

fellow workers

news from around the presbyterian church of victoria

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Reaching the 'unchurched'

Holiday clubs for kids share the gospel in Skipton, Drouin and Rochester



Kids in Skipton sort out Romans 5:8

'Only three kids are registered for this year!'

This was the news from Stuart, an elder of the Skipton church, on the Sunday before we ran the holiday club at Skipton. 'Only three kids.'

However, on Monday morning, twelve kids came to our program. Laughter, singing and shouting were all that could be heard from the hall of the Skipton Presbyterian Church that morning. It was an exciting moment to see how God brings his children to him.

Our team of Canterbury youth ran a program focused on the gospel story, from Creation to New Identity in Christ. Each member of our team prepared a Bible story from the passage, and presented it using pictures, acting, and PowerPoint presentations. The team also prepared memory verses, songs, games and crafts, all to help emphasise stories from the day.

Outside of our kids program, we were given many opportunities to contribute to the life of the congregation and the community. On Sunday morning, we had over thirty members from Canterbury Presbyterian Church come to the morning service at

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Chaplaincy at the Royal Children's

In 2014, Mrs Suzanne Oakes began an internship in Paediatric Chaplaincy at The Royal Children's Hospital.

This internship was co-ordinated through the PCV's Health & Community Chaplaincy Committee and was generously sponsored through the

Harold Hughes Trust. The internship involved education and training through a process known as Clinical Pastoral Education at the Austin Hospital, with training hours worked by Suzanne each week at the Royal Children's Hospital (RCH).

At the conclusion of the one-year in-

ternship period, Suzanne was appointed by the HCCC to a new permanent part-time role for the PCV at the Royal Children's, working two days each week. Here is a report from Suzanne in her own words:

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Reaching the 'unchurched'

Holiday clubs for kids share the gospel in Skipton, Drouin and Rochester



Bible story time! (Joy Venning, former youth worker at Canterbury, joined the team for two days.)

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Skipton to encourage the Church and to launch the program.

We visited a hostel for the elderly, played the piano, sang for the residents, gave a testimony and played croquet with them. We also went out to the town to share the love of God. We divided into two teams, and each team shared the love of God in different ways. They visited door-to-door to help with people's various needs. An older lady invited them into her house, and provided afternoon tea for our team. They had a good conversation with this lady. It was great to build relationships, not just with the kids there, but with adults in the town as well.

Through this time, our youth had the opportunity to learn many new skills to share the gospel and the opportunity to build up their relationships as one team. This was especially good, as we have members from different cultural backgrounds: Japanese, Korean and Aussie. But we learnt that we are one in Christ. We prayed together, studied Scripture together and served together. Most of all, we had the same mission of preaching the gospel and making disciples of Christ. Day by day we became more united by the power of the gospel.

It was exciting to come to Skipton and run the holiday program. We were encouraged to see the support of the Skipton community at the program we were running, to see many kids from previous years, and also many new ones. We are already looking forward to next year!

*Paul Jang
Youth Worker
Canterbury Presbyterian Church*

Drouin

Drouin Presbyterian was able to run their annual Kids Plus Holiday program at the beginning of July for another year.

We were blessed with over forty children each day in Prep to Grade 6, who came to find out the answer to the question: 'What does God do?'

Over the three days they learnt that God creates, forgives and welcomes—and that God shows us all of this through his son Jesus.

We had over fifty children registered for the program, and quite a few of them were children who haven't had any contact with a church prior to attending. Praise God! Some of these families even expressed an interest in the kids programs that we run during school term. Please pray that Drouin Presbyterian will have more opportunities to follow up with these children and their families. We had one grade 6 girl who is interested in becoming a Christian, and she is currently being followed up by a couple of the female leaders.

We also had a lot of children who are regulars at the holiday program, having attended for a number of years. It is great to be able to have the continued ministry to these families.

This year the program was run entirely by volunteers from the Presbyterian Churches in Drouin and Warragul, with a total of thirty-eight people giving up their time to help. Twenty of these volunteers also took part in the teaching section of our program, putting on dramas, game shows, singing songs, reading Bible stories and teaching memory verses; all of which had the purpose of teaching the children the message for the day. It was wonderful to see how the children

were grasping the concepts and wowed us each day with everything they were able to remember.

The volunteers had a great time interacting with the children throughout the program—during game time, afternoon tea, craft, and while we waited for the children to be picked up. It was wonderful seeing the children's enthusiasm in all areas of the program. It was also a blessing to see the volunteers grow as they worked alongside one another with the common goal of introducing the children to Jesus.

*Michelle Buckley
METRO Trainee*

Rochester

From Monday 29 June to Friday 3 July, all roads for children led to Rochester PC hall for a 'FUN4KIDS' holiday club.

In spite of the freezing weather for the week, the leaders enjoyed the company of some thirty-six children from the town and district (including Melbourne). Leaders were particularly pleased with the number of children even though attendance each day varied. The theme was that of cowboys, cowgirls and the 'Wild West'.

A wonderful time was had by all, with sing-a-longs, games inside and out, crafts and Bible stories. Teaching material came from the Gospel Light 'SonWest Roundup' series, led by Stuart and Adele Withers, Wendy Martin and the aid of many from the congregation.

Stories were based around Moses and Israel with the Bible theme: 'Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever' (Hebrews 13:8).

*Ian Brown
Rochester Presbyterian Church*



A grade 6 girl who came to the Drouin Kids Plus program is interested in becoming a Christian.



FELLOW WORKERS

Focus on God in the early hours



My weary arms wrapped around my infant daughter as she had her fourth breastfeed for the night. My eyes scanned around the dim room in an effort to keep them from closing. I was so exhausted that I felt I might drop her at any moment. My eyes settled on one of her singlet tops that appeared to read, 'snug as a bus'.

'I don't remember seeing that one before,' I thought.

