

Spring 2017 • Presbyterian Church of Victoria



# FELLOW WORKERS

Christians  
— in the —  
PUBLIC SQUARE





# FELLOW WORKERS

Spring 2017 • Presbyterian Church of Victoria

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### Fellow Workers

Quarterly Magazine of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

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Leongatha Presbyterian Church

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## EDITORIAL

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Kurt Vonnegut allegedly quipped: "Be a good editor. The world needs more good editors." Chiara Billy has finished nearly eight years as the editor of *Fellow Workers* and we are in the process of welcoming and training another Presbyterian pastor's daughter, Courteney Maxwell to take on the role. Chiara will be formally thanked at the upcoming General Assembly of Victoria but I want to take a moment to acknowledge her role in restoring this publication to regular production and handling all the aspects of being an editor with great aplomb.

Due to budget constraints we have reduced the size of the magazine from twenty four to sixteen pages, but will still seek to feature book reviews

alongside news articles. Although space is tight, we want the magazine to be a place where ideas pertinent to Victorian Presbyterians can be discussed in a careful and thoughtful manner. So although substantial time elapses between editions we encourage letters from our readers interacting in a constructive way with either the opinion pieces or book reviews of previous editions. You will notice in this edition an opinion piece from Brett Lee-Price about being a Christian in the public square. We are, as the Apostle Peter observes "strangers in a strange land" (1 Peter 2:11-12).

*Luke Isham, minister of Horsham Presbyterian Church and convener of the State News Committee.*



## ANGELA TENY VISITS MELBOURNE

THE HOME OF REV Michael and Mrs Kerry Jensen of St Andrews, Clayton, was the welcoming venue for an informal gathering in May to meet the ever gracious Angelina and her entourage, who had welcomed the Jensens when they accompanied Rev Chuol Yat to South Sudan in 2013. Angelina answered questions about the well-being of her family, posed by several local women, including Mrs Anne Neil, Mrs Jackie Murigi and Mrs Roslyn Brown, who all have close involvement with the South Sudanese community living in Melbourne.

A sumptuous range of food, Sudanese and Aussie, was enjoyed by all. A highlight was the delicious 'kop', prepared by Rebecca, wife of Lam Paul Gak, a current student for the ministry, involved at Clayton for a number of years. They, along with their young children, were part of the welcoming group.

Michael gave a fitting speech of blessing to Angelina, who spends her time travelling to bring encouragement to South Sudanese people living throughout the world. Her godly demeanour, and evident love for and trust in Jesus are inspirational. In conclusion, Michael presented Angelina with a Playmobil figurine of Martin Luther, as a reminder of the 500-year-old reformed heritage shared by Presbyterians wherever they are in the world. Jackie, from Kenya, had the honour of reading out the letter of greeting from Rev John Wilson, Moderator of the PCA.

No doubt the remainder of Angelina's visit to the Nuer-speaking communities in Australia, as well as to the local MP, brought great inspiration and encouragement, despite the current sad and difficult times in South Sudan. We may well hear more about this wonderful lady, her service to her people and to her God, the Lord Jesus.

*Ros Brown is a member of Cheltenham Presbyterian Church*

## ST ANDREWS MOE UPDATE

FOR NEARLY THREE YEARS evening services have been conducted at Moe, on the last Sunday of the month. These services start at 5PM and there is supper afterwards. God's message at the services has been presented in a variety of ways, with visiting speakers, missionaries, DVDs and lots of singing. Recently the theme of the service was Psalm 103 "Praise the Lord, O my soul" and our singing was supported with music by Robyn Velja from Belgrave Heights, and items by Karen Deroon, Rob and Sue McCracken, Neil and Evie McRae and Quentin Wylde. A total of 14 hymns were shared during the evening – some as items, but most with all contributing – the hymns being a mixture of old favourites and some more modern hymns. Over supper the enthusiasm shown by all was a joyful response to God's message both through the Bible and hymn singing.

Harvest Festival was celebrated recently with fresh produce distributed immediately and the grocery items collected to be used for those in need in the community over several months.

St Andrew's, Moe also hosted an evening with Eduard Klasson and his wife Christine. Eduard is a Paraguayan Folk Harpist who

travels the world presenting his music, his life story, including his faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Donations from the evening were given to Reach Beyond, Australia, to further their work in broadcasting the Christian message overseas.

We thank God for the opportunity and freedom we have here to be able to use many ways to share the message of grace and salvation. With all the changes taking place in the Latrobe Valley we ask for your prayers, so that we can continue to reach out to the community.

