

## Royals in Kangaroo Ground



Once a year in the September school holidays, children are taught to encourage, and to be, God's special missionaries. Children and their parents come from all over Victoria to Wycliffe Bible Translators at Kangaroo Ground for the free activity day put on by PWMU—**Dayspring Day!**

The day is packed with activities, prizes, and Christian fellowship. This year was the eleventh Dayspring Day.

Many children and parents dressed up as royals, as the theme of the day

was 'On His Majesty's Service', inspired by the title of Helen Roseveare's biography. While we were not able to have Helen Roseveare in attendance, we were able to have Rosemary Zurrer—a missionary of the past herself—ably act the part of this former missionary to the Congo. Many thanks to Rosemary Zurrer for her great work! We also watched Helen Roseveare on YouTube telling part of her inspiring story.

Grace Middleton played Birthday Betty, encouraging children to remember missionaries' birthdays in a number

of ways—maybe by sending them a card. The king for the day was played by Ben Nelson, and Alycia Hood was a princess. We even had a jester, played by Camden Hood! Thanks to Mavis Price, our resident missionary, who gave out prizes and judged events and costumes throughout the day. Thanks also to Douglas and Jeanette Bennett, who were able to put in an appearance.

In line with our Royalty theme, we had children practise jousting with the sword of the spirit—which is, of course, the Bible. Children tried to find verses in the Bible as quickly as they could! Other activities included decorating crowns, decorating crown shaped biscuits, and playing games. One particularly missionary-focused game involved younger children matching up missionaries' photos to their portraits on the APWM Victoria poster, while the older children matched the photos to the correct continent.

Medals are awarded to children every year, firstly for reading the Bible, and secondly for being a 'rope-holder'. More children than ever earned the Bible award, whether by reading or by listening to Bible CDs throughout the year. The youngest achiever was only six! To achieve the 'rope-holder' medal, children ticked off a variety of tasks throughout the year, such as collecting stamps to raise funds for missionaries, praying for missionaries, sending cards

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## Bendigo: in the news

Some recent events have drawn media attention to Bendigo in recent months, and not for the best reasons. The main news story has centred on anti-mosque protests and the counter-anti-mosque protests that led to some violent clashes in August.

Imagine my surprise in late September then, when I received a phone call from WIN News asking me my opinion about the upcoming October protests. I said I wasn't particularly concerned, but then she informed me that the protesters were to be gathering on the corner of Forest and Mackenzie

Streets, Bendigo, right outside the St John's church door! My initial response was one of complete surprise, but the reporter assured me that this was true. A quick call to Michael Ellison in the Church Office made sure our insurance would cover us in the case of an inci-

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# General Assembly 2015 News

The 2015 General Assembly was memorable. On Monday evening the Assembly inducted its youngest ever moderator, Rev Mark Smith, minister of Scots Church Drouin—and then we embarked on what was one of the longest Assemblies in recent memory.

Not that this was due to the youth of our Moderator—he moderated the Assembly with wisdom and skill; rather, it was due to the amount of important and time-consuming business before the Assembly which could not be rushed. For example, the whole of Wednesday evening was given over to 'Safe Church-PCV'. We heard from representatives of the SANO Taskforce of Victoria Police regarding changes to the law and community expectations in respect to child sexual abuse and organisations such as our church. Mr Patrick Tidmarsh, a criminologist, spoke on how churches are vulnerable to being used by offenders to access victims, and Detective Senior Sergeant Michael Phyland, Family Violence Command, spoke on reporting requirements regarding child abuse and the new 'Failure to Protect' and 'Failure to Disclose' laws. Not exactly pleasant, or a 'highlight'—but very important for the protection of people and the reputation of our church, and something we all need to take very seriously!

## Highlights of the Assembly

- The opening service, with singing led by the musicians of the Drouin congregation, and preaching by the Moderator on 'Standing Firm in the Faith', from Ephesians 6:10-20.
- The Tuesday morning Communion Service, with its solemn yet joyful remembrance of our Lord in his death and its refreshing reminder to be in eager expectation of his coming.
- The preaching of our Assembly Expositor, Rev Neil Chambers, minister of the Bundoora congregation. Neil spoke from 1 Peter on the theme of trials and how we should respond to them as Christians and as Christian pastors.
- An address by Rev Bruce Mel-ler, Clerk of the GAA, who traced the

origin of the federation of the State churches to form the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

- Remembering the faithful service of Rev Martin Hanse and Rev Robert Betts.
- Hearing the reports from Mrs Elaine Collin, Principal of PLC, and Mr Tom Batty, Principal of Scotch College; it was very encouraging to hear of the distinctive place Christian faith and practice is given in both of these schools.
- Remembering mission and missionaries; missionaries were welcomed and commended to the Lord in prayer.
- News from Mrs Mairi Girgis of the work of Women's Ministries Victoria,



Rev Mark Smith with his wife Danielle after the induction.

and from Mr Nic Bilyj of the work of PYV. Great work is being done by both of these ministries.

- The recognition of the faithful service of Rev Dr Tony Bird and his wife Carole on the occasion of his retirement as New Testament Lecturer at our Theological College; many of his past students spoke on the blessing his teaching had been to them, and the motion of thanks was approved with a standing ovation.

## From the Assembly's Committees

Here are some of the more significant decisions arising from Committees reports:

- The appointment of Dr Trevor Burke, BSc, BD, MPhil, PhD (Glasgow) to the position of New Testament Lecturer at our Theological College. Dr Burke comes highly commended, and all the way from Northern Ireland; he

will take up the position next year.

- The Assembly's decision to write to the GAA expressing that in the event the Marriage Act (1961) is amended to include homosexual relationships, the PCV believes it would be wise to consider withdrawing as a recognised religious denomination under the Act. The consequences of such a decision are far from clear; please pray for wisdom for the GAA as it meets next September.

• The reappointment of Rev Dr Felix Chung (Dip Soc Work, MME, MTh, PhD), to the position of full-time Lecturer in Missiology, Evangelism, Cross-Cultural and Research Methods at the Presbyterian Theological College, Victoria for a term of seven years. Dr Chung's labours are highly valued at and beyond our Theological College.

- The reappointment of Rev Richard Wilson as the church's Church Planter Evangelist for a period of seven years as of 1 January 2016.

• The adoption by the Assembly of a proposed PCV Privacy Policy and associated Guidelines. Legislative changes have made it essential for our church to incorporate privacy compliance into its everyday operations. This means not only the adoption of a privacy policy, but also training, monitoring and record keeping—and with this in view the Assembly appointed Mrs Fiona Bligh its Privacy Officer.

ing and record keeping—and with this in view the Assembly appointed Mrs Fiona Bligh its Privacy Officer.

- The sending of changes proposed by the ad hoc Committee on Sites Reserve to BIF regulations as a discussion paper to the presbyteries for comment. The Sites Reserve holds funds from the sale of land and buildings by congregations; most of these funds are at present held for the benefit of particular congregations; the ad hoc committee has been investigating ways that some funds might be made available for the benefit of the wider church, such as the purchase of land for church planting. Much prayer is needed for wisdom, grace and the peace and unity of our church!