The next day I saw it again and realised that it actually said, 'snug as a bug'!

Any mother would be familiar with these moments of bone-deep tiredness that come with having a baby.

To be honest, the newborn stage is not my favourite. Sure, I enjoy the sleepy snuggles and the cute noises and the tiny but fully-functional body parts. But I find it arduous, tiring and relentless.

Despite this, I have also found the newborn stage of both my children to be times of intense spiritual growth and discipline. It is a beautiful mystery to me how something that depletes me physically can lead me to be spiritually recharged.

As I tended to my daughter's many needs, day and night, I couldn't help but reflect on the tenderness of God as a loving Father.

He listens to our cries, abundantly meets our needs (without begrudging our neediness) and comforts us when we are sad, lonely or scared. When we love our babies in this way, we are ministering to them—teaching them

without words about our Father in heaven.

On those nights when the clock rolled over to 2am and I hadn't had any sleep yet; when it took every muscle in my body to keep my eyes open; when I had a whole day to get through on three hours of broken sleep—in those moments, I turned to God. In Him, the strength to get through the day and meet my daughter's needs was graciously provided.

However, it was a constant battle not to make sleep into an idol. Often I found myself thinking, 'If only I had more sleep, I would be happier, get more done, be a better mum.'

Sleep is not a bad thing to want; God designed our bodies to require it. But good things become idols when we seek them before, or in place of, God.

The truth is, only God can perfectly meet our needs; even basic physical needs like having enough energy.

Many days while my daughter was a young baby, I would repeat to myself, 'The joy of the LORD is my strength' (from Nehemiah 8:10). It reminded me that my strength did not come from getting enough sleep, being on top

of the housework or my own inner reserves. It came from God and the joy of serving him.

Tips for Spiritual Growth

1. Scripture memorisation is a great way to keep the word of God close to your heart for those times it is needed. Some great verses for new mothers are: 'The joy of the LORD is your strength', Nehemiah 8:10; 'This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it', Psalm 118:24; 'My soul finds rest in God alone; my salvation comes from him', Psalm 62:1; and 'Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you', 1 Peter 5:7.

2. Remember that meeting your baby's physical needs is ministering to their soul.

3. Try not to add up the hours of sleep you get, as this often leads to a spirit of negativity and resentment (perhaps when compared with your husband).

4. Often God's provision for us comes in the way of human help, so don't be afraid to accept help offered, and seek it if needed. You might want to see your GP if you constantly feel you are not coping over a period of a few weeks.

5. Use late night feeding sessions to pray for your little person. You might like to pray for their health; that they will grow up to have a relationship with the Lord; for wisdom as you parent them; and some nights you might just pray that they don't wake again until morning.

Jessica Harvey

Jessica Harvey is a member of the MOPS Australia writing team.

At MOPS young mums can make friends, enjoy time out from kids, have fun and share the joys and challenges of mothering. A MOPS group connects churches to communities. Visit <http://mops.org.au/>

MOPS
Mothers of Preschoolers
— Australia, Inc. —

Aliens near Mt Baw Baw?

PYV East Camp



Mask-making was a hit—the possibilities seemed endless!



The activities brought everyone together.

This year at East Camp we were at the freezing but friendly Rawson village, near Mt Baw Baw.

The talks were by Aaron Boyd, the pastor of Darebin Presbyterian Church in Thornbury.

Aaron shared with us from the book of 1 Peter on the theme of 'Grace-Empowered Holiness'. He emphasised that as Christians, although we are 'aliens', we are chosen aliens: known, sanctified and loved. If we are feeling like we sometimes fit in and sometimes don't, then that's a good thing. Aaron used a memorable mind map to illustrate the need to have Jesus Christ as the cornerstone and focus of our lives and not merely just a part of it, pointing out that keeping anything other than him as our focus will be an insecure and shaky cornerstone.

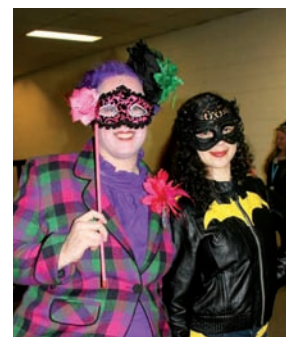
We also had a variety of fantastic activities at camp. We went from being creative with face masks to running around as zombies catching the remaining humans, to flipping cups in chaotic races and then to working



Have you ever done a puzzle like this?

in our teams as surgeons, piecing together imaginatively-sliced pieces of fruit to re-create the original whole. From the mouths of the campers themselves, the best things from camp were the activities, talks and studies, and in that order!

I myself thoroughly enjoyed all those things, but the talks and getting to know the campers was my highlight. We had just over fifty campers, ranging from years 7 to 12—an even bigger



Guess who?

turn out than last year—and we had a great leadership team, wonderfully and graciously led by Nicki Brown. As a Christian who had not led on a PYV camp for two years, I was challenged and encouraged in many ways, especially in my leading and in my walk with my Saviour. I had a fantastic time!

*Hollie Cloherty
East Camp Leader*

When everything goes 'wrong'...

In the lead-up to East Camp, it sometimes seemed like everything was going wrong. Leaders got sick and had to pull out. The children of leaders got sick, so their parents had to pull out. Then it seemed like hardly any kids were registering anyway. But soon before camp, registrations exploded. We were suddenly facing the biggest East Camp yet, but didn't have enough leaders to run it!

Well, the truth be told, I was personally facing a quiet weekend at home with sick kids. I left the task to the

coordinators, and prayed. They were calling every qualified person we could think of to fill the empty roles. God graciously provided extra last-minute leaders... and then the day before camp, one of the camp coordinators—Nic Bilyj, the PYV Convenor, and also my husband—sliced his hand open on a piece of steel. Thankfully, several stitches, a bandage, a sling and a plenty of prayers got him to camp anyway.