*Ruth Ure is a member of St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Moe*

## LEONGATHA HOLIDAY PROGRAM

'EVERYONE'S INVITED TO the Party at the King's house' by Sharny Russell was the theme song for the 3 days of the 5th annual children's holiday program at Leongatha Presbyterian Church held during the first week of the mid-year school holidays. The theme was 'Mexican', inspired by the Mexican desert backdrop loaned to us by ROCK ministries from Clayton. Games, songs, skits, memory verses and bible stories most often had a Mexican flavour to them, including Colin's '10, 9, 8' sung with numbers in Spanish. The



morning was capped off by the ongoing drama of 'The Mystery of the missing taco sauce'.

#### Children's Activities

31- 36 children attended each day of the program. The weather, although very cold, allowed for two days of outdoor games to start the morning. Children then watched an up-front program where the message of Jesus being the way into God's kingdom was presented from various angles. Stories included 'The prodigal's son', 'Jesus heals blind Bartimaeus', and 'The parable of the great banquet' which were all connected to the message within the theme song. Each day also had its own memory verse to learn. Children then divided into age related SPARK groups ranging from Kinder to year 8, although on the last day an older sister in year 12 joined the Grade 6-plus group. During SPARK groups the story was reinforced and the children enjoyed crafts, games and special interaction with their group leaders.

An engaging drama kept the children waiting for the next episode to see whether Pedro, with his abuelo (grandfather), could overcome the temptation to give up, their troubles and baddies dressed up as cacti, all while following clues in their quest to find the missing taco sauce. The sauce was found bringing great joy to all in Pedro's family.

#### SPARK Team 2017

The team of 28 leaders ranging from 13-over 60 years old, was made up of 20 from our Leongatha congregation and friends, as well as a group of 8 from Clayton Presbyterian Church who have served on the ROCK ministries team. We are very thankful for the ongoing support from our friends at Clayton and the resources lent to us by ROCK ministries.

#### God Demonstrates His Strength And Faithfulness Through Our Weakness

The team met on the first Monday at the church to prepare for the 3 days to follow. Many were feeling their needs in different ways - limited music skills, first time on team, not confident up-front, not knowing many others on team, not totally prepared, bad backs, headaches, feeling vulnerable ... but with the encouragement of devotions, fellowship and prayer, God demonstrated His strength in our weakness and gave us an increased assurance of His love and faithfulness. Many prayers were answered, bringing joyful encouragement and testimony as they were shared within the team. The whole team plus extras attended our SHINE (youth and young adults) evening on the Wednesday night of the same week. SHINE is an informal time of worship with testimony from a guest speaker. 51 people shared in a meal provided by our church, before being blessed by testimony from our friend Susan, titled 'The precious love of Jesus' which has changed her life and continues to do so.

*Gary Wentworth, minister of Leongatha Presbyterian Church*

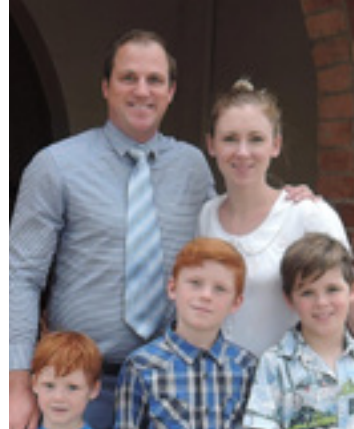
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### EXIT STUDENT PROFILE

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## STEVEN KILNER

I GREW UP IN A CHRISTIAN home and attended a Baptist church from the age of six. During these early years, Christianity made an impression on me to the point where I reformed my life and even got baptised. Sadly, this was only external compliance and it wasn't until several years later while reading Martyn Lloyd Jones' commentary on justification I realised I never



had a personal relationship with Christ. Consequently, I trusted Him as my Saviour and my heart was filled with peace.

I met my wife Jodie at the church I grew up. Her family started to attend and Jodie and I felt a kindred spirit between us as soon as we met. We married two years later and our love for each other continues to mature. We now have three sons. Samuel is the oldest and he is nine years old. He has a wonderful imagination, enjoys table tennis and is progressing well in his piano lessons. Christian is eight years old and is full of energy. He has weekly swimming lessons at 6 in the morning and is very helpful around the house. Both attend Kangaroo Ground Primary School. Taylor is five and attends the preschool next to the school. Although cheeky, he is very loving, and for his age has exceptional skills in tennis, being able to accurately hit a forehand and backhand over the net.

Before Bible college, I worked at Target for 15 years as a customer assistant. It was a monotonous job but enabled me to develop character and share my faith. During this time I undertook a Christian Workers certificate and I also studied at the Australian Catholic University to be a qualified teacher aide.

My time at the Presbyterian Theological College has been a very well-rounded experience. My spiritual life was always nourished through fellowship, prayer groups and chapel services. My critical thinking skills were certainly enhanced by



always interacting with several scholars to complete my essays. At the end of all the many lectures and rigorous study, I believe I now possess a much more fully developed and richer theology. There were not many lowlights, but if I had to pick one it would be the strain and toll that study and ministry demands put on family life. However, my family have been very gracious and patient with me and thankfully I have learnt since then to cultivate a healthier balance between the two.