• The sending down to presbyteries a rewritten version of our church's 'Code' under Barrier Act procedure. Should a majority of presbyteries approve, the 2016 Assembly may approve the revision.





## Matters for thanksgiving and praise

- For the resumption of a dedicated PCV Chaplaincy to the Royal Children's Hospital.
- For God's blessing upon *Coins for Mission* and the extra support it provides for our missionaries.
- For the generosity of God's people in their support of PresAID Christmas and Easter Appeals since 2005.
- For the work of the PWMU State Council and branches.
- For congregations which have become less dependent on Ministry Development Committee funding because of growth.

## Matters for Prayer

Many of the Assembly's committees ask the Assembly to approve requests for prayer—and it would be a pity if they simply 'gathered dust'. Here is a sampling:

- For Bible Society Australia as they seek to make the scriptures available and read in every language.
  - For our missionaries who minister to the Aboriginal community.
  - For APWM missionaries serving in Australia and overseas and that the Lord of the Harvest would stir us to raise up, set aside, fully support and send out more labourers into his harvest fields all over the world.
  - Frequent, specific prayer, both private and public, for persecuted Christians.
  - For the work and ministry of those who answer God's call by going to 'closed' and dangerous countries with the gospel, and whose names and works cannot be publicised.
  - For the safety and welfare of all who serve in our armed forces, and for military chaplains in their unique ministry for the gospel to ADF personnel in Australia and overseas.
- Please pray; God has done great things for us, and he has yet much

more in store for our blessing and his glory.

## Matters for Generosity

Finally, the Assembly commended to your generosity the current fund-raising appeal of our Theological College, and the PresAID 2015 Christmas Appeal, with the reminder that 'whoever sows generously will also reap generously... For the Lord loves a cheerful giver'.

## And finally (again!)

The Assembly was long, at times quite stressful, and exhausting—but it was good to be there, for not only was there an evident commitment to Christian truth; there was also an evident commitment to Christian behaviour, as difficult issues were debated with love and respect.

Peter Phillips  
Deputy Clerk

# Evangelism on the Fringe



Every two years, the rock climbing capital of Australia, Natimuk, hosts a Fringe Festival called Nati Fringi. Horsham Presbyterian Church joined in with a stall at the market on Sunday

1 November. We had musicians from the church playing live music with a folk flavour and a table loaded with free food, gift bags, coffee and water. People were shyer than we expected, but we still managed to hand out fifty gift bags and have several conversations about Jesus. Our purpose was to be a positive low-key presence, make connections and have conversations with people. Nobody took the free coffee, partly because the stall next to us

was a coffee consultant giving away free coffee samples. People stopped to listen to the music and many took gift bags when offered. It was good to test what worked at this sort of event. Our overall evangelistic strategy is to have events like this that build connections and then courses like *Introducing God* for those interested in continuing the conversation about Jesus.

Rev Luke Isham

# A special evening with Brian Gault

On a Sunday evening in September we had a special visit from Brian and Helen Gault from Northern Ireland. 'Brian was one of the 480 survivors of the "miracle drug" thalidomide brought on the British market during the early 1960s. To the shock of his parents, he was born with no arms.' (*Look, No Hands! The inspiring story of Brian Gault with Helena Rogers*, Hodder Christian Books.)

Brian spoke passionately about his early life, and most importantly how he was saved by God's grace. Later on, God led him to Helen, and they were married in August 2000. Brian gave thanks to God for life, and encouraged everyone to consider 'How much are YOU worth?', from Psalm 139. Brian was able to use his toes freely, and

he showed us how he could 'shake hands', hold a spoon, mug, and autograph his books. It was a wonderful and inspiring evening for everyone.

We had warm fellowship over supper, and many visitors were impressed with the spread of food. They were even more surprised to hear that we have these kinds of yummy foods after church every week! Thanks to all our ladies for their beautiful cooking and baking. A special thank you goes to Lisa and Rob from Frankston Presbyterian Church for providing transportation for Brian and Helen to church.

An 'open-plate' donation was taken and designated by Brian and Helen for Christian Blind Mission Australia. Sales of Brian's book, *Look, No Hands!*, went to the support of children being born with Thalidomide-related

disabilities in Brazil. Brian and Helen continue to devote their lives to raising awareness and supporting children born with Thalidomide-related disabilities. May God richly bless the ministry of Brian and Helen, as they bring hope and faith in Jesus to many children affected by Thalidomide.



K. Hui Lim (Rev)  
Associate Minister  
Sorrento-Rye Parish

Brian and Helen  
Gault with Nathan  
Lim.



# Will we have churches ready to welcome them?

## The harvest is plentiful

On the 12th August, *The Age* ran a story that said that every eleven hours in Melbourne's growth suburbs enough babies are born to fill an entire prep class. Equally we could say every week enough babies are born to fill a church.

In 2014, for the first time since 1888, Victoria was Australia's fastest growing state. We grew by 101,500 in a year. 56,000 of this growth was through immigration—the rest through natural reproduction and interstate transfer. Many of the new immigrants are looking for churches to join and often settle into the rapidly growing outer suburbs where property prices are cheaper. The question is—will we have churches ready to welcome them and evangelise their friends?

As local churches, it is easy to be short sighted. If the building is half full we feel a little discouraged, if it is full we feel satisfied. But the Lord wants us to lift our eyes to the harvest that is outside our doors and see the great opportunities he has placed before us.

## The workers are few

Yet the labourers are so few—especially in the Presbyterian Church. We have been praying for a church planter for Officer for several years and yet so far no one suitable has been found. I am encouraged to report that in recent weeks a couple of our PTC (Presbyterian Theological College) students have expressed interest in starting new works. Pray that God will raise up many more like them.

We do need to take deliberate steps to encourage gifted, godly and entrepreneurial young people to consider full time ministry. Each church should

be praying for five young men to send to PTC. One to replace ourselves, one to replace the bloke who gives up early, one for the mission field and two to plant new churches. We must deliberately pray, evangelise and disciple with this goal in mind or the Lord of the harvest will do his great work of saving the lost through others.

The church planting committee is praying that the Lord will enable us to plant three new churches every year. Given the growth of Melbourne, this seems like such a small goal and yet it often feels beyond our capacity. Let's remember that we worship a great God and so we can pray bold prayers.

I have met people from interstate who are willing to plant new churches with us but I have experienced some institutional resistance to people who did not train in our own college. Pray that the Lord will enable us to overcome these hurdles to see our denomination step up to the challenge the Lord is placing before us.