If you prayed for PYV East Camp and its leaders, thank you! My



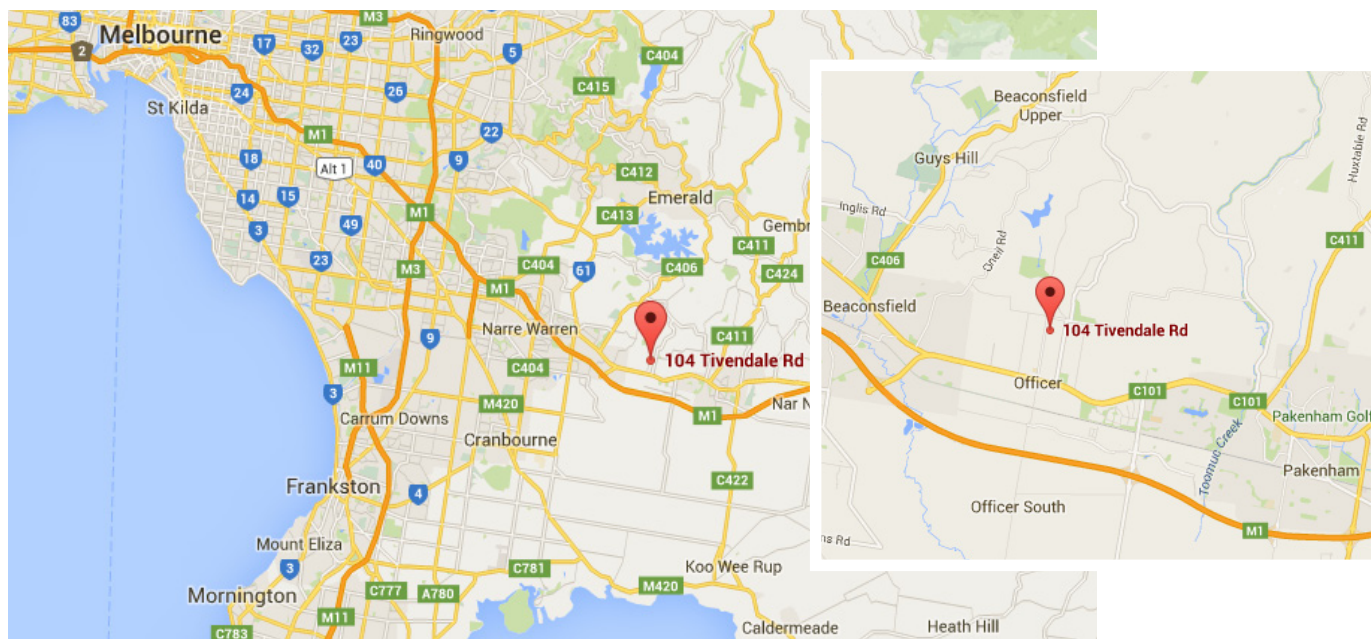
personal heartfelt thanks to those who dropped everything to lead on camp at the last minute, and to those who filled several roles on camp. (Like mine.) God is at work through your faithful willingness to serve; three new believers confessed their faith in Christ at camp! Praise him!

*Chiara Bilyj
PYV Council*



FELLOW WORKERS

Exciting Plans for Officer/Berwick region



Above: the proposed location for the Officer Church plant is about 50km south-east of Melbourne.

Right: The area close up. Officer and the surrounding suburbs are growing quickly, and churches are needed.

The Presbytery of Maroondah, in partnership with St Stephens, Surrey Hills (of Melbourne East), are considering a 'church plant' in the Officer area.

The Ministry Development Committee purchased a large tract of land (about 10 acres) there a few years ago. The previous owner was a Christian gentleman who sold the land at a lower price, as he believed that a church was needed in the area. Since that time, the area of Berwick-Officer has become a growth corridor, with houses and businesses springing up, as well as an independent school. It appears that Casey Hospital is expanding into the area with associated medical and professional people

moving into the district. Maroondah Church Extension Committee members, now chaired by Rev C. Le Page, have been and surveyed the property and are enthusiastic for this work to begin. St Stephens, Surrey Hills have some families living in the area who are willing to be 'seed families' for a new congregation and are eager to do outreach work in this area, hence this cooperation with another Presbytery to further the Lord's work. We believe there are people in the Officer area who want to know when a 'church' will be in the region. As the 'Great Commission' in Matthew 28 states to 'go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy

Spirit', hence the work of forming new churches in his name is a commandment for all believers.

We are prayerful that godly people will come forward to drive this enterprise. Maroondah Presbytery has contacted the Church Planting Committee and Ministry Development Committee towards this end, and hopefully a 'church planter' will be available to commence planting by the end of 2016. Please pray with us that this work can commence without undue delay.

Doug Fraser
Clerk

Presbytery of Maroondah

PWMU Country Rally and State Meeting

The Country Rally was held in April at Bendigo PC. It was a happy day of warm fellowship. David and Lalit Clarke ably presented an overview of their work in Cambodia and quizzed the attendees on it over the lunch hour.

After lunch a session was conducted on ways of 'Encouraging Missionaries'. This was the workshop that had been presented at the Woman's Ministries Victoria conference, and focussed on the importance of communicating with missionaries. Regular contact is an encouragement to them, especially in the more stressful times of their ministry. A particular focus was

on communicating appropriately with missionaries in areas with security issues. Using normal Christian terminology could result in harm to the missionary. The day finished with a concentrated time of prayer.