I could not have chosen a better place than Kangaroo Ground (KGPC) to begin pastoral ministry. The congregation at KGPC has made us feel very welcome in many ways and our hearts have been touched by their love. The surrounding rural area is also stunning and my three sons have certainly enjoyed the extra space to roam around in and explore

their sense of adventure. My sons all ride their bikes to school and church on Sunday mornings and have made several friends at the Wycliffe campus. Consequently, it hasn't been difficult for my family to embrace the area and the church as our new spiritual home.

I truly believe KGPC has great potential to grow spiritually and numerically and we have already seen some growth since moving here. It is my desire to reach out to the children in the local area. KGPC is strategically located to achieve this being both opposite a school, and 200 metres away from Wycliffe. I plan on starting an after-school and holiday club activities when we have the resources.

*Steven Kilner is a graduate of the Presbyterian Theological College and a supply preacher for Kangaroo Ground Presbyterian Church.*

## MINISTRY MOVES

### Presbytery of Flinders

Mr Joel Mestry was ordained 7 July and appointed to Dandenong Presbyterian Church

### Presbytery of Gippsland

Dr Karl Hood was ordained 28 May and appointed to the Drouin congregation for 12 months

### Presbytery of Geelong

Rev Willem Vandenberg retired 16 July from Inverleigh Presbyterian Church

### Health & Community Chaplaincy Committee

Mrs Anne Harvey was appointed 11 July as the new HCCC Administrator and Camp Co-ordinator

### Presbytery of Melbourne East

Rev Grant Lawry retired 31 July from Canterbury Presbyterian Church

# DAYSPRING DAY 2017



BRING MONEY FOR A BOOKSTALL!  
WE WILL BE RAISING MONEY FOR  
THE MISSIONARIES.



## WHAT

DSD aims to teach children to encourage, and to be, God's special missionaries. Our theme this year is 'the pilgrim's journey', based on the Pilgrim's Progress. Dress ups are welcome! We will be decorating cookies, meeting missionaries, and playing fun games. All ages are welcome. Don't forget your lunch!

## WHERE

Wycliffe Bible Translators, 70  
Graham Road, Kangaroo Ground

## PRICE

Absolutely free!

QUESTIONS? CONTACT CASSIE

EMAIL [cassie@hoodfamily.org.au](mailto:cassie@hoodfamily.org.au)

CALL 0409 141 470

## WHEN

Wed, 27<sup>th</sup> September  
10am-1.30pm

## THE

PILGRIM'S  
JOURNEY





OPINION

# No time to retreat from the public square

by Brett Lee-Price

Christians are becoming increasingly marginalised within a society that owes much to the Biblical principles that undergird it. Those who hold to positions contrary to the preferential flavour of the time feel shunned, while those daring few who publicly articulate such stances are silenced through a barrage of derogative labels, statements and expletives.

With such ardent hostility awaiting those who attempt to be faithful to God, it is easy to see why a revival of monasticism would be appealing. However, Christians have not, and have never been, called to adorn themselves with bubble-wrap or escape into isolation.

We, who profess Christ, have been charged by our Creator with telling a unique message of eternal significance to as many as we can. To denote this weighty task, Paul in 2 Corinthians 5:18-21 uses the strong language of “ambassadors for Christ”, when referring to all of those who have been reconciled and are now entrusted with the message of reconciliation.

Ambassadors, in modern times as well as in antiquity, not only convey important messages, of which the gospel has no equal, but ensure that the interests of those they represent are made known. As such, they are never absent from the public sphere. They cannot afford to be. Their finger is on the pulse. The stakes are too high.

In similar manner, God’s prophets also performed such duties. They sought to convey a message of reconciliation in that they exhorted people to be reconciled with God. The tenacity of many of the prophets demonstrated their drive to ensure that the Lord’s interests were clearly known, even in times when such messages were met with hostility. Needless to say, many were persecuted, and some even were killed.

Yet, understanding our role as a messenger or ambassador of Christ should help us in two ways. First, there should be no compartmentalisation of our lives between this role with which we’ve been entrusted and our own lives. Secondly, Christians must remember that there is not a time when they are not representing Christ.

Christians need to ensure that God’s “interests” are made known, especially when these are being transgressed. Indeed, when Christians speak up on an issue which challenges God’s established order, such as the current push for same-sex marriage, not only are they carrying out their role as an ambassador, but they are performing an act of stewardship in seeking to preserve that which God has created, and that which He has also imparted to us to manage.

The church needs to declare Christ’s sovereignty over every single facet of human life without exception – schools, work and the home.

If the local church, as Christ’s embassy, is not equipping its people in how to engage publicly in the world around it, then it is failing in one of its key roles.