## Melbourne changes direction

For a long time most of Melbourne's new growth has been happening in the 'greenfields' of the outer suburbs. That has now changed. According to fresh analysis from demographic researchers at ID.com.au most of the growth



Aaron and Gabby Boyd from Darebin.

is now happening in established suburbs. This growth has begun in the inner city and South Bank and will extend over the next 20 years to the middle ring suburbs such as Maribyrnong, Moreland and Stonington.

This means a fresh set of opportunities for our inner city churches. The model of ministry we need for new work in the inner city will be quite different to what we have been doing in the growth corridors. Aaron Boyd is beginning to show us the path forward. If you have some time free on a Sunday afternoon, why not visit him at Darebin PC?

## Where will our new churches meet?

Many of our church plants meet in school halls or community centres which means set up and pack up every week. Over time, this exhausts the church planters and leaves the plants vulnerable to changing priorities in the use of these public buildings. We cannot assume governments will always allow us to lease public facilities.

We need land NOW for churches at Hume, Melton, Brimbank, Point Cook, Bendigo, Warragul, Croydon Hills and Darebin. At present the property development fund has sufficient income to purchase a new block every fifty years.

Last year I met with the Urban Planning authority to discuss the possibility of buying land for churches and or schools in growth corridors. They showed me a map illustrating the many places the Catholic Church has bought land at least a decade before development begins. They said we need to do the same thing. Once an overall development plan has been established, it becomes very difficult to buy the hectare required for a church and car park.

They were very positive about the Presbyterian Church taking these initiatives and asked me to keep them updated on our progress.

## Evaluating your Presbytery

I have met with representatives from a couple of Presbyteries who are beginning to evaluate their region to consider the church planting needs and opportunities in their patch.

Several have already developed a list of priorities which is an excellent beginning. If you haven't done this yet, please consider doing it soon. I am very happy to attend Presbytery meetings to discuss your plans and talk about options.

Remember your Presbytery is your mission field. Please treat your Presbytery meetings as a mission planning and strategy opportunity, not just a time to solve the problems that arise.

The key issues to consider are:

a. Who are the unreached people in our Presbytery? b. Who can lead the church plant? c. Who will be in the core team? d. Where will they meet? Look at the forecast figures in ID.com.au to find out what is planned in your local government area.

Richard Wilson  
Church Planter Evangelist for the Presbyterian  
Church of Victoria

## From the State News Committee

The State News Committee records its thankfulness to Rev Philip Daffy for his faithful, thoughtful and encouraging membership of the committee over the last nine years. The committee is also pleased to welcome Rev Luke Isham as his replacement.

Although somewhat belatedly, the committee congratulates our editor and her husband on the safe arrival of Ariana Joanne Caitlyn Bilyj.

Neil Harvey  
Convener, State News Committee



FELLOW WORKERS

# News Update: Orbus Kindergarten and Primary School Growth

The 2015-16 school year started on the 7th September at the Orbus Centre in Malawi. The new two-classroom school building, with office, storeroom and toilets was officially opened on 4 September 2015, and with new desks made, and a new teacher employed, the new grade 6 class started well, as did the kindy and grades 1-5. There are about 350 children enrolled from kindy to grade six.

We are now encouraged to pray and plan as we look forward to the next stage of the project: starting a secondary school. Prayer is requested. If we are to start the

high school in September 2016 we need to make a decision in the first quarter of calendar 2016, as work will need to start on a new classroom by around April 2016, along with some teacher's accommodation.

**Bibles for Prisoners:** Orbus Ministries Australia are now able to distribute Chichewa language Bibles (approx. A\$10 per paperback Bible and A\$13 per hardback) directly to prisoners in Malawi through the CCAP Blantyre Synod Prisons Chaplaincy. Anyone wanting to contribute funds toward buying Chichewa Bibles can do so by sending the funds to Orbus Ministries Australia Inc., who will then forward the funds, with no administra-



tion costs. Please email us with your specific request. Latest newsletter available at [www.OrbusMinistries.org](http://www.OrbusMinistries.org).

Craig Manners  
[craig.manners@orbusministries.org](mailto:craig.manners@orbusministries.org)

## Building repairs in Horsham

Back in 1984, the Horsham Presbyterian church buildings were carried on the back of a truck from the tiny hamlet of Wonwondah to the present site in Horsham.

However years of the hot Wimmera sun have taken their toll and the buildings needed some urgent repairs. A Mobile Mission Maintenance (MMM) team was coming through town, so we enlisted their help. MMM teams are nomadic groups of retired Christian tradies who donate their time

and expertise to repairing the buildings of small regional churches. We hosted them for a week, providing food and materials and they joined us for corporate worship on Sunday. You can catch a glimpse of their handiwork in the before and after pictures here and on our Facebook page. Hopefully the refresh will make our buildings more welcoming and suitable for meeting in to worship God and make disciples.

*Rev Luke Isham*



## Royalty in Kangaroo Ground

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to missionaries, and witnessing to their friends.

This year was the first year we have had a bookstall, and it was a great success. We raised enough money to earn a discount at Koorong, which will be donated to the missionaries. Thanks to Stephanie Daffy for taking care of the bookstall.

Other highlights of the day included watching a short video presentation from Warwick and Natalie in Africa. If you would like to watch this video, you can do so at <https://vimeo.com/129196380>. The password to access it is 'lifeishort'.

You might not be able to afford a Melbourne Show bag every September holidays, but you can afford a free Dayspring Day show bag! All children took home one of these which included lollies, a Bible reading chart,



and a mini version of our missionary cards. Each family was also provided with a free set of full-sized missionary cards, which have many facts about our missionaries. These cards help families to get to know their missionaries, and enable them to better pray for and support them. If you would like a pack of these missionary cards, you can get them from the PWMU office. ([pwmu@ozemail.com](mailto:pwmu@ozemail.com), or 9877 1678)

If you haven't yet attended Dayspring Day and would like to come along, please do! You can put it in

your diary right now, as it is the first Wednesday of the September school holidays. It is aimed at primary school children, but all are welcome!

We thank God for the good weather we had on the day—the sunshine meant we were able to enjoy a treasure hunt. We would also like to thank all those who made an effort to come on the day, as well as those who were involved in making the day happen. Thanks particularly to Shona Archer for all the effort she put into running Dayspring Day and Cassie Hood for her behind the scenes work. Also thanks to Jacob Daffy, our photographer, who took many beautiful pictures, some of which you see here.

*Esther Vayne  
PWMU President*



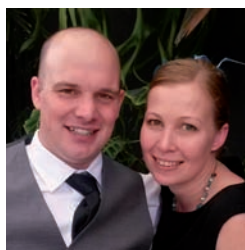
# Eltham Presbyterian Church News

Recently Eltham PC has made a number of property improvements. We have bought an adjoining property, extended our auditorium by sixty-three seats, included a much larger stage and installed a portable for extra Sunday School space. Now we are focussing on growing our ministry by increasing our team and community connections.