The State Meeting in June welcomed back newly retired John and Lynette Ellis as speakers. John presented many facts about the seminary in India and the church, as well as some statistics about Christianity in that country, that enabled listeners to improve their knowledge significantly. It was particularly encouraging to hear of the graduates, both men and women, who move on to many

important fields of ministry. The men become Bible teachers, pastors and church planters, the women become pastor's wives, church workers, Christian school teachers or hostel parents. John had calculated that many of them would give around thirty-five years of service to the gospel in their working lives. Even though retired, John and Lynette plan to return for two months every year to assist the work. John gave an update on the former PWMU Bursary student and how God has blessed him and his family.

Esther Vayne
PWMU President

Chaplaincy at the Royal Children's Hospital



Continued from page 1

I resumed work at RCH in mid-March 2015 and was warmly welcomed by the Pastoral Care team, staff and even some long-term parents and patients! There is certainly a different feel working at RCH without the challenges of CPE training (Clinical Pastoral Education), and I am beginning to 'find my feet' as a valued member of the team. As I write this report, I have just visited a family I first met twelve months ago, with a new baby and an unknown life expectancy. I had spent much time visiting them and had built a good relationship with both parents and grandparents! I was encouraged by some very positive feedback from the mother, who told me how much she had valued the chaplaincy support and the difference it had made, especially on some of her hardest days. They will be back again soon for an extended stay, with the future still unknown.

While I still have my primary ward (Neuroscience and Gastroenterology), and that takes the majority of my time, I also have opportunities to visit some patients in oncology, ICU and occasionally other wards. I have had the privilege of visiting with some non-religious parents and families of other faiths whose babies were dying and been able to share with them and support them in their grief. We never know what may come from these encounters in times ahead.

There are some visits that are particularly special when there is opportunity to talk about God and/or pray for a patient and their family. Sometimes these come at surprising times—visiting a family who were listed

as 'no religion', and then discovering through conversation that they were Christians who wanted me to pray for them and were actually as much an encouragement to me in my work as I had been to them! Then there are the difficult questions such as teenagers asking 'why does God allow bad things to happen?' These are all occasions to talk about God on the ward, sometimes overheard by staff or other people—I need God's wisdom to respond appropriately and to make the most of these opportunities.

On Thursday afternoons I run a Parents' Coffee Time on the ward for any interested parents to meet, share experiences and enjoy a real coffee (generously sponsored by one of the cafes). This has proven beneficial in many ways and has also helped some parents to 'network' and support one another, especially in the 'after hours' times.

**'I am now "on call" every Monday night...
When I am called, it is likely to be an end of life
situation with someone I have not previously met.'
—Suzanne Oakes, PCV Pediatric Chaplain**

As I become a more familiar and trusted face around the ward, I am seeking to develop and deepen relationships with nursing and other staff. There are opportunities with 'debriefing' sessions, one-on-one staff support, multi-disciplinary team meetings and the occasional parent support at family meetings with their medical team.

Chaplaincy has its anxious moments. There are the limitations of



working in a secular environment and at times, tensions of working in a team where there are differing theological views. Prayer support is invaluable in chaplaincy ministry—please pray for all of our chaplains and for the work of the Health and Community Chaplaincy Committee. I am now 'on call' every Monday night, and although it is not a regular event, when I am called in, it is usually an urgent request and likely to be an end of life situation with someone I have not previously met. I would covet your prayers in relation to providing appropriate support in these situations.

It is a privilege to share in the lives of so many and to seek to bring the love of Christ to each person I meet. I am continually amazed and thankful for God's grace and enabling in this work. I take comfort in the words of 2 Corinthians 12:9: "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.'

*Suzanne Oakes,
PCV Paediatric Chaplain, RCH*

*My current work days are currently Mondays
and Thursdays.*

*For enquiries or visitation requests please
contact me on*

*Suzanne.oakes@rch.org.au or phone the
Pastoral Care Dept office at RCH on 9345
4699 and leave a message.*



FELLOW WORKERS

News from Ararat



Lazlo and Eva Mihalyi met with the congregation via Skype.

Rod Waterhouse and his wife Sandra began a three-year appointment for the church in Ararat in April. 'All things going well, we can stay here even longer to lead the church through the next phase of its life,' Rod Waterhouse said.

'We have been very welcomed here and it is both a lovely and friendly town. I like more of a laid back lifestyle and we both enjoy country life. We spent a couple of years in Geelong,

and although that is a bigger place, it still had a country feel about it.'

Ararat's Presbyterian congregation comprises people from the town, as well as rural areas and Stawell. 'There used to be a church at Stawell, but we haven't got a congregation there anymore so they come and join us here,' Rod said.

The church gets an average of twenty-five worshipers each Sunday. 'We would like to grow that, so we're trying to make the church accessible to people,' he said. 'We perhaps have a conservative way of worship, but we are a straight-forward, down-to-earth and caring bunch of people.'

The congregation has shown strong support for his ministry and is keen to see a growth in worship.

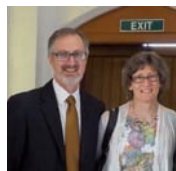
'We would like to be able to serve the community of Ararat however we can, as we seek to do what Christians are meant to do—to love God and to love our fellow man,' he said. 'That's a big part of our mandate, how we

can do that as a congregation. We're looking forward to working on that together with the people here.'

On Sunday July 19th, Ararat Presbyterian held a 'Meal for Mission' Sunday. They didn't have any visiting missionaries, but did enjoy sharing Joy Hill's DVD about her future ministry with the Roma Bible Society in Hungary. Ararat have chosen Joy as one of their support missionaries.

They also were treated to a Skype 'visit' from missionaries they've supported for a number of years: Lazslo and Eva Mihalyi in Romania, on their work with the Hungarian Roma over the border. Seeing them on the screen was a great blessing for the congregation, although the 4am start wasn't their choice! They prayed together via Skype, and a retiring offering at lunch went towards supporting their challenging ministry.

*Rev Rod Waterhouse
Ararat Presbyterian Church*



Mini Concert with Hymns at Sorrento



'Standing, standing, I'm standing on the promises of God!' It was a lovely way to finish the concert, reminding everyone of God's goodness and grace to his people.