Christianity is by its very nature public. Those who confess Christ must convey the message of reconciliation with which we’ve been entrusted. If we do not, we are selfishly hiding the way of eternity from the world, and thereby undermining Christ’s mission of the cross which calls all people everywhere to repent and believe unto Him as Lord.

To fulfil this mission, we need to ensure that all of God’s word is heard and spoken on, and that the preaching of His message is not limited to the confines of our own buildings.

*Brett Lee-Price is part of the Drummoyne Baptist Congregation in Sydney’s inner west. He is also founder and executive director of “Thinking of God”, an organisation promoting Reformed theology.*



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## PIERCING THE HARD SHELL OF UNBELIEF

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### **Making Sense of God: An Invitation to the Sceptical**

By Timothy Keller

(London: Hodder & Stoughton, 2016). Paperback: 336 pages.

ISBN: 978-1444750201

Reviewed by Ben Nelson

**T**he Christian evangelist in the West soon encounters a considerable obstacle: a deep-seated apathy to all questions of faith. Why should religion be considered at all? Who even listens to our carefully crafted arguments concerning the resurrection or nature's witness to the Creator, when the framework of secularism seems so well-founded and self-evident?

It is this hard shell of unbelief that Timothy Keller, Manhattan's best-known Presbyterian church-planter and apologist, is seeking to pierce with his latest book. In his previous work, *The Reason for God*, Keller provided a more traditional case for Christianity. In *Making Sense of God*, he is starting further back, targeting the assumptions that prevent our secular age from taking religion seriously.

Keller is basically mounting a (very polite!) critique of our culture's core values, and he does it very well. He challenges the dichotomy between faith (religion) and rationalism (atheism or secular humanism), demonstrating that doubt itself is only possible because of adherence to competing faith-claims. He also dismisses as Eurocentric the comfortable secular narrative of religion's inevitable decline.

However, Keller is at his best when he exposes the bankruptcy of secular attempts to explain the values that humanity holds most dear. Far from providing freedom, meaning and self-identity, the secular flight from God banishes satisfaction and meaning, renders freedom as incoherent, and destroys all true sense of self, since there can be no true scale of meaning without a transcendent reference point.

Above all, secularism fails to explain morality. Keller deftly counters the typical atheistic outrage at the suggestion that non-believers are immoral. Of course they may be good and noble people, but where is the logical basis for their conduct? Darwin's natural selection, 'red in tooth and claw', cannot

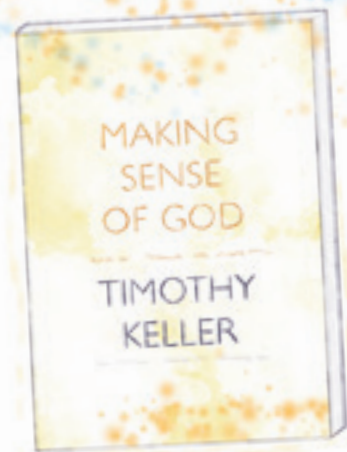
explain altruism or self-sacrifice; and the alternative – that moral values are socially constructed – may preserve our modern sense of 'freedom' but provides no basis for condemning, say, Nazi Germany, or for praising modern democracy. Keller is able to conclude that secular morality could be entitled 'The Emperor has no clothes'.

As he engages with secular culture, Keller is quite rightly prepared to admit the faults and failings of Christians themselves. There is a potential weakness in this approach, however. Keller does not define his terms when he claims that Christian teaching has been used to support 'oppression'. Is that oppression according to biblical ethics, or oppression as defined by modern identity politics? As we have seen, even the simple statement of the former can be condemned as 'oppression' in our politically-charged environment.

The temptation for modern Christian apologists can be to throw overboard all previous Christian generations as uncomfortable baggage in order to provide a fresh new 'biblical' approach to current concerns. This is simply impossible, even though we must constantly confess our sins and return to the scriptures as our touchstone.

Despite this one note of caution, I would heartily recommend Keller's work. It will challenge you in your own Christian walk, since we all to some extent absorb the values of secular culture. But it will especially help as you seek, lovingly and patiently, to dismantle the defences of your unbelieving friends and neighbours.

*Ben Nelson is a ruling elder at South Yarra Presbyterian Church, and a final-year candidate for the ministry at the Presbyterian Theological College in Melbourne.*



# Partnership



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE  
AUSTRALIAN PRESBYTERIAN WORLD MISSION

2017 #3

[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.*

## FOCUS ON INDIGENOUS MINISTRY

*It is extremely encouraging to see that over the last few years the number of APWM missionaries serving among Australia's Indigenous community has been growing. Praise God for this development! Please keep these servants in your prayers. Some see times of great encouragement while others encounter great obstacles.*

CLIFF & CAROLYN LETCHER



**Cliff & Carolyn Letcher** serve with APWM and Australian Indigenous Ministries (AIM). They provide pastoral support & encouragement to AIM Workers and Aboriginal leaders in the Northern Territory. This involves them spending a considerable amount of time in the Northern Territory.

