

Spring 2018 · Presbyterian Church of Victoria



FELLOWWORKERS

GOSPEL PARTNER- SHIPS



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EDITORIAL

Partnership in Ministry

Paul writes to his friend and fellow worker, Philemon: 'I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers, because I hear about your love for all his holy people and your faith in the Lord Jesus. I pray that your partnership with us in the faith may be effective in deepening your understanding of every good thing we share for the sake of Christ. Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the Lord's people.' (Philemon 1:4-7 NIV).

In this edition, I'd like to highlight just a few of the ways that our churches today work together to support one another and to spread the gospel. From new church plants, outreach missions, revitalisation and rebuilding work, to the passionate locals, hardworking individuals and supportive teams who encourage each other in ministry. I hope these stories will bring joy and encouragement to you as you read them, just as the partnership of Paul's friends did to him.

Courteney Maxwell, Editor of Fellow Workers

Fellow Workers

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NEW LIFE – THROUGH PARTNERSHIP

IN OCTOBER 2017 THE Presbytery of Flinders decided to revitalise St. Cuthbert's Presbyterian Church in Brighton through partnership with the Clayton congregation. Brighton had been blessed during 2017 to have Nick & Joy Arundel living in the manse and leading a prayer meeting each week as well as assisting with pulpit ministry. Their departure to take up an exit appointment at Auburn left a void which thankfully has been filled by Nick & Angela Crawley from the Clayton congregation.

The small congregation has been encouraged by a steady growth in numbers consisting of families from Clayton and new local Brighton people attending each Sunday. The congregation has grown from an average of around 6 – 8 people in 2017 to between 20 – 25 people each Sunday in 2018. Preaching each week is undertaken by Rev. Michael Jensen (Interim moderator), Rev. Ivan Barker, Rev. Frank Savage and Mr. Nick Crawley, and a weekly prayer meeting held each Thursday.

A special service was held on Sunday 8th April following Easter to dedicate 50 new ESV pew Bibles that were kindly donated by a local who has become part of the congregation with his wife. There were 37 people in attendance and a very encouraging response to the provision of bibles with everyone making good use of these during the sermon.

A recent working bee consisted of 15 people who shared in weeding the gardens, spraying the tennis courts, polishing the pews, cleaning the windows and generally making Brighton an inviting environment for those joining together to wor-



ship and bear witness to our great God. It was a great encouragement to the Session and Board to see such a supportive response from those attending.

There are many challenges facing Brighton in building a strong congregation that will be able to support full time ministry and manage the resources that God has entrusted to us with vision and wisdom. We greatly value the prayers of the wider church that Jesus would build his church afresh in Brighton and that men, women, boys and girls would be born again of His Spirit to join in bearing witness to the gospel.

Rev. Michael Jensen is the minister of Clayton Presbyterian Church.

PYV BONFIRE

ON THE NIGHT OF FRIDAY 13th July, PYV held their social event for the year. This year's event was a Bonfire Night held at New Life Presbyterian Church in Officer where approximately 110 youth and leaders came together to eat delicious food, play games and hear a gospel talk by Rev. Dave Martin. Dave spoke from Matthew 1, saying that Jesus' name means 'the Lord saves', meaning that Jesus is both our Saviour and Lord. He highlighted how it is difficult to obey Jesus as Lord when we are proud, so we need to humble ourselves before we are washed out to sea. Jacob York shared his testimony and spoke about how he has grown as a Christian through the grace of God.

Although it was a cold night, everyone kept warm by the bonfire



with a cup of hot chocolate or chai in hand. Marshmallows were toasted by the fire and of course enjoyed by all, with one youth saying she'd had 13 marshmallows!

A huge thanks to Bec Grace and her team for organising a great night where our youth and leaders were able to spend time together and build on both old and new friendships. Another big thanks to Dave and Jan at New Life Officer for allowing PYV to use their property as well for all their hard work cooking the delicious lamb on the spit roast!

Louise Goswell is a member of Canterbury Presbyterian Church and Bec Grace is a member of New Life Presbyterian Church in Officer.