In 2014, Andy Buchan joined us as a part time assistant. Andy, Taimi and their two children came to us from the Mt Barker Anglican church plant in SA. Andy is also studying part time at the PTC as a candidate for the ministry. Currently he heads up the music team, runs young adults hospitality events, preaches monthly and looks after the outreach ministries of EPC. These include running a stall at the Eltham Festival, pastoral oversight of *Mainly Music*, our letter box drop program and a dedicated website for people wanting to consider Jesus more deeply ([thinklifethinkjesus.org](http://thinklifethinkjesus.org)). Apart from his various ministry experiences, Andy is also a trained percussionist and brings a new musical dimension to our music team. Taimi has started up a *Community Thank You* ministry where we as a congregation provide morning tea for local schools (where EPC children attend) and for the SES, fire brigade, police etc. It is our way of saying we appreciate their contribution and that we see ourselves as part of the wider community. Taimi has also taken a role as Regional Coordinator for *Mainly Music* in Victoria and beyond.



Josh, Sybille and Alex Bouzanquet joined us in January 2015. Josh is doing a two year internship with us before he takes up full time chaplaincy in the Army. As well as preaching regularly, Josh has



taken over the Youth Group leadership, teaches Sunday School and has organised our big event, *Christ Centred Singleness in Christ Centred Community*. Check out our resources on this topic at [christcentred.net](http://christcentred.net).

With the bigger team at EPC, Don Elliott has now taken on chaplaincy for the three local police stations in the Nillumbik PSA. This is another way

EPC seeks to serve the community and make deeper connections with the un-churched.

Emily Graham, after leading our music team for many years, has led the establishment of a *Mainly Music* ministry with a great team of helpers. This is a ministry to parents with young children and is a great way to connect with non-Christians through a program that is accessible for them but distinctly Christian at the same time. We also have another member of the church exploring chaplaincy with a local football club.

John and Sue Steendam faithfully continue their annual pilgrimage to Malawi. John plays a crucial role in

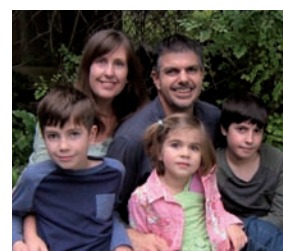


the development of ORBUS and great progress has been made this year on a number of projects. Sue spends most of her time with Abusa Stanley visiting prisons as they teach Scripture and provide some very basic but essential practical aid to those who literally have nothing—not even a mat to sleep on or soap to wash with. While they self-fund their personal expenses, what they do when they are over there is only possible through the generous donations of people throughout the PCV. Thank you.



We have

recently commissioned the Rigg family who have gone to Arnhem Land with MAF. They now live on Milingimbi Island and enjoy a vastly different life to what they had in Eltham.



Tim and Kanini Mapperson have just started the process of coming under the APWM banner. For a number of years they have been working with Navigators in a part time capacity with a special focus on international students.

Rev Don Elliott  
October 2015

## Presbyterial Association's final meeting

The Presbyterial Association (PA) of North Western Victoria gathered at Rochester Presbyterian Church for their final meeting on Friday 16 October 2015.

The day commenced with a service of worship at which we were blessed to have Joy Arundell (who worked in India at PTS during 2014/2015) come and speak to us. Joy shared news about her work with youth in churches in Victoria, students and the church in India and the opportunity for her now to work with students at Deakin University.

During the PA Meeting we discussed the future of the PA. It was reluctantly but unanimously decided to close the PA, noting that we had

been blessed to have been part of this group that has functioned for over thirty-six years. Increasing age and reducing numbers combined with transportation, health and family difficulties influenced this decision. Those who had served as Office Bearers were thanked—in particular Jean Spicer and Lorraine Marshall. We gave thanks for the faithful, prayerful, sacrificial and consistent support given to our missionaries and the PA and affirmed our support of and prayer for mission work in Australia and abroad. The PWMU State Council was also thanked. The Rochester ladies were thanked for their hospitality and Barbara Wolfe for playing piano. On behalf of missionaries past and present, Alison Morrow

(PIM/Mildura) gave sincere and heartfelt thanks to the PA and friends for so faithfully supporting, encouraging and praying for missionaries over so many years.

After closing in prayer, we joined in a circle to sing *Blest be the tie that binds* and say the benediction together. Although it was a sad day in many senses, we were all exceedingly encouraged and uplifted and look forward to continuing to serve our Lord as we are able.

To mark our final meeting we gave three joyous cheers, after which we retired for afternoon tea.

Sandra Burns



FELLOW WORKERS



# Flourish in all Seasons

*'For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven.' Ecclesiastes 3:1*

Saturday 22 August brought together over seventy ladies, from different Presbyterian churches and other denominations, for a day of encouragement, refreshment and challenge. The Flourish Women's Ministry of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Clayton, hosted a Women's Conference at All Saint's Anglican Church, Clayton.

## Seasons with the Shepherd

Anne Harvey spoke from Psalm 23. We looked at what David wrote in this Psalm, and how those words remind us that God is our Shepherd through the different seasons of our lives.



Speakers from left to right, Emily Roberts, Anne Harvey, Tracey Humphries, Sue Hastie.

## Blossoming where we are planted

The hardest time to blossom is when we find ourselves in difficult situations that are not of our own choosing. Using Job, and 1 Peter 2 & 3, Emily Roberts' talk challenged us to blossom in the areas of health, honouring authority and husbands.

## Four Seasons in one day - Life with a Child with a Disability

Tracey Humphries shared a very personal story. The joys and challenges (four seasons) of everyday and her walk with God during the diagnosis, birth and life of Toby.

## The Challenge of Change and Embracing New Seasons in Life

Using the story of Ruth and some of her own experiences, Sue Hastie shared that we experience many different seasons in our lives and how God is there through them all. We can therefore embrace each season knowing that God is working for the good of those who love him.

Here are just a few comments made by some of the ladies who attended:

'It was a delight to spend time with friends and meet new people from other churches.'

'I was most encouraged by the speakers and very appreciative of the delicious food and refreshments.'

'No matter what season we are in, God is in control. I found that very uplifting.'

'I felt the conference gave me a new/clear view on how I should react in my circumstance/season.'

'The talks that were presented by the four speakers revealed things about the scriptures that I had never seen before... and I say it's an answer to prayer because probably two nights before the conference I asked God to start revealing things to me through his word, and that's exactly what happened on Saturday.'

'It was a real treat. An opportunity to step aside from life's busy-ness to reflect on God's faithfulness.'

Thank you to all who came and participated in a wonderful day.

*Flourish Women's Committee  
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Clayton*

## Bendigo: in the news

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dent and partially put my mind at rest. Soon after, an email from the local police requested a meeting—just when I was thinking it would be a good idea to make contact with them. The police could not have been more understanding or helpful and they assured us that they would be doing everything possible to steer the protesters away from our buildings. The day came and many across the state were praying. Thankfully there were no incidents. The protesters gathered on the other corner of the intersection and quickly made their way down to the park in the centre of town to make their feelings known.

Most of the October protests were well documented in media reports, but one thing you may not know is that the former Anglican Cathedral directly across the road from us was targeted with some pro-Islam graffiti. In response to that, the media circus was soon on again. Another early morning phone call, this time from the Daily Mail Online, (who didn't listen at all to what I had to say and who reported my response incorrectly), was

soon followed up by a phone call from Channel 7 (which was missed) and another from 'Eternity' magazine which



SMILE team members Charmian, Naomi and Geraldine with Hyejin and Jueun.

led to a report written for the Bible Society website after they managed to interview Russ Grinter from Reforming Church, our church plant in Bendigo's south-east. (You can read the full report here: [http://www.biblesociety.org.au/news/churches-grapple-with-unity-and-love-while-bendigo-divides-over-](http://www.biblesociety.org.au/news/churches-grapple-with-unity-and-love-while-bendigo-divides-over-proposed-mosque#.ViDF44bPxYk)

proposed-mosque#.ViDF44bPxYk.email).

But get this... while it seemed that Bendigo had become polarised over the mosque, just a month before the August protests, the Bendigo Session had approved plans to commence an ESL (English as a Second Language) ministry. It was due to commence on the second Monday of October, which, as it turned out under God's sovereign hand, was just two days after the October protests. And so soon after the ranting and raving in the streets of Bendigo died down, SMILE (Supporting Migrants In Learning English) began, without much fanfare, but with great hopes and with much prayer that our small and tentative steps toward building a bridge to the many newcomers in Bendigo will lead to gospel conversations and fruit. Please pray for the SMILE team—Naomi Boyes, Charmian King, Geraldine Mitchell and Nancy Cutlack—and pray too with thanks that God's hand of protection (in a Psalm 46 kind-of-way) was over us even in the midst of Bendigo's turmoil.

*Rev Philip Burns*



# Partnership

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE  
AUSTRALIAN PRESBYTERIAN WORLD MISSION

[www.apwm.org.au](http://www.apwm.org.au) • 81 Shaftesbury Road, Burwood NSW 2134 • (02) 8073 7490 • [national@apwm.org.au](mailto:national@apwm.org.au)

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



2015 #4

## Taking the Gospel to all nations in 2050

The immediate implication of Jesus' commission in Matthew 28:16-20 is unavoidable and timeless for his disciples. Until Jesus returns, we are all on mission all the time. We are committed to lifelong disciple-making of people from all nations.

For many years Christians have left their homes to do disciple-making in other cultures and countries. As much as ever, we want to see this happening now and for years to come. And those who don't go need to keep partnering with overseas gospel workers in prayer and finances. This is a timeless, generous and strategic commitment to the great commission.

I've been thinking about how to prepare ourselves for living out the great commission in the next few decades; particularly how younger people can be preparing now, whether they might live in Australia or overseas. This is what I have so far:

**1. Personally partner** an overseas gospel worker. There is no better way to keep our eyes lifted to the ends of the earth than to have our personal finances and prayers tied up with someone we know engaged in gospel work overseas.

**2. Connect with other Christians** when travelling overseas. International travel is increasingly common for holidays and work. When we travel, let's look for opportunities to connect with other believers. We have full itineraries and want to prioritize the tourist highlights, but visiting a church service for an hour or so, even if we don't understand the language, grows our personal connection to Jesus' worldwide, multi-ethnic church, and we're a little better equipped to pray for it and support it.

**3. Connect with gospel workers when overseas.** Visiting an overseas gospel worker in their own context helps us understand them and their work. With careful planning we can be an encouragement to them over a coffee, meal or prayer time. We could



help with some tasks (e. g. maintenance or caring for their children for a couple of hours) without turning them into our 'missions tour guide'.

**4. Think creatively about world mission.** Traditional mission models may not be the most effective strategies for gospel work in every corner of the world into the future. We need Christians who are thinking creatively about globalization, urbanization (around 1 billion people live in urban slums), technology and social media. We need creative strategies for work in regions that are too expensive or dangerous to sustain foreign gospel workers. Whatever course of study, training,

profession or hobbies we are engaged in, we want to keep thinking how they might be used by God to advance the gospel to the ends of the earth.

**5. Get equipped for world mission.** A significant way to prepare ourselves (especially younger people) for world mission is to spend time with people from other cultures and learn another language. Over the next few decades almost all of us will be in regular contact with people who speak a language other than English.

**6. Be a disciple-maker now.** Keep on making the most of every opportunity God gives us for sharing Jesus with others and making disciples wherever we are right now.

These are the things I've been thinking through for how my congregation, family and I live out the Jesus' command to make disciples now and into the next few decades. What else might we be doing?

*Russell Smidt serves as the senior minister of New Life Presbyterian Church in Gungahlin (ACT). This article first appeared on the Australian website GoThereFor.com and is reproduced by kind permission.*

## Wanted: Bible College Lecturer Vanuatu

Australian Presbyterian World Mission is looking for someone to serve as a full-time lecturer at the Talua Theological Institute, the Bible College of the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu.

The ideal candidate will have

- a heart for training the next generation of pastors and leaders in gospel ministry in Vanuatu
- either a Bachelor or a Master's degree in theology
- pastoral experience in Australia or elsewhere

Please note that the position requires the raising of Partnership Support.



For further enquires please contact the APWM Office 8073 7490  
[national@apwm.org.au](mailto:national@apwm.org.au) or Kevin Murray  
0421 366 720 [kevinmurray@apwm.org.au](mailto:kevinmurray@apwm.org.au)

“

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

”



# Update: Motor Yat

*Motor Yat is an APWM Partner Church missionary to South Sudan. However the South Sudanese civil war has prevented him from returning there and so he has been serving in Ethiopia among South Sudanese refugees for nearly two years.*

## Why can't you return to South Sudan?

South Sudan has been engulfed in a civil war since December 2013. It began with a political dispute within the government which sparked mass killing in the capital city, Juba. This then spread to other parts of the country. The dispute is between the two largest tribes in South Sudan, the Dinka majority and the Nuer. I am Nuer and if I were to return to South Sudan then my life would be in danger. Some Nuer ministers have already been killed.



MOTOR YAT

## How many South Sudanese refugees are there in Ethiopia?

Nearly half a million. Most of them are Nuer.

## What is your ministry among the refugees?

I'm sharing the Word of God so that they may know God. People are asking "Why did God allow this to happen to us? Our people have been killed and our wives raped." I share the Bible because if they have peace with God then later they will have peace with other people. This ministry among the refugees is not easy because of the trauma that they have experienced. The Ethiopian government only permits people from approved organisations to go into the camp and I have been able to get permission to go in on behalf of the Presbyterian Church of Ethiopia.

## What part does the Presbyterian Church of Ethiopia play in this?

It's a young denomination. It sends people with a small Megavoice mp3 player into the camps so that people can

gather in groups to hear Bible talks. They provide some clothing and flour to refugees as they arrive.

## What is encouraging you as you serve among the refugees?

People are willing to come and hear the Word of God. Since they are in a refugee camp they don't have anything else to do so any Bible study that I run has a lot of people!

*Motor is currently in Australia on leave. This is because his wife has divorced him. His minister, Michael Jensen, from Clayton Presbyterian Church has written the following statement:*

"As Motor Yat's pastor I would like to update you on recent developments in his life and ministry.

Motor has recently returned to Australia for three months following a very challenging time in Ethiopia and Kenya where he has been ministering to refugees.

Over the last few years Motor has hinted at some struggles in his marriage to his wife Nyariang. Both Motor and his wife have been deeply affected by the ongoing civil war in South Sudan.

Nyariang was in the north of South Sudan and was able to escape the conflict in Malakal and Nasir crossing the border to find refuge in the Ethiopian town of Gambella. Motor was able to meet up with her there and later travel with her to Addis Ababa. Sadly however she has been unwilling to remain with Motor, seeking

to withdraw from the marriage bond on a number of occasions. Sadly, she has established a relationship with another man in Kenya. Motor has been in anguish during this time, seeking to be reconciled with his wife, but she has pursued a divorce which has now taken place. [This is a very brief summary of all that has taken place.]

As Motor's sending church we have recommended to him that he returns to his home base following this very difficult and challenging time, for spiritual renewal. Motor's experience has been filled with anguish and like Hosea of old he has been learning how much God loves his people even when they reject him and pursue other things. We are currently providing biblical counselling to assist Motor so that he might face his broken marriage with forgiveness and to seek the Lord's way forward. We believe forgiveness and the removal of all bitterness are essential qualities for Motor to know in his own heart in order to return to the broken and wounded people of South Sudan who have themselves experienced the tragic breakdown of relationships that have led to bitter fighting, many deaths and deep wounds in the hearts of many people.

We love Motor very much. His gentle spirit has been sorely tested during this very challenging time. Please keep Motor and us in your prayers as we believe the Lord is working deeply in his life to prepare him to be an instrument of reconciliation among his people."

# Update: John & Rose Evans

John & Rose and their six children are currently in Australia on home assignment until mid March 2016 when they will return to Japan. They will be speaking in many churches during that time and spending time with their extended family.

They write "We are conscious of God's strength in our weakness – Japan is such a tough place for the gospel to go out, and we often wonder how he can use us here. We are nervous about leaving at this stage (it's going to be tough to leave all our relationships here for six months). The



JOHN AND ROSE EVANS WITH THEIR FAMILY

reality is, that we are weak but God is strong, and he has chosen to use us in our weakness, as he has you. Let's pray that we will be brave and bold in his strength."





# APWM CHRISTMAS GIFT CATALOGUE 2015

This Christmas why not give gifts to your friends and family and at the same time help someone who doesn't have the basics that we take for granted? The items below can provide for the needs of Christians and others in our overseas Partner Churches and APWM Aboriginal ministry.

- TRAINING (TIMOR LESTE)** A gift of \$10 will be used toward running a training conference for Pastors in the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Timor Leste.
- LIBRARY BOOKS (INDIA)** A gift of \$15 will be used to help purchase much-needed library books for the Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Dehradun, India.
- Ph.D LIVING EXPENSES (INDIA)** A gift of \$25 will be used toward living expenses for a lecturer from the Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Dehradun, India, while studying for a PhD at Christ College Sydney in 2018.
- APWM ABORIGINAL MINISTRY (WESTERN AUSTRALIA)** A gift of \$40 will help support APWM Aboriginal ministry in Mount Magnet, Western Australia in conjunction with PIM.

- APWM ABORIGINAL MINISTRY (MOUNT DRUITT, AUSTRALIA)** A gift of \$40 will help support Rick and Kayleen Manton, APWM Aboriginal ministry workers in Mount Druitt, Sydney.
- EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE (MYANMAR)** A gift of \$60 will help support the Evangelical Reformed Church in its work of educating children.
- Ph.D RENT (INDIA)** A gift of \$100 will be used toward rent for a lecturer from the Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Dehradun, India, while studying for a PhD at Christ College Sydney in 2018.
- THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE FEES (VANUATU)** A gift of \$100 will be used to help pay the fees of a student at the Talua Theological Institute in Vanuatu.

## APWM CHRISTMAS GIFT CATALOGUE 2015 ORDER FORM

### HOW IT WORKS

1. Choose the item(s) on our list that you would like to purchase for your friends/family.
2. Send us your order, including payment. Please note that these gifts are **not tax deductible**.
3. We will send you the cards you have ordered. You are then free to give these cards to your friends/family for Christmas. The cards state which gift(s) you have purchased, on their behalf, for someone in one of our Partner Churches or for APWM Aboriginal ministry. There is no monetary value printed on the card.
4. APWM then sends the money to our overseas partners to purchase items locally, or uses it for APWM ministry as specified in Australia.

### ORDER FORM / PAYMENTS

Complete this order form and send it with your payment (cheque or money order made out to 'APWM'). Please **DO NOT** send cash.

Payment can also be made via Direct Deposit (details below) or Paypal ([www.apwm.org.au/supporting/finance](http://www.apwm.org.au/supporting/finance)).

**Bank:** Westpac

**Account Name:** Australian Presbyterian World Mission

**BSB:** 032 260 **Account #:** 151207

For Direct Deposits and Paypal, please write your name in the description box and send an email informing us of your deposit ([finance@apwm.org.au](mailto:finance@apwm.org.au)).

All order forms should be mailed to:

**APWM Christmas Catalogue**  
81 Shaftesbury Road,  
Burwood NSW 2134



Item	Qty	Cost
TRAINING (TIMOR LESTE) \$10		
LIBRARY BOOKS (INDIA) \$15		
Ph.D LIVING EXPENSES (INDIA) \$25		
ABORIGINAL MINISTRY (WESTERN AUSTRALIA) \$40		
ABORIGINAL MINISTRY (MOUNT DRUITT, AUSTRALIA) \$40		
EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE (MYANMAR) \$60		
Ph.D RENT (INDIA) \$100		
THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE FEES (VANUATU) \$100		
Total		

- ☐ I enclose a cheque / money order for \$\_\_\_\_\_ or
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Please note that if any item is over-subscribed then the money will be allocated to a similar need.

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PRAYER AND FINANCE  
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Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
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I would like to support the following:  
Missionary's Name \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Please send me the missionary's prayer letter.  
☐ APWM ministry in a particular country \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate an amount  
☐ \$20 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100  
☐ other \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Please indicate how regular your payment will be:  
☐ one-off ☐ monthly ☐ quarterly  
☐ half-yearly ☐ yearly

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**1** Cheque (made out to 'Australian Presbyterian World Mission')  
**2** Credit card ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard  
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Expires: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
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**3** Direct debit  
Your account name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
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Account number \_\_\_\_\_  
Bank name \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of first payment \_\_\_\_\_

**4** Direct deposit  
Account: **Australian Presbyterian World Mission** BSB: 032-260  
Account number: 151207  
Please write your name and the surname of the missionary you are supporting in the description box.  
Please also email [finance@apwm.org.au](mailto:finance@apwm.org.au) telling us that you have made a deposit and provide the name of the missionary that you are supporting.

**Enquiries**  
[finance@apwm.org.au](mailto:finance@apwm.org.au)  
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LIFE AT THE HANGAR

*Rick and Tracey Rempel from Epping NSW & Abbotsford Canada, serve with the Missionary Aviation Fellowship 'Flying Mission Zambia' team where Rick is the Chief Pilot.*

On a weekday and on most Saturdays, and occasionally on a Sunday, there are definite signs of life in and around the Flying Mission Zambia hangar. From Monday to Friday there are a number of the guys who arrive at 7:15am. By 7:30am there is a devotional with whoever is around for the day up at the hangar. They have been going through "My Utmost for His Highest" by Oswald Chambers which has been really encouraging, but can sometimes be rather heavy at that hour of the morning.

From there daily tasks are discussed and assigned. Our auto mechanic goes to work on cars, tractors, forklifts and other machines. Our aircraft mechanics do maintenance, inspections, look at engine monitors, as well as check and change spark plugs. Our pilots refuel or de-fuel the planes, ready the plane and passengers for flights, and submit flight plans and clearances for the various flights. Our IT guy works on our internet and how it connects to each of the buildings around the FMZ plot and to various other houses nearby. Our finance lady communicates with the bank about transfers that keep things running smoothly. Our grounds manager interacts with the Zambian builders and grounds keepers. Our guest house managers see to the guests and the Zambian ladies who do the cooking and cleaning in the guest house. Our MD communicates with many, many people about many, many things. Our admin/HR manager communicates via email with people asking about FMZ and sends out



RICK REMPEL

information. We have a wonderful and diverse team of people working together at FMZ doing great things for God!  
Morning tea break comes and finds those at the hangar together for a brief moment and the camaraderie is evident.  
Lunch is had down at the guest house around the picnic tables and many topics are discussed: from children and their antics, to our challenging electricity shortages, to visitors coming to see what FMZ does, and many other things. (Occasionally during the school holidays Trace and the boys will come out for lunch to share in this fellowship).  
At 4:30pm things start wrapping up. A plane or two may be returning, or about to return from a flight, and need to be back by sundown. Tools get put back in tool boxes and then returned to storage rooms to be locked up for the night. Planes that have been worked on throughout the day will be covered up to protect them from the dust, birds and mud wasps for the night.

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# ON TRACK

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PRESBYTERIAN INLAND MISSION

ISSUE 4 2015

PROCLAIMING THE LORD JESUS CHRIST  
BY WORD AND DEED

## 'CHOCOLATE' EVANGELISM!

Opportunities to have a conversation with some spiritual content can, unfortunately, be few and far between during our patrols in Western Qld with PIM. Every morning, our specific prayer request is that God will open doors to such conversations so we can deepen the relationships we are building and give them an eternal focus. The following story is just one example of how God answered:

We had been patrolling for a few days and had arrived late in the day at a small community hall where we could have a welcome hot shower. While Greg was making himself presentable, Janet made herself known to a couple of gentlemen camping behind the hall. It wasn't long before laughter could be heard and the next thing Janet was giving them a block of chocolate from the supply we keep as gifts. These men were tourists, so it was unusual for us to give them a gift, but Janet just felt after talking with them that it was the right thing to do. They had grown up in the area and were returning for a time of

reminiscing following some difficulties in their own lives. One was an auto electrician.

Showers completed, we headed off to find a campsite along the river and away from the fine red dust. Little did we know how God would use this contact. The next day we arrived at the property of a chap who we had previously been working with, as he battled addiction to painkilling drugs resulting from many accidents handling cattle.

He was pleased to see us and invited us in for a cuppa. His conversation was very open and we felt that he was opening up and willing to discuss more about his relationship with God, when we were interrupted by his wife arriving back from the paddock. We both inwardly cried out to God, "Why now?" She was cool towards us and her sister, who was visiting, made the blunt statement, "What, do you just drive around and talk religion?!" While Janet was carefully answering, Greg overheard the wife say that the tractor had broken down and



was stuck down the paddock. Following some investigative questioning, we were able to offer to go and look at the tractor and see if some of Greg's mechanical experience could be put to good use. Wow - didn't the atmosphere in that room change!

After gathering some parts and tools out of the shed, we headed off to look at the tractor. The tractor was a Landini made in Italy, uncommon in the western areas and the closest dealer would be over 800kms away. Constantly praying under our breaths, Greg got the tractor started and drove it back to the shed through thick, choking bull dust. While driving the tractor, Greg was madly trying to diagnose what was causing the issue and realised that it was an electronic problem that was beyond his ability and would most likely require trucking the tractor back to the dealer. Then God prompted us to remember those two men Janet had spoken with and given the chocolate to the night before. Wasn't one an auto electrician?

The family were thankful that it was at least running again but Greg warned them that wouldn't last and they could



Continued on page 2



Continued from page 1

be doing further damage if they continued using it. We mentioned to them about the men we had met at the local hall and offered to see if we could find them. (Surely they owed Janet!) The reaction of the owner, his wife and sister was one of unbelief and amazement that we would be willing to help in this way. As we headed to our ute, the owner expressed how he could see God's hand working in this whole situation and he was so thankful. Our

hearts were overflowing as we drove. To hear those few words was a massive breakthrough.

Now to find those two men! Checking the hall, we discovered they had decided to go fishing down the river and we were given typical country directions, including turn right after the grid and left at the drum and just keep going until you find them. They were happy to see us, especially Janet, and were more than willing to help with the tractor. **It turned out the auto electrician had worked**

**for a NSW dealership for that particular tractor and not only knew that model and the problem but had parts in the toolbox on the back of his ute! Could you believe that!!**

For us this is a clear example of how God works, using a simple gift of chocolate to open doors into people's lives. We trust that next time we visit we will be able to continue our conversation about the Sovereign God whom we serve.

Greg and Janet Cripps

## HERDING CATS

About once every three years or so, the PIM team gathers together for a conference. This September we managed to get almost the entire team together in one place at the same time. Quite a feat, really – a bit like trying to herd cats. The PIM team are scattered across the continent, and many of them spend much of each year living something of a nomadic lifestyle.

This year's conference, held in Alice Springs during September, was a great time of fellowship, sharing and learning together. Quite a number of the team members had never met each other before, and for those who had, they

hadn't seen each other since the last conference several years ago.

Each day of the conference was commenced with a devotional prepared by Keith Bell, minister of the Alice Springs church. The conference covered a wide range of topics, including a Suicide Prevention workshop to help equip patrol teams who may find themselves ministering to a person contemplating suicide. Other sessions covered practical topics such as caring for tyres and how to repair them when out in the bush. Each team shared with the rest of the group about the needs and challenges in their patrol areas. Time was also spent on discussing

the many administrative tasks that inevitably form part of organisational life, and seeing if we could find ways to streamline some of these processes.

The team took the opportunity to visit the grave of founder John Flynn. By the graveside, the team thanked the Lord for all He has done through this ministry during the past hundred years, and we committed the next hundred years to Him.

We know that many people prayed for the PIM conference, and we thank you for your prayers. It was a great time of refreshment and encouragement for the team.

Andrew Letcher





## NEWS AND UPDATES

The Meekathara building now has a new roof and a toilet block. Please join us in asking the Lord to now raise up someone to begin ministry there.

\* \* \*

After many months, Roger and Margaret Crane are back on the road. Many miles driving on rough and corrugated roads had shaken their old camper to bits. When structural cracks began to appear, and things kept rattling loose, it was clear that the time had come to retire the old camper. A new camper was ordered and has now been installed to the back of their truck.

\* \* \*

Surendra and Ma'yan Wesley (Mount Magnet) with Ella welcomed baby Elijah into their family. We ask God's blessings on them and the family as they adjust to life as a family of four.



## WANDERING AROUND WITH ANDREW LETCHER

Some years ago, when I was undertaking some management studies at university, I studied many of the different styles and philosophies of management. One of those is called 'Management by Wandering Around.' Essentially, this approach to management aims to get managers out of their office and onto the 'factory floor' so they can see what is really going on in their organization; to



Andrew Letcher

be available to talk to staff, to help coach them through problems and to offer advice and feedback. The basic idea behind the approach is that you can't provide leadership and management if you are stuck behind your desk all the time!

'Management by wandering around' is a particularly useful and appropriate approach for the CEO of PIM. The 'factory floor' is a little larger than most factories though, and so the wandering around covers a lot of ground. In fact, in my first four months in the job I have wandered over 36,000 kilometres already - half by road and half by air.

Of course, like all good 'management by wandering around' efforts, this wandering around is not a leisurely saunter around the countryside enjoying the sites. Rather, it is about intentionally getting out and see what is happening in the remote areas of our nation. It is about visiting the PIM teams in their homes and in their patrol areas. It is about sharing the PIM story with supporting churches and state

Assemblies. It is about getting an understanding about what life in remote areas is like.

In my wanderings, I have been reminded how many Australians live in remote and isolated parts of our continent, where there is often little or no Christian witness. In so many places, the name of Jesus is not proclaimed and rarely spoken of. Their situation is both different to – and the same as – ours. Distances do indeed make life very different. Yet in other ways, isolated Australians face the same problem that I face, that you face. They face the same problem that all peoples across the globe face – their sin separates them from God. And like all of us, they need a Saviour.

Despite the hundreds of miles of corrugated roads, in the bulldust, or with the heat and the flies, isolated Aussies need to hear the Good News of Jesus, because, "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we may be saved." Acts 4:12.







# Jesus at university?

Christian Union clubs are active on almost every uni campus in Melbourne.

Deakin University Burwood boasts 25,400 students, a growing global reputation, and as their current branding suggests, an experience that is 'Worldly'.

While Deakin University is striving to 'make a difference through world-class innovation and research', Deakin University Christian Union, on the other hand, are striving to make a difference through helping students 'connect with Jesus, grow in Jesus and stand for Jesus.'

Christian Union (CU) clubs are active on almost all university campuses in Melbourne, with students meeting together to encourage each other in their own

walks with God, and to share the gospel with classmates

and other students. These clubs are supported by trained staff who are sent by the Australian Fellowship of Evangelical Students (AFES). The vision of AFES is to be 'proclaiming Jesus Christ at university to present everyone mature in Him.' Part of this is sharing the essential truths of the gospel with students who have never heard about Jesus before, or who are sceptical about the claims he makes. Another part of this is helping students understand more about our great God by reading the Bible together. This is done in large meetings, small groups, and one-to-one. A third part of the ministry is praying for the Holy Spirit to be at work in the lives of students engaging with the gospel for the first time, and for students to grow in their

love for God as they live for Him on campus.

At Deakin CU, there is a student leadership team, and Katie Finger (Warragul Church of Christ) is the President. Katie has been involved in CU for a number of years, and during this time her relationship with God has grown. By the help of the Spirit, she's come to realise that living for Christ impacts all of life—all the time, in all areas. One of Katie's highlights of CU ministry this year was during the mission week, when the students have a time of heightened evangelism. She and a friend spoke to a group of students and ended up in an hour-long

conversation about God. She says, 'I was able to share the gospel. Sadly

no one gave their life to Christ right then and there, but all over campus, Jesus is being proclaimed as Lord and Saviour.' Katie has been learning how to lead Bible studies and explain the gospel, and lead the student committee. All of these things have been really useful in the way she serves as a youth group leader at church.

Harry Wilson (Valley Presbyterian Church) has been at Deakin CU for a year now and has found that in his time on campus, his faith has already been tested and challenged. 'CU has provided a welcoming and nurturing environment where we can learn about the Bible, what God is calling us to do on campus, and how to put this into practice.' In particular, it has helped him to 'understand the desperate need

to reach those who have not yet come to Christ.' As well as being a witness for Christ in his student life, Harry helps out organising the weekly Bible Talks. He has found that this small leadership role has helped him in his service at church as well, where he is involved in leading the music team.

Next year, I'll be joining the staff team at Deakin CU, and I'm really excited and thankful for the opportunity to serve Christ in this way. I'm looking forward to being on campus, meeting students and sharing the gospel with people who perhaps have never heard it. I'm looking forward to getting to know the Christian students and reading the Bible with them. If you're starting uni next year, make sure you look out for the Christian Union stall at your campus—they'd love to meet you!

In order for AFES to send me to Deakin Uni, I need to raise \$60,000. Would you consider partnering with me in this exciting gospel work among students? Perhaps you could financially support me. Perhaps you could commit to praying for students at Deakin. Perhaps I could come and share with your congregation so they too can be partners in this mission. Many partners are needed for this work, so please consider if you can join us financially or in prayer!

You can support financially online at: <https://www.afes.org.au/support/joy-arundell> or sign up for prayer updates

by emailing: joy.deakincu@gmail.com. If you'd rather speak to me in person, please give me a call on 0403 335 869.

Joy Arundell



## Dinners and devotions for men in Portland

A few of the ladies at the Portland congregation have been providing a cooked dinner for men, many of whom are widowers and live by themselves.

This gives them an excuse for an outing and a time of companionship

that seems to be appreciated, as does the meal itself. It all started when a man (not a church goer) approached our pastor, Ian Johnstone. His wife was dying and he needed some support. Most of the men who have come during the seven years we have been

running this dinner have departed this world but others have taken their place. We still cater for more than a dozen men who come to enjoy a home-cooked meal, company and a devotional from Ian.

Ian and Val Johnstone

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

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Chiara Bilyj  
Editor



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