Students and tutors from Kairos Christian College (KCC) gave a beautiful performance in singing (choir and vocal solo), violin, saxophone, flute, piano, electric guitar and drums. Around seventy people attended, and enjoyed afternoon tea following the concert in Ellen Grant Hall next door. Donations were collected for Nepal mission. It was a lovely afternoon and we give thanks to God.

(KCC is not aligned to any one particular denomination but rather

serves all churches and Christian organisations whose operations are based on Christian faith. KCC's purpose is to contribute to building up God's kingdom on earth in the name of Jesus Christ. They offer a Diploma of Music in their Sydney and Melbourne Campuses.)

19 June 2015

K. Hui Lim

Associate Minister, Sorrento-Rye Parish

Blessing a Civil Marriage

Practicing Christians and new Australians, Murat (from Turkey) and Georgina (Gyongyi) Lule (from Hungary/Germany), had married earlier this year in a civil ceremony in Mildura. But they found that they wanted their marriage to be blessed by God.

They approached their pastor, Colin Morrow, Home Missionary for Sunraysia Presbyterian Church, and discussed what they could do. Colin in turn sought the advice of the parish Moderator, Session and retired Clerk of the General Assembly of Australia, Rev Dr Paul Logan. The church recognised the validity of their Civil Marriage under the Commonwealth's Marriage Act and yet sought God's blessings

upon their union.

So it was decided the best approach would be a blessing of their civil marriage, using an Order of Service as set out in the old Church of Scotland Book of Common Order.

The blessing followed the main service on Sunday 26 July 2015 and the entire congregation got into the event in providing a lunch to celebrate with the happy couple. Typical of a country parish, there was way too much food and we did have a wedding cake to celebrate as well.

From the point of view of the people at Sunraysia—with one wedding in May (Tim and Benji Milner) and now this blessing in July—we feel God is blessing us as a congregation



as well. We give thanks to God for His blessings on Murat, Georgina, Tim and Benji.

*Colin Morrow
Home Missionary and PIM Padre
Sunraysia Presbyterian Church,
Nichols Point, Mildura*

Partnership

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
AUSTRALIAN PRESBYTERIAN WORLD MISSION

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



2015 #3

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

A STEP OF FAITH

Nathan and Kathy Griffith serve in church planting in Porto, Portugal with the European Christian Mission and APWM.

"I've never really heard anyone speak about grace," said my Portuguese friend as we sat together in our local coffee shop and shared our weekly coffee and chat. My friend is typical of many modern Portuguese. She grew up under the influence of the traditional church and found it wanting. She rejected that and looked to other means for fulfillment, and yet they have also disappointed.

Faced with unemployment during the global financial crisis, my friend is looking for something, anything, to fill the hole in

shops and cafés. It's a middle-class urban setting with lots of apartment buildings, yet with a real sense of community.

One of the differences between here and Australia is that there are so few churches holding true to the teachings of Christ. For example, 28,000 people live in our area of five square kilometres and there are only two tiny evangelical churches, with one of them thinking of closing its doors! Church planting is vital to reaching the people here in a way that is true to the gospel of grace yet presented in a way that connects with the culture.

After spending four years in Lisbon we moved to Porto in 2013 with another missionary family sent out by the Irish Presbyterian Church. We partner with the Portuguese Presbyterian Church – an extremely small and struggling national denomination with only 70 members in the whole denomination. We have spent the last two years planning, praying, walking the streets, conducting surveys, making friends and contacts and trying to live purposefully as we seek opportunities to love the people around us and share Jesus with them.

After spending time getting to know the culture it became clear that people were more comfortable accepting an invitation to meet in a local coffee shop or some neutral territory than in a home.

So with this in mind, in February we took a step of faith and rented a small, central space to remove that barrier. This ministry space is situated in a highly visible area and is used for our weekly outreach as well as our Sunday meetings. Our church plant is called 'Living Stones Community'.

As a church planting project starting from scratch, we don't have members to contribute to the expenses involved in renting a space and paying for a national co-worker. We are hoping to raise both



NATHAN & KATHY GRIFFITH AND CHILDREN

prayer and financial support through both the Irish and Australian Presbyterian churches, to partner with us to see this church plant become mature and independent. Our desire is to plant churches based on missional principles that share the gospel in a culturally relevant way. We want to see the church plant grow under national leadership and become financially independent in the future with a vision to plant other churches.

Kathy Griffith

If you would like to support this ministry with prayer or financial support then please contact European Christian Mission, PO Box 15, Croydon, NSW2132. Phone (02) 9747 5446 Email: ecm.oz@ecmi.org



THE CONGREGATION TO WHICH NATHAN & KATHY BELONG

her life. This is the reality in our suburb of Senhora da Hora in Porto. This reality is felt across Portugal where shrines to saints are built on street corners and where large, ornate church buildings abound. These shrines and buildings echo with the lack of life and hope as they tell those that hurt that God loves them but needs to be appeased with their good works.

In some ways, Senhora da Hora could be your average Sydney suburb. We have one of the largest shopping centres in the north of Portugal, lots of schools, a central hub station for the metro and lots of local

APWM Address

Treasurers of organisations please note: APWM is located at 81 Shaftesbury Road, Burwood NSW 2134.



“ 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) ”

India: A Growing Relationship

For some years APWM has had a relationship with the Presbyterian Theological Seminary (PTS) in Dehradun, India. This has been primarily through John and Lynette Ellis (Clarinda, Victoria) who served there for 15 years.

In the last four years this relationship has developed further.