RICK & KAYLEEN MANTON



**Rick & Kayleen Manton** (APWM National) serve the Mount Druitt Indigenous Church where Rick is the minister. Mount Druitt, in Sydney's western suburbs, has one of the highest concentrations of Indigenous Australians in NSW. They will be concluding 20 years of ministry at Mount Druitt at the end of 2017. They are seeking the Lord's will regarding their next field of service.

SURENDRA & MAY WESLEY



**Surendra & May Wesley** serve with APWM and Presbyterian Inland Mission (PIM). Surendra cares for the Mount Magnet Presbyterian Church where 10-14 local people (including many Indigenous people) attend the weekly worship service. Twice a week he goes on PIM Patrol, visiting outback stations and building relationships with the station owners. He also serves as the chaplain at the District High School, and is getting to know many Indigenous families in the area. A women's fellowship has commenced under May's leadership.

BOB & LUCY QUINN



**Bob & Lucy Quinn** serve with APWM and Australian Indigenous Ministries (AIM). They seek to train Aboriginal Lay Church Leaders to help strengthen Aboriginal Churches, communities and people through Theological Education on by Extension (TEE). They are currently surveying Churches to determine beliefs, attitudes and behaviours that currently exist in Indigenous Churches.

DENNIS & GLENYS TRANTER



**Dennis & Glenys Tranter** serve with APWM and Global Recordings Network Australia. They are developing teaching material for Indigenous people in Australia. Serving with Global Recordings Network enables them to tap into existing I.T. networks. They are helping with the writing and recording of Biblical stories and teaching material. These will also be used by Christians in other countries.

HEATHER BARR



Heather's departure for Zimbabwe has been delayed because it has not been easy to obtain the necessary paperwork for her visa. It is hoped she will leave by July.

“

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)

”



# WHO ARE OUR PARTNER CHURCHES?

The Presbyterian Church of Australia has formally recognised Partner Church relationships with seven overseas Partner Presbyterian Churches. Why have we limited ourselves to seven? This is because we want our Partner Church relationships to be genuine relationships with depth where we are able to spend time with one another and strengthen our bond in Christ.

## INDIA



PCA Moderator General, the Rev John Wilson signs a Partner Church Agreement with the Moderator of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of India, the Rev Mohan Chacko.

## TIMOR LESTE



Opening of the Dili Presbyterian Church

In Timor Leste (East Timor) we have a Partner Church relationship with the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Timor Leste

## JAPAN



The Osaka Christian (Presbyterian) Church

In 2016 we renewed our Partner Church relationship with the Presbyterian Church in Japan.

## VANUATU



The Vanuatu Assembly in session

Our oldest Partner Church relationship is with the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu.

## MALAWI



Members of the Mangunda Congregation

In Malawi we have a Partner Church relationship with the Church of Central Africa Blantyre Synod.

## ZAMBIA



Members of the Kaunda Square Congregation

In Zambia we have a Partner Church relationship with the Church of Central Africa Zambia Synod.

## MYANMAR



Pastors and students from the Evangelical Reformed Church of Myanmar, studying at an Intensive at the Reformed Bible Institute.

In Myanmar we have a Partner Church relationship with the Evangelical Reformed Presbyterian Church. The Rev Dr Thang Bwee leads this church.

## Conclusion of Service

The following people have recently concluded their service with APWM:

- Morris & Florianna Key (Cornerstone NSW APWM Associates, Indonesia)
- Paul & Elaine (South Burnett QLD, ICC East Asia)
- James & Christina Thomas (Wentworthville NSW, GRN Australia)

We thank them for their service for Christ.



# The Word of God: Penetrating Hearts

*An extract from Motor Yat's latest prayer letter. Motor serves among South Sudanese refugees in a UNHCR refugee camp in Ethiopia.*

"Life in the camp is getting harder day-by-day but the word of God is penetrating in the hearts of the people. Women's groups are growing, youth in the churches are becoming active and they are drawing unbelievers to the churches. Some were converted to faith in Jesus Christ through youth conferences in the camps, but others are still living a worldly life. Refugees in the camps hear the gospel and receive some education. Many are idle, frustrated, and trauma is real. Many people who never had an opportunity to go to church before can now attend Sunday services in the camps,



WOMEN WHO ARE NOW ABLE TO READ THE BIBLE IN NUER, THEIR MOTHER TONGUE

and many are growing in faith. Our prayer is that the word of Christ will be rooted in their lives. There are many challenges among the youth in the camps. There is no school for those who have reached high school level in South Sudan or for university students who were interrupted by the current crisis. These groups end up idle and some cause violence, the UN provides school for primary level students and those up to grade 8 in Ethiopia."