NEW CHAPLAIN

THE HEALTH & COMMUNITY Chaplaincy Committee's annual Chaplains Service was held on Sunday 1st July 2018 at St Stephens Presbyterian Church in Flemington.

The annual service was an opportunity for Health and Community Chaplains employed by and associated with the HCCC to be recommissioned for the year ahead. Those recommissioned this year were Mrs. Gita Dickinson, Mrs. Christine Le Page, Mrs. Suzanne Oakes and Mr. Ian Waller. This year's service also included the commissioning of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria's new Pastoral Support Worker for Ministry Wives, Mrs. Robyn Johnson. It was a delight to have many of Robyn's family and friends in attendance to celebrate with us on the day.

Rev. Phil Court, the new Convener of the HCCC preached from Psalm 18. Rev. John Wilson, Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Australia and Clerk of the Victorian Assembly, also gave a word of encouragement at the afternoon tea following the service.

Thanks be to God for these men and women and the work they do!

Kathy James is the Chaplaincy & Pastoral Care Co-ordinator, of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria's HCCC.

STORIES FROM SKIPTON

IN MAY ARARAT, ALONG WITH Horsham, Kaniva and Nhill hosted a team from MMM (Mobile Mission Maintenance) for 1 week in each location doing repairs and improvements on the churches and manses. A wonderful week of hard work, fun, prayer and fellowship with the 3 couples from west Gippsland churches. They stayed in their own caravans at the church, with local members catering and doing odd jobs to keep the team going. We all thanked the Lord for this blessing as work put off for a long time was done and done well.

In the July school holidays, a team from Canterbury Presbyterian once again came to Skipton to run a Kids Club. This has been going for many years, and while only a small

number of children from the local community attended, it was again a great blessing to the congregation.

Also in July, 36 students from the University of Technology in Sydney stayed overnight in the Skipton Hall and manse, and took part in practical work around the property. They were part of The Big Lift, a Uni program to give students a taste of rural and regional life, and to put back into the country. The congregation catered for and served them well, and the gospel was able to be shared with this impressive group as we told the history of the church and what faith means today. We trust for seed sown to bear fruit.

Rev. Rod Waterhouse is the minister of Ararat, Skipton and Lismore Presbyterian Church.

MINISTRY MOVES

Presbytery of Ballarat

The congregations of Ararat, Skipton and Lismore were linked and a new charge created on 1 July. Rev. Rod Waterhouse (previously minister of Ararat) is the minister of the new charge.

Presbytery of Melbourne East

Rev. Bob Thomas retired from St. Kilda - Balaclava Presbyterian Church on 31st June.

Paul Jang was ordained on 27th July at the Korean Presbyterian Church North Balwyn.

Ben Nelson was ordained on 13th July at St Stephen's Presbyterian Church Surrey Hills, and will be lecturing at PTC.

Presbytery of North-Western Victoria

Rory Weightman was appointed part-time Assistant to the Minister at Reforming (South East Bendigo) in February.

Rev Keith Bell was appointed as part-time Assistant Minister at Bendigo (St John's) in April.

Licentiate Jesse Walz was ordained and appointed to Eaglehawk on July 1.



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MUSIC REVIEW

MORE GOLD FROM COLIN

Colin's New Testament Big Bible Story Songs

Colin Buchanan

Wanaaring Road Music, August 2017

Reviewed by Stephen McDonald

Christian kids music is (thankfully) much better today than what you'd have found on cassettes in my parents' Mitsubishi L300.

One big reason for that is 'Colin'.

If you were put off by a few 'misses' in his earlier albums, don't be. Colin Buchanan keeps getting better and doing something different. As well as winning 9 Golden Guitars for his country music, there is hardly a musical genre which Colin cannot pull off quite convincingly.

But the question remains whether \$25 is a price you're willing to pay. You could wait until Colin releases a third 'Favourites' album or purchase individual songs for download. But with Colin's New Testament Big Bible Story Songs, the answer is an emphatic, 'Yes, buy the album!'

Up front, Colin gives kids the key to understanding how the Bible fits together, as Big Bible Story declares, "There's a Big Bible Story... All the Bible stories lead to Him." (Luke 24:27 & John 5:39)

There are nods to Colin's country roots in The Ballad of Farmer Phil, as well as the Dylan-esque Damascus Road, and shades of AC/DC in Man of the Tombs. For me, the standouts on the 14-track album are the quirky Zacchaeus, and Nicodemus where Colin clearly repeats Jesus' call to be born again, but in the style of Elvis Presley.