From 2012-2013, Vijai and Suchitra Tagore studied at Christ College and worshipped in the Revesby (NSW) congregation. Vijai is a PTS lecturer and studied for a Master of Theology degree while Suchitra



CURRENT STUDENTS

Ian Smith comments: "I was struck by the number of people in India. There are so many of them. Only 2.5% of the population is Christian, that's 31 million Christians out of 1.25 billion people. A lot of those Christians belong to churches that are more theologically liberal than we'd like them to be."

Kevin Murray was invited to deliver the annual Strom Mission Lecture and presented a paper on "Mission, Suffering and the Sovereignty of God". Ian Smith spoke at the 43rd Graduation Service on "The Keys of the Kingdom." The 24 graduates will serve in a variety of ministries — some with the Reformed Presbyterian Church of India, some with other denominations and some will serve internationally in countries such as Nepal.

PTS is clearly a strategic ministry, training not only church leaders and ministry workers but also training men and women who will have a wider influence as they teach in Bible Colleges within India and in other nations.

Ian Smith observes: "Non-Indians can't go into India to serve because of visa restrictions so we seek to serve India by training up Indian nationals to serve their fellow Indians. For that reason, the work of PTS is central; we are seeking to train students as we support the staff at PTS."

What is India like? Ian Smith comments: "It's a place of great food, colour, vibrancy, friendly people and rich culture. Yet, beneath that exterior, many Indians live under great spiritual fear, and long for deliverance. Only the gospel can bring about lasting change in such a vast nation. Only the gospel can bring liberation to people such as the Untouchables."

When asked about theological education and Vijai and Suchitra Tagore, he says "I've been involved in theological education for many years in different parts of the world. We're often trying to get a church to reform and come along with us. The great thing about PTS is that it's on the same page as us — it's thoroughly Reformed. When churches send their best people overseas for training we have very little control over the quality

of the person who comes to us for training. Vijai and Suchitra Tagore are well known to us, they are the right people for the job. They're bright, godly and desire to serve the church. The great thing about them is that they are only in their 30's and that means that they will be a great



GRADUATING STUDENTS

completed the Ministry Training for Women course. Their time in Australia was a blessing for everyone. It is hoped that sometime in the next few years they will be able to return to Australia for further study.

Joy Venning (Canterbury, Victoria) served at PTS for 12 months, teaching English and assisting in the Women's Programme. Last year John McClean from Christ College travelled to PTS and taught classes in ethics and doctrine.



LYNETTE ELLIS, JOHN ELLIS AND JOY VENNING

investment for the Church. If they can study in Australia they will be a great blessing to the Church in India. Vijai is the only New Testament lecturer at PTS which has about 100 full time students. That's unheard of in Australia. So he'll need lots of mentoring and help."

Ian Smith will be returning to India in August to spend three weeks teaching in PTS and in mentoring Vijai in his role as a New Testament lecturer.



IAN SMITH WITH PRINCIPAL DR MOHAN CHACKO

In April this year Ian Smith, Principal of Christ College, his wife Jenni and Kevin and Julie Murray travelled to PTS for graduation week and to hold some discussions about further developing the relationship between PTS and the Australian Church.



PTS ACADEMIC CENTRE

SERVING THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Ian and Pat Hart are from the Presbyterian Church of Ireland and are now at the Talua Ministry Training Centre, Vanuatu, for six months. They recently transitted through Brisbane and were able to attend the Queensland Assembly where Kevin Murray was able to catch up with them.

Please share with us something of your background.

Ian: I've been a minister of the Presbyterian Church of Ireland for forty years and have recently retired. Pat has been an eye surgeon for a similar period and has also retired. We suddenly find ourselves free and during the past forty years we've spent quite a bit of time overseas. We've lived and worked in a missionary capacity of some sort for ten years – in Africa and mainly Singapore. We have an awareness of the needs of the world church.

Why have you just travelled half way around the world?

Pat: Having just recently retired we were wondering how we could best use our retirement years. So we began to explore the possibility of going overseas to serve, probably for a short period of time. We have three adult children who are still settling down and so we didn't want to go overseas for a long period of time. We think that a short time overseas can be of benefit and so we began to explore various



IAN & PAT HART

options. Serving at Talua just kept coming up to us again and again.

What will be your role at Talua?

Ian: I'll be teaching Andy Williamson's workload until the end of the academic year. I'll be guided by what the staff at Talua want me to do.

Pat: Until recently I had an open mind on what I might do. I don't think it will be very easy for me to be involved in medical work, although that's definitely a possibility. There's always lots to be done around a theological campus, interacting with students and staff. I've recently been asked to help with teaching English. I've never done that before but I'm happy to do it.

Do you have expectations of life at Talua?

Ian: We think it's going to be fairly basic. It's unknown so it will be something of a challenge coming from a very comfortable, advanced lifestyle. That means that Talua's three hours of electricity a day and very intermittent internet access and a fridge that seems to work a bit, along with the heat and the potential for malaria will be a challenge. We're confident that we can cope but sometimes these things scare us a bit!

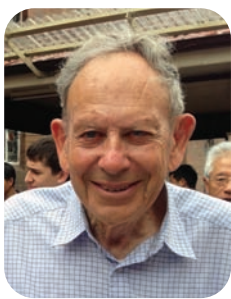
What are you looking forward to?

Pat: We're really looking forward to meeting some of God's family in another area with very different backgrounds in a very 'Christian' country. We've been told that we'll find lovely people there with a different history to their lives. We're looking forward to sharing in God's big family. It will be nice to see a different part of the world to which we've never been before.

Ian: We just really hope to be useful in some way for the Kingdom, for the Church. That's the bottom line for us. If we experience various pleasures along the way, then that's a bonus!

David Pilgrim: with Christ

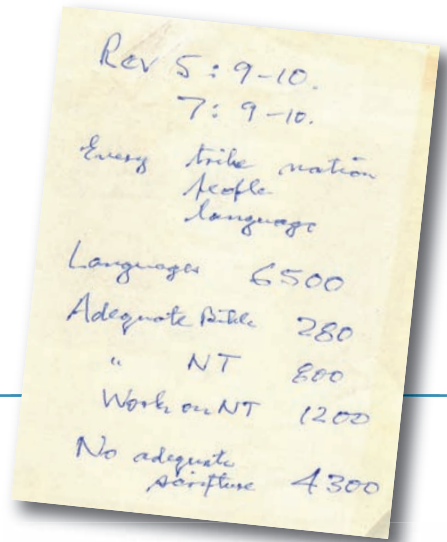
On 11th April, 2015, Dr David Pilgrim went to be with Christ. David, together with his wife Devona, was a tireless worker for the gospel.



As an elder in the Hurstville congregation, David had a significant impact on the life of the congregation. Many people can trace their conversion to the time when David explained the gospel to them. He played a key role in the lives of some NSW ministers, such as Paul Beringer, Bruce Christian and William Morrow.

From 1996 until 2010 David served as the Convener of the APWM National Committee. He played a significant role in the life of APWM and, in human terms, helped make it what it is today.

David also had a long interest in Wycliffe. I was recently searching through some of David's papers and came across this note. It was probably taken from a short talk that he gave outlining the need for Bible translation. It says so much of what was dear to him – 'No adequate scripture 4,300.'



Vanuatu: Thank You

At the time of writing (late June 2015) the Moderator General's Appeal for Vanuatu has received donations of \$345,000. Thank you for your generosity!

The Clerk of the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu has written to thank us for the assistance given following difficulties caused by Cyclone Pam.

"Greetings to you in the Lord's blessed Name. This letter serves to acknowledge your church's kind contribution to our church in this extreme time that we have survived the category 5 tropical cyclone Pam which has left behind great devastation.

We thank God that we were saved and we thank God also for your church for making

a meaningful contribution to our local church which will be used to rebuild our churches and schools that were destroyed.

On behalf of the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu's head office and its people we greatly valued your generous contribution and thank you wholeheartedly for this goodwill gesture.

It is our humble prayer that God through His spirit will richly bless the people in your church for this great ministry.

Thankfully yours
Pastor Allen Nafuki
Assembly Clerk
Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu



Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu
P.O. BOX 150, PORT VILA, REPUBLIC OF VANUATU
TEL: (678) 27884, FAX: (678) 23650
Email: clerk@pcv.vu

28th May 2015

Kevin Murray
National Director
Australian Presbyterian World Mission
81 Shaftesbury Road
Burwood NSW 2134

Ref: Our Heartfelt Thank You Letter

Greetings to you in the Lord's blessed Name. This letter serves to acknowledge your church's kind contribution to our church in this extreme time that we have survived the category 5 tropical cyclone Pam which has left behind great devastation.

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Thankfully yours

Pastor ALLEN NAFUKI
Assembly Clerk, Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu



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ON TRACK

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PRESBYTERIAN INLAND MISSION

ISSUE 3 2015

PROCLAIMING THE LORD JESUS CHRIST
BY WORD AND DEED

NEW CEO FOR PIM

After a long journey of consideration, discussion, meetings and prayer the PIM Committee was pleased to reach the end of the search process and select a CEO.

Andrew Letcher has been appointed to the full time position of CEO for the Presbyterian Inland Mission. Andrew, his wife Fleur and their three children, are members of Croydon Hills Presbyterian Church.

Andrew has a wide-ranging background in leadership and management of Christian ministries and business. His most recent role was as the CEO of a Christian Funeral business that was established to minister to grieving families and to generate profits to support mission work. Prior to that Andrew and Fleur served as APWM missionaries with Wycliffe Bible Translators in various management-related roles.

Both Fleur and Andrew are Presbyterian ministers' kids, having grown up in manses in a variety of places. They met at a Presbyterian Youth of Victoria camp many years ago, and both remain active in a variety of ways within the denomination.

Andrew is looking forward to the challenge of building on the wonderful work of those who have gone before. PIM has a rich heritage of gospel ministry over more than a century, and together with the committee, Andrew is looking forward to helping PIM prepare for another century of ministry, Lord willing. The challenges are great, but so are the opportunities.

Though life has changed and the world is a very different place than it was when John Flynn was patrolling the Inland on



Andrew and Fleur Letcher, with Mitchell, Emma and Charlotte

a camel, the spiritual needs of people are still the same. For as long as Australia has people living in remote areas, far from any gospel witness and beyond easy reach of most of the church, the work of PIM must be sustained, for the glory of God and the salvation of the lost.

SEASONS OF FAITHFUL SERVICE

After each giving over a decade of faithful, effective and diligent service to the ministry of PIM both Stuart

Bonnington and Rob Duncanson have both stepped back from their respective roles of Superintendent and Convenor

of the PIM committee to allow them to focus on the other important ministries God has laid before them.

As Superintendent and Convenor, Stuart and Rob made an enthusiastic and effective team as they together championed the cause of gospel ministry in remote areas of Australia.

Rob and Stuart holding title deed for Smith of Dunesk Mission, SA

Under their leadership, God has done many things. New patrol teams have been recruited and commissioned to serve and two new mission churches, in Darwin and Alice Springs, have been planted and nurtured. Countless other small and large tasks have also been accomplished.

Stuart is continuing in his role as minister of Scots Church in Fremantle and other responsibilities with the Presbyterian Church of Western Australia. Rob remains active and committed as the minister of the Darwin Presbyterian Church.

The PIM Committee praises the Lord for the wonderful contribution of these two servants of His.



INTRODUCING THE NEW CONVENOR

To introduce myself my name is Rev Les Fowler and married to Shirley. My wife and I live in Warren NSW having retired from full time parish ministry in 2014 but still finding so much to be involved in. Warren is located in Central Western NSW. My ministry has taken me throughout both suburban and country parishes but with a heart for country ministry.

I have been involved with the ministry of PIM for nearly 30 years. This started as the first full time patrol padre following church union when I was sent to what was then known as the Blackall Patrol at the beginning of 1986. This patrol was made up of the south western corner of Queensland in what are now the South and Central Queensland patrols. This was an enjoyable time breaking new ground in the ministry of the PIM as no full time patrol work had been done since union in 1977. As a family we spent 3 years in Blackall and ministering to this very large area of Queensland.

Since that time I have continued to have an interest in the PIM and joined the Committee many years ago and later was appointed to the executive of PIM. It has been an exciting journey through the years watching and being part of the growth of PIM from just one full time patrol to padres working in most states. The expansion into planting the Mission Churches has also been an exciting yet challenging work to be a part of.

It has also been a wonderful time of working with the outgoing Convener and Superintendent. Both Rob and Stuart have been an inspiration with their total commitment to the ministry of PIM and I thank them for this and all that they have done.

I look forward to being a part of the ongoing work that is before the committee as it plans and directs the ministry of PIM. With the new CEO Andrew Letcher now on board and



Les Fowler

settling into his work for PIM we both look forward to your ongoing prayers and support for PIM.

Les Fowler

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



PROCLAIMING THE
LORD JESUS CHRIST
BY WORD AND DEED

PRESBYTERIAN INLAND MISSION 2015

NEWS AND UPDATES

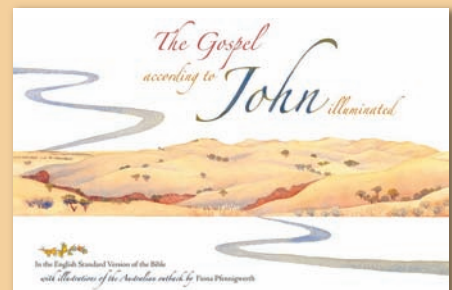
After much planning and preparation, Mark Jellis and his team have commenced the challenging work of turning the deteriorating Meekathara Church building into a usable space for worship and community outreach. Of key importance in making the building usable is the installation of a toilet block, and the replacement of the tired old roof. Please be in prayer for this project and the gospel work in Meekathara.



THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN ILLUSTRATED

www.fionapfennigwerth.info/fiona@fionapfennigwerth.info

Fiona Pfennigwerth has produced a coffee-table sized book which contains the text of the Gospel of John (ESV), beautifully illustrated by her drawings of the Australian outback. Fiona's artistic talent is clearly evident on just about every page, as is her love for the story of Jesus as recounted by His friend and disciple John. THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN ILLUSTRATED is a book to be cherished and if given to others, will be received as a most attractive gift.



PIM RETREAT

Being scattered across the continent, PIM teams have few opportunities to meet up with their colleagues and spend time together. In September this year in Alice Springs, the team will gather together for fellowship,

encouragement, spiritual refreshment and meetings. These retreats happened about every three years and are a vital part of keeping the people of PIM connected. Naturally, there are some significant travel costs in getting everyone together.

If you would like to make a special donation to help cover the costs of this retreat, it would be a great source of encouragement to all at PIM. Please contact Mike Timmins at the PIM office for details of how you could make such a gift.



Church Plants on the Move



Russ Grinter at his ordination service with wife Amy, son Knox and Rev Phillip Burns.

Church planting is on the move and some exciting things are happening.

Last month, Reforming Presbyterian Church in South East Bendigo ran their new LIFE course. LIFE is a four-week introduction to the Christian faith. At the end of the course, the leader asked the group if there were any questions and one woman put up her hand. She said that she wanted to become a Christian. Russ Grinter, the pastor of Reforming, is now looking

forward to baptising this new member of Christ's kingdom.

Reforming Church is on the move in other ways as well. Before they kicked off in February 2013, they looked at twenty potential locations, only four of which indicated they would be available. First they met in a funeral parlour, but that finished following resistance from the local community. Then they met in a community hall but this proved unsuitable. Now they meet in a school which is ideally located but expensive

to rent. The school provides modern facilities and has been great to work with, but even within the school they have had to change location another four times.

The upside is that they now meet in a well known location in a quality building. The downside is that they constantly have to communicate the new location with the fledgling congregation and they are never sure of how long the current arrangements will remain

in place. On top of this, it means they have to set up and pack up every week, which drains the energy of the church planter and his team. Reforming Church own a trailer which they take to the school each week with all of their equipment.

All of this reminds us that as our denomination plants new churches, we need to be thinking and praying about how to purchase property in order to bring about long term stability. Please be in prayer for our church planting teams as they labour hard for Christ in new and exciting ventures. Pray that God would save many people through their efforts.

*Richard Wilson
Church Planter and Evangelist*



Russ with key members of his church planting team.

Preparing to Serve in Hungary

Joy Hill from Donvale Presbyterian Church is preparing to serve in Hungary as the Personal Assistant to Todd Price, who oversees the production of the Roma Bible in Hungary.

Todd writes, 'The work in which we are engaged—bringing God's Word to the Roma (Gypsies) of Europe—is not a battle against flesh and blood, but is spiritual in nature and must be fought through prayer. All the money, staff and time in the world will not avail unless the God of all creation steps in and acts. As Paul asked the believers of his day, so we ask you, "Brothers,



Please consider praying daily for Joy Hill and Todd Price as they seek to bring the Bible to the Roma people.

pray for us." Would you make a resolution to pray daily for us? Perhaps there is no greater commitment you can make for this ministry.'

Joy is currently in Australia seeking to raise her partnership support. Her support level is currently at 88%. If you would like to join her support team, you can contact her on 0417 268 183 or wjhill@pmbx.net.

'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 partnership in this ministry. May the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

Chiara Bilyj
Editor



FELLOW WORKERS