## Rick & Tracey Rempel

Rick and Tracey Rempel have moved permanently from Zambia to Canada. Rick will now train pilots at the Prairie College of Mission Aviation in Canada.



RICK & TRACEY REMPEL

## Vanuatu Cyclone Update

Many will remember the devastating Cyclone Pam which struck Vanuatu in 2015. Australian Presbyterians gave very generously toward help for our sister church, the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu. However sometimes rebuilding works can take some time. On the projects with which we assisted was the rebuilding of the Boys Dormitory at the Assie Bible College. This Bible College is run by the Central Islands Presbytery and runs a certificate level Bible course. Below are some photos from the Opening Ceremony of the rebuilt Dormitory.



BOYS DORMITORY AT THE ASSIE BIBLE COLLEGE



THE ASSEMBLY CLERK, PASTOR ALLEN NAFUKI, OPENING THE DORMITORY



AFTER THE OPENING

## John & Rose Evans

John & Rose are currently in Australia on compassionate leave. For a number of years they have been trying to deal with the effects of a difficult parasite that has affected the family, especially Rose. While in Australia they are seeking medical advice regarding the best treatment. Please join with us in praying for them — especially at a time when the team in Japan is starting to function well prior to the commencement of church planting in Chiba city in early 2018.



THE CHIBA CITY CHURCH PLANTING TEAM



# PRAYER AND FINANCE Response Form

Please send to: **APWM**

81 Shaftesbury Rd, Burwood NSW 2134

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Church \_\_\_\_\_

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

## Four Ways to Give

**1** Cheque (*made out to 'Australian Presbyterian World Mission'*)

**2** Credit card ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

Name on card: \_\_\_\_\_

Expires: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Note: we are unable to accept AMEX

**3** Direct debit

Your account name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

BSB \_\_\_\_\_

Account number \_\_\_\_\_

Bank name \_\_\_\_\_

Note: Credit card and direct debit payments will be processed on or about the 20th day of the month. Please indicate which month payments should commence.

**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) • (02) 8073 7490  
[www.apwm.org.au/supporting/finance](http://www.apwm.org.au/supporting/finance)

# Clare in Niger

Clare Richardson left her home church in Leeton just over 12 months ago, to travel to Niger and live amongst an unreached people group in a remote part of the country.

In her most recent prayer letter she tells about coming home, from a language learning retreat with her team, to her small village. Noticing something different in the way the village women were working together, she went to see them and learned that while they were away a young boy had suffered a fit and died. This is what she said about her experience of sitting with the family, who are part of a community where emotion is not expressed openly:

"I just sat there with the little boy's mother. With no tears in her eyes, but evident sadness, she recounted to me again what had happened. His father returned from sitting under the tree, and I greeted him. His heart was aching and I could see it in his face. As he sat staring off into the distance, I was again reminded of the uncertainty of life. I realised how I expect tomorrow to come

and go, and the next day to follow. Each day really is a gift from God as he puts air in our lungs. Whilst I am certain of what comes when I die, I know many don't have any security. God has invited us to put our trust in Jesus for eternal life, he's given us a way to have assurance."

Clare's friends in this family are not yet believers, but she and the village chief, a believer himself, were able to share the love of Jesus by sitting with the family in their grief and listening to songs like this: *"There is no trouble in the house of our Father, There is no death in the house of our Father, We are feeling happy in the house of our Father, Jesus is the Saviour there."*

Please pray with Clare that, even in difficult moments, she will keep showing to the people of this village in Africa the beauty of Jesus' kingdom to come, in which there will be no more sadness, death, or tears.



# AUSTRALIAN PRESBYTERIAN WORLD MISSION

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# ON TRACK

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PRESBYTERIAN INLAND MISSION

ISSUE 3 2017

PROCLAIMING THE LORD JESUS CHRIST  
BY WORD AND DEED

## LITTLE CHURCH, LITTLE TOWN, BIG GOD

Mt Magnet sits about six hundred kilometres North East of Perth and is listed amongst the five most disadvantaged towns in Western Australia. Right in the middle of Mt Magnet is a little Presbyterian Church. That little church is one of the very rare places where the gospel is proclaimed in the area.

About half the town's population are Aboriginal Australians, so the Presbyterian Church in 'Magnet', as the locals call it, is a ministry of PIM in partnership with APWM.

PIM Ministry workers Surendra and May Wesley have been based in the town for over two years now and are committed to long-term ministry there. Between them they carry out a range of ministry activities in the area, including patrol ministry to outlying properties and local ministry in the town. Here they tell a little of the story of the growing ministry amongst the children in the town.