But it's not all fun and games. Mary & Martha encourages us to "Leave the good; choose the best", and the album ends with a poignant call "Let the Father hear your voice, Early every day" in Jesus Rose to Pray.

For all these reasons and more, this album is the best so far in Colin's discography. And unless Colin releases a prequel Colin's Old Testament Big Bible Story Songs, it may stand as his greatest contribution to Christian kids music.

Whether or not you and your kids can read Isaiah 53:6 without thinking 'Baa Baa Doo Baa Baa', every track of Colin's New Testament Big Bible Story Songs deserves to be heard over and over and over again.

Stephen McDonald is the minister of Benalla Presbyterian Church

LETTER

AT THE END OF 2015, I WAS APPOINTED AS AN assessor minister to the Presbytery of North West Victoria who then appointed me as interim moderator of the Kerang-Pyramid Hill charge. As a retired minister I was prepared to do more than just taking an occasional service and moderating session meetings as interim moderator. Being around 300kms from Melbourne, a conventional part-time ministry of 2-4 days per week was not practical. Therefore, I offered to minister there 8 days per month. Both the Presbytery and congregations approved this arrangement. I would leave Melbourne early one Sunday morning, conduct the church services on Sunday, stay the week, and return home after conducting the services the following Sunday. During the week I would visit members, lead Bible studies and attend to other pastoral needs that arose, making sure that my time was as evenly distributed as possible among the three congregations. Normally, this took place over the last two Sundays of the month, but allowed flexibility for ministry in the

parish at Christmas and Easter, the visit of the state moderator, and fitting in my few other commitments. This arrangement ran from July 2017 to June 2018, and ceased when I was no longer required as an assessor minister.

From my point of view, it was a great arrangement. It enabled me to continue ministry in my retirement, but at a reduced pace from full-time. While I was in the parish for only a quarter of the month, it included two Sundays, so half of the preaching was covered and there was a lesser need for lay preachers which are often in short supply in the country. Because a quarter of the remuneration set by the assembly is below the Australian Taxation Office's threshold no tax was payable on it, nor did it affect my aged pension. Elders and Members alike appreciated the amount of pastoral care, especially the visitation I could conduct. Perhaps a similar arrangement could be beneficial for other retired ministers and country parishes around Victoria.

Rev. Bruce Riding

IT TAKES A DENOMINATION TO PLANT A CHURCH (PART I)

By Rev. John Huynh

It takes a denomination to plant a church'. Though this is obvious, it is not always apparent, and perhaps not often enough, seen in practice. But as Victoria grows at an astronomical rate, predicted to reach up to 12 million by 2060, with Melbourne predicted to be Australia's largest city as early 2030 with a population of 6.1 million, it is more urgent than ever that as a denomination, we recognise our responsibility and mandate to reach more and more of the unreached through planting churches.

It does take a denomination to plant a church, though it is not always apparent. It is very easy to leave church planting to the 'specialist', a church planter who has the convictions, the character, the competency and the confirmation of the Church Planting Committee and Presbytery. It is also very easy to assume that if there are enough finances, and the church plant is properly funded, then our task is done. But it does take a denomination to plant a church, a task too big to fall upon any individual, or core team, or even committee. So how can a denomination help plant a church?

Well, it always did take a denomination to plant a church. Even with the missionary and church planting work of the Apostle Paul, he never did it alone. Though, not strictly a denomination, the early churches worked together, and Paul's success in planting churches around the Mediterranean was the work of individuals and churches outside the church plant itself. We recently completed our study of the book of Romans at our church, and 36 individuals are named at the end as his co-workers in Gospel work. Paul was unashamed in asking and expecting prayer and financial help in his church planting endeavours to reach the unreached of Spain, and it is this zealous heart that we must keep in our denomination.

But having said all that, we do hope for better things in the PCV, and we do see better things, because it has taken our denomination to plant a church, and we have seen it in practice. Our latest

church planting effort is the New Life Presbyterian Church in Officer. Our church planter Dave Martin (who coined the phrase of the title) has expressed deep gratitude for many prayers from individuals and churches, but also the many gifted brothers and sisters from Warburton, Drouin and North Geelong who helped in practical ways around the property, along with assessor elders from Donvale and Surrey Hills. Cheltenham Presbyterian Church, and Surrey Hills Presbyterian also generously contributed financially to the establishment of the work there. At the other end of the spectrum of the church planting efforts in our denomination is Reforming Church in Bendigo (5.5 years old). Russ Grinter expressed gratitude to receiving a grant from the Property Development Fund to purchase the Mulligrub's Play Centre in East Bendigo as a place of worship. Williamstown Presbyterian Church also contributed generously to the purchase of seats for the church. It is a great joy to see individuals and churches working together to see church plants established so that more and more hear of the saving news of Jesus Christ. It certainly does take a denomination to plant a church.

Now, moving forward as a denomination, we must ensure that it continues to take our whole denomination to plant a church. What greater joy than to see the unity and fellowship of brothers and sisters in Christ within our denomination, with the God-given resources we have, the gospel conviction we hold dear, and the unceasing prayers we offer, to see more and more church plants reaching the unreached for Christ, for the glory of God.

If you and/or your church keen to consider how you could engage in our church planting efforts, please be in touch with the Church Planting Committee (<http://reviveaus.com.au/>, cam.garrett@pcv.org.au)

Rev. John Huynh (Surrey Hills Presbyterian, on behalf of the Church Planting Committee)

SAFER CHURCHES AND GOSPEL MINISTRY

By Fiona Bligh

Since commencing operations in 2014 the work of the Safe Church Unit has been to serve the Presbyterian Church of Victoria in the area of abuse prevention and response in our Church.

During this period there have been many changes in Victorian law that affect how our Church handles this area of church life. Also, the hearings and findings of the recent Royal Commission have radically altered how the community, both Christians and others, expect religious and other organisations to protect children. There is much work to do for all churches to restore community confidence in churches as safe places for children, as well as vulnerable adults.

Safe Church Facilitator, Mrs Fiona Bligh, and Safe Church Compliance & Administration Officer, Mr Ian Atkinson, see their roles as a way of serving the Lord and the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

Compliance is a key part of this work. Ian helps support the Safe Church Representatives in each local church and continually works to make sure that the Working With Children Check records are updated and reflect who our denomination believe are suitable people to work with our children and the children in our wider community, who encounter Jesus through local church outreach and ministry. "Despite the added burden of compliance on both churches and the Safe Church Representatives, I am continually encouraged by the overwhelming posi-

tive response in ensuring that children within our denomination are protected."

Fiona's work in training and assisting the Courts of the Church in responding to Safe Church concerns has given her the opportunity to meet and serve people across Victoria. "I always enjoy the

"I am continually encouraged by the overwhelming positive response in ensuring that children within our denomination are protected."

opportunity to visit our churches and meet people at training sessions and meetings. There are so many wonderful people serving the Lord in our Church and it is a privilege to be a part of that."

2018 brings yet more changes for organisations with children in Victoria with the new Victorian Reportable Conduct Scheme coming into operation. The work of the Safe Church Unit will also help our Church adapt to the rigours of the Scheme and maintain our gospel witness to our Victorian community in how our Church protects children from abuse.

The final report and recommendations of the Royal Commission will also likely affect the laws in Australia as a whole regarding safeguarding children from abuse. No matter what changes come, Fiona and Ian believe it is a privilege to help our Church live out the following verse from 1 Peter 2:12, in how the Church both responds to and prevents abuse in our denomination: "Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us."

Mrs Fiona Bligh, Safe Church Facilitator, and, Mr Ian Atkinson, Safe Church Compliance & Administration Officer.





ON TRACK

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PRESBYTERIAN INLAND MISSION

ISSUE 3 2018

MAKING DISCIPLES OF JESUS IN
AUSTRALIA'S HARD-TO-GET-TO PLACES.

FROM NEW AGE TO REAL LIFE

THANK YOU FOR GOING THE EXTRA MILE TO REACH PEOPLE LIKE LYNN

Living near the remote and rugged outback town of Marree, Lynn has made her home in one of Australia's most isolated regions.

But, although she's in such a hard-to-get-to place, Lynn's heart has been easy to reach for Jesus!

When PIM patrol team David and Gae McDonald first met Lynn, she was very open to conversation and welcomed the chance to receive prayer. Concerned that Lynn was being drawn to New Age spirituality, David and Gae took time to share the Good News with her – and to introduce her to biblical truth.

"We gave her devotional material, and encouraged her to get an easy-to-read Bible," says Gae.

Thanks to the support of friends like you, David and Gae were able to take the long drive out to Lynn's station a few months later – fervently praying for the Lord to be at work in her life.



Through your gifts and prayers, people like Lynn are being reached for Jesus.

They arrived to find their prayers answered!

"She showed us the new Bible she had bought, and in the pocket of the Bible was the devotional we'd given her," shares Gae. "The corners were all curled over showing Lynn had

pored over it numerous times."

In the months that followed, David and Gae built a deeper relationship with Lynn – discipling her in her new-found faith. *"Not long after that, David baptised her in the name of the Lord at her station ...*

... in the outback," Gae says, smiling.

It's only through your partnership that people like Lynn can receive the spiritual care and counsel they so desperately need. Without David and Gae, Lynn would've had to take a five-hour

journey to meet with the nearest pastor. And the closest group of believers meeting for fellowship is a 3.5-hour drive away.

Your prayerful support means that PIM teams are resourced and equipped to make contacts, share the Gospel, and build deep life-changing

relationships with men and women beyond the reach of mainstream churches.

Thank you for going the extra mile for the sake of people like Lynn who are searching and spiritually-hungry. God is using you to share the hope of Jesus – transforming lives now and for eternity!

BOB AND GINA SEE GOD BRING HELP AT JUST THE RIGHT TIME – thanks to the support of friends like you

As you help send out PIM patrols, our teams often testify to seeing the Lord's hand at work guiding them to meet the right people at just the right time.

That's what happened for Bob and Gina*.

When Bob saw a four-wheel drive parked up alongside his

land, he was immediately suspicious. There'd been a spate of sheep-stealing in the region, so he drove down to check out the unknown vehicle.

Bob was relieved to find PIM patrollers, rather than sheep rustlers! But his suspicion continued. *"I'm not keen on religious people,"* he told them.

"Neither was Jesus," was the reply – a surprising answer that opened the door for further conversation, which then turned into an invitation to stay on Bob's station for the next few days.

Shortly afterwards, Bob's wife Gina was sadly involved in a near-fatal car accident. She sustained massive injuries, which threatened to leave her a quadriplegic.

Crying out to God in prayer for Gina, the PIM team sent word through their networks asking others to intercede for her.

In God's mercy, Gina has made a strong start towards healing, and it's looking likely she will regain the full use of her limbs.

We're so grateful that PIM could be there to support and pray for Bob and Gina during such a difficult time in their lives. Please keep praying for Gina – that she'll continue on the road to full recovery... and also that she and Bob will both come to follow Christ in the days ahead!

* Names changed for privacy reasons.



Please continue praying for Bob and Gina – that they'll come to Christ in the days ahead.

YOU'RE BUILDING HOPE FOR CHILDREN IN MOUNT MAGNET

Excitement has grown in the struggling WA community of Mount Magnet. A band of PIM volunteers from across the country built a bigger Sunday School for Mount Magnet Presbyterian – the only Sunday School for 200km!

But this vital extension wouldn't be possible without your support.



You're doing much more than expanding the venue for the growing Sunday School. You're helping build deeper relationships with children in Mount Magnet who need to hear about — and be shown — love of Jesus.



This vital extension wouldn't be possible without the support of friends like you. Thank you!



STAY ON TRACK!

SIGN UP TODAY TO GET THE LATEST NEWS FROM THE HEART OF AUSTRALIA

This is the second-last edition of *On Track* you'll see inside *Fellow Workers*. Because your prayers and support mean so much, you can receive updates direct from PIM – and stay *On Track* with all that God's doing in Australia's

hard-to-get-to places through your partnership!

To receive your next *On Track* newsletter, please sign-up using the reply form or online at pim.org.au so we can send your next copy direct to you!

MY GIFT TO SHARE JESUS' LOVE WITH PEOPLE IN AUSTRALIA'S REMOTEST REGIONS

Yes! I want to go the extra mile to help reach men, women and children in Australia's most hard-to-get-to and spiritually hungry regions with the Good News of Jesus. Please use my gift to show them His love in word and action.

- ☐ Enclosed is my gift of \$_____
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FROM ANDREW TO YOU



Dear Friend,

I'm so thankful that you are part of this journey to reach people in the most remote regions of our country for Christ!

Whether you're a long-time traveller with PIM, or have just jumped on board, it's *your prayers and support* that help fuel every aspect of our ministry together.

I hope you're as encouraged as I am by Lynn's wonderful story on page one. She's now following Jesus after

a PIM patrol team built a redemptive relationship with her – despite her station being miles off the beaten track.

And don't miss the exciting news from Mount Magnet – by the time you read this the Sunday School will have a proper space to meet, and even more children will be hearing about the love of Jesus.

All of this simply wouldn't be happening without the prayers and support of friends like you.

I trust that, as you read these updates, you'll be full of anticipation about the road ahead – and all that God has in store as we share the Gospel together!

That's why I urge you to sign up today so you can continue receiving your *On Track* newsletter – as this is the second-last edition you'll find inside *Fellow Workers*. Signing up is easy – just tick the box on the reply form before you send it in, or visit PIM's website.

On behalf of the isolated communities we reach together, thank you so much for your continued commitment to this life-changing journey!

Grateful to be on mission with you,

Andrew Letcher
CEO

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Partnership



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
AUSTRALIAN PRESBYTERIAN WORLD MISSION

2018 #3

www.apwm.org.au • 1 Clarence Street, Burwood NSW 2134 • (02) 8073 7490 • national@apwm.org.au

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

South Sudan: Helping Refugees

Equipping Pastors

The Presbyterian Church of South Sudan has approximately 100,000 Presbyterians and 90 congregations in the refugee camps in Ethiopia. Those congregations have around 70 pastors. Many of the pastors have only a few months of theological training. How can we help them?

In late November, APWM is sending David Burke from Christ College Sydney to western Ethiopia to conduct some training for the pastors, in conjunction with Motor Yat. David has experience in helping pastors



SOUTH SUDANESE PRESBYTERIAN PASTORS, who need further training in such situations.

On this trip David will be accompanied by Christ College student Shaddy Hanna and the APWM National Treasurer, Peter Burke — David's brother who served in Nigeria for many years with SIM.

Providing the Word of Life



APWM is collecting money to purchase 33,000 Bibles in the Nuer language for the 100,000 South Sudanese Presbyterians who live in the refugee camps in Ethiopia.

Each Bible costs \$10 and our target is \$330,000.

At the time of writing, \$87,000 has already been donated. We are extremely grateful for the many contributions to this project.

To watch or download a video on this project please go to APWM's Vimeo page: <https://vimeo.com/270313007>

We're encouraging individuals and congregations in the Presbyterian Church of Australia to show this video and hold a collection to help provide for this great need. Please consider assisting our brothers and sisters in the refugee camps.

Ways to Donate

Direct Deposit

Account Name: Australian Presbyterian World Mission

BSB: 032 260

Account Number: 151207

Please write your surname and 'Sudan Bibles' in the description box on the bank transfer page. Send an email to finance@apwm.org.au so that we can send you a receipt.

Cheques should be mailed to:

APWM, 1 Clarence Street, Burwood NSW 2134. Enquiries about credit/debit card donations should be made to finance@apwm.org.au or (02) 8073 7493

John & Kara Dekker

We join John and Kara Dekker in praising God as they anticipate the arrival of their fourth child in February 2019. They plan to be in Australia from December this year until April/May 2019.

The government in Vanuatu has raised the educational standards in the tertiary education sector and this has many implications for Talua. This is a great opportunity to improve the curriculum and other academic policies at Talua. During his time in Australia John will be working on curriculum development to bring the current Talua courses