Except Country Rally)

For further details contact PWMU:

www.pwmu.org.au

pwmu@ozmail.org.au

PO Box 5148 Laburnum PO

Blackburn 3130

(03) 98771678

Who does PWMU support?

We support all Victorian missionaries within the Presbyterian Church, whether with APWM or partner agencies.

In what ways does PWMU provide support?

- We encourage and promote an interest in missionaries and mission work within the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

- We encourage all members to pray for and financially support our missionaries.

- We disburse funds that are available to PWMU to assist missionaries.

- We support the theological training of an indigenous or overseas person with a bursary, so that Gospel work elsewhere will be furthered.

How does PWMU do this?

- We issue regular monthly newsletter with news of missionaries and prayer points.

- We hold regular public meetings featuring missionary speakers.

- Our bursary programme.

- Our regular missionary magazine for children.



Members enjoying a chat after our March 2014 meeting.



PTC

PRESBYTERIAN THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

The Presbyterian Theological College aims to provide the highest quality biblical and theological education, with the primary purpose of producing pastor-teachers, missionaries, evangelists, youth workers and other church leaders.

PTC offers a range of courses at undergraduate, graduate and post-graduate levels for full-time and part-time students, men and women.

NEXT EVENING SHORT COURSE BEGINS APRIL 22

Ministry in a Multi-cultural Context

with Rev Andrew Vines

Wednesday evening April 22 - May 27, 2015



684 Elgar Rd Box Hill North Vic 3129

VISIT our website www.ptc.vic.edu.au

PHONE us (03) 9898 9384

'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



FELLOW WORKERS