*Last year we had an average of two or three children each Sunday and held our Sunday School for half an hour just before church. We spoke with a few people in the community about what we could do to include more children, and we also decided that half an hour was just not enough time.*

*So, this year we have held our Sunday School after church for about an hour and our attendance has grown and grown. We currently have 24 children on our roll.*

*We average about 11 children each week. About two thirds of these kids are aboriginal and we also have some Irish, Indian and Aussie kids too, so it is a very multicultural bunch. Two of the families from the local Catholic Church are sending their children to our Sunday School as the Catholic Church does not currently offer a children's program.*

*We see it as a privilege that they feel comfortable in sending their children to our program.*

*Currently the only children in Sunday School who are from our church family are our own – so other than the catholic families the rest of the children are from non-church-going families who have little opportunity to hear the gospel anywhere else.*

*People have noted that the kids' behavior in Sunday School is much better than at their regular school. We attribute this to them being hungry for God's word and an appreciation of the boundaries and expectations we have set. We have not had to enforce any strict rules or deal with any really bad behaviour.*

*Occasionally some of the children, not knowing the time, will come along early and attend church as well as Sunday School.*

*Our program is kept very simple – we sing a few Sunday School songs, watch a video of a Bible story, discuss it briefly then do an activity related to the story. We have been working through the Old Testament this year.*

*Now that we have children in regular attendance we are trying memory verses and we have challenged the older children to learn the books of the Bible.*

*We like to celebrate each child's birthday as it comes and last term it worked well to have a shared lunch with all the parents at the end of the term.*

*In our small Sunday School room we have enough space for 18 children. We have not exceeded this number yet but if all the kids on our roll showed up on the same day we would quickly run out of room. We are thinking of ideas of how we might increase our available space.*

*God is at work in the lives of people in Mt Magnet. If you would like to help financially support this growing ministry, please send your gift to the PIM office or through APWM.*



Sunday School in Magnet



## NO GOLDEN ARCHES

The McDonalds are now "Going where no McDonalds (golden arches variety) have gone before!"

David and Gae write: We have been concentrating on the area between Brewarrina and Bourke and north to the Queensland border. We are learning some of the local 'lingo': Brewarrina is locally called "Bree", Weilmoringal is "Wheel" and Goodooga is still called Goodooga.

The station people are very happy to see us. There are two separate station social groups that we have been invited to be part of. We are now on a group email list for one of the groups that meet at least monthly. We are looking forward to building relationships with these people.

One of the differences between the Darling (NSW) and Flynn (SA) patrols that we have noticed so far is that the

stations are a lot closer together, so they act as mini communities. Geographically in the NW NSW – there are more trees, fewer mountains, more fences and fewer dry river beds to camp by.

The common aspects of both patrols – still very few churches, friendly country people, their nearest town is hours away, families often live beside each other for generations and some still remember being called upon by their Inland Mission Padre/Patrol Team. More importantly, we all have the need for Christ Jesus and His saving grace.

The congregation at Narrabri Presbyterian Church has been very welcoming and supportive with regular prayer time and sharing around different kitchen tables.

Our patrol schedule has been put out of kilter in recent weeks with rain closing outback roads, flood damage at our Lismore property and a run in with the



'flu. Please pray that the barriers to being out on patrol will be removed so we can get back out amongst the people we are seeking to serve.

Thank you to all who have helped us and cared for us in so many different ways. It has been great to be reminded of the joy of being part of God's family.

## PROCLAIMING CHRIST IN TASMANIA

Kim Jaeger writes:

After carrying out deputation visits to churches in Tasmania, the work of the Tasmanian Patrol has begun in earnest. I frequently conduct services at St. James Presbyterian Church in Stanley, North West Tasmania and patrol ministry in the Midlands.

On one sunny day, unusually warm for May, I enjoyed three lengthy conversations on first time visits, with invitations to call again. However, it isn't always like this. Though people are generally polite and willing to receive my contact card, these are encounters of the first kind and often last just a few minutes. My hope is

to build relationships over repeat visits, requiring the commitment of time and prayer, similar to most outreach work.

The Midlands encompasses the length of the highway between Hobart and Launceston and the land to the east and west of the road. Some of the area is predominantly larger farms, while other regions are a mixture of commercial properties and hobby farms. The hobby farmers either work away from their properties or are retirees. Some of the commercial properties have been in the same family for several generations, originating from land grants given by the State Government back in the 1800s.

It's great to have the Holden Trailblazer with its ground clearance as I have already negotiated some driveways that better resemble a four wheel drive track, with deep holes filled with water, and one gravel driveway so steep I engaged low ratio four wheel drive. Mostly patrols are a mixture of sealed and gravel roads reasonably maintained, though Tasmanian weather frequently dishes out wet muddy conditions and fog or ice on those bitterly cold mornings all too frequent in the depths of winter. On occasion snow settles in some of the higher Patrol areas.

Though the distances are not as great as some of the other PIM Patrols, it is

surprising how remote some of the Midlands can feel and how lacking it is in the witness of a Christian church. Please pray that meaningful relationships are built and the Good News can reach across the paddocks and bring joy to solitary homesteads.

Kim is still building a team of financial supporters to help make this ministry sustainable for the long term. If you would like to join that team, please contact Kim or the PIM Office for information on how to give.



## EATING OUT IN NARRABRI



There is nothing quite like a meal cooked slowly all afternoon in a cast iron camp oven buried under hot coals. This was the feast that awaited members of Narrabri Presbyterian Church and guests who gathered in the backyard of Terry and Judy Saddlers' home, former PIM workers, one crisp winter evening in June.

Apart from the great food and fellowship, those who attended enjoyed learning more about the ministry of PIM from CEO Andrew Letcher and PIM Ministry Team David and Gae McDonald.

The evening raised over \$2,000 to help take the Gospel to isolated people in NW NSW. Thank you Narrabri!

## LOOKING FOR A UNIQUE CHRISTMAS PRESENT?

*Views Beyond the Furthest Fence* is a fabulous photographic essay of the history of PIM, and our predecessor the Australian Inland Mission. It makes a great coffee table book, and is a terrific gift for the hard to buy for person.

Copies of this limited edition book are available through the PIM website for \$50 plus postage and handling. Order now and make a head start on your Christmas shopping, at the

same time as supporting the ministry of PIM.



## WANDERING AROUND WITH ANDREW LETCHER



Andrew Letcher

When Jesus gave us the Great Commission in Matt. 28, He didn't command us to make converts, but rather he commissioned us to 'make disciples'.

Whilst a convert might profess faith and align themselves with Jesus, a disciple has a much deeper relationship. Discipleship is a lifelong journey of growing in love for Jesus and in a deeper understanding of His Word. A disciple learns, and changes and matures as they follow their Master through the seasons of life.

The work of making disciples is hard. It requires effort and diligence for the discipler and the disciple. It starts with evangelism and then continues throughout all of life. Making disciples in remote and isolated areas brings extra challenges. For many of us, the opportunity to hear biblical preaching each week, perhaps followed up with

small group Bible studies, helps us on the journey of discipleship. Fellowshiping with other believers also enables us to spur one another on. But for disciples of Jesus who live in isolated places, regular church attendance can be virtually impossible. There may be no Bible studies to attend, and there may be no other believers with whom to fellowship regularly.

It is in these places that PIM Ministry Teams serve. Seeking to bring the Good News of Jesus to people, sometimes for the very first time, and encouraging and edifying disciples of Jesus. Pray for PIM Ministry Teams, that God will use them to build His kingdom, even in the most out of the way places.

Can there be a greater privilege in life than to be used by God as He brings someone from darkness into the Light?





**PRESBYTERIAN  
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**RESPONSE FORM**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Donation – PIM general funds		Donation – PIM NW NSW/David and Gae McDonald	
Donation – PIM Mid West/Surendra Wesley		Donation – PIM Mungo/Colin and Alison Morrow	
Donation – Tasmania/ Kim and Kathryn Jaeger		<b>Total</b>	

Payment details:

- ☐ Cheque enclosed (Payable to Presbyterian Inland Mission)  
☐ Charge my Credit Card    ☐ Visa    ☐ Mastercard

Card No.     Expiry date \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Name on card \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Return with payment to:

PIM  
PO Box 4014  
Croydon Hills Vic 3136  
Ph: (03) 9005 8256  
Fax: (03) 9876 1941  
email: [admin@pim.org.au](mailto:admin@pim.org.au)



## **Presbyterian Church of Victoria**

### **Ministry Development Officer**

**Do you live with a desire to see the truth about Jesus Christ changing people's lives? Do you have a passion to see spiritually revitalised churches living out healthy fruitful lives under God in their communities? If that is your desire then you might be the gospel worker that the Ministry Development Committee (MDC) is seeking as its Officer.**

The MDC is a committee of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria (PCV) and is charged with the work of promoting the spiritual health of congregations within the PCV. The MDC Officer would be vitally engaged with the development and implementation of strategies for revitalisation and the extension of ministries in PCV congregations. The role includes oversight of the home mission program, providing relevant training and mentoring both church leadership and congregations, and the support, building up and extension of congregations through evangelism.

The Officer is directly accountable to the MDC and will work towards the goals and aims of the MDC. The position is a full-time appointment for an initial 3 year term. Annual performance reviews will provide valuable feedback and help to refine the role and develop the work. Subject to satisfactory review there is provision for a further 5 year extension.

Expressions of Interest, including a letter of application and a resume should be submitted to The Convener, Ministry Development Committee, Presbyterian Church of Victoria, 156 Collins St Melbourne, VIC. 3000 by 4pm on Friday 29th September 2017. Further information about the position (including a full job description) can be obtained from the Convener of the Ministry Development Committee through its Office Administrator Mr Ben Palmer at email [mdc@pcv.org.au](mailto:mdc@pcv.org.au) or phone 03 9655 1406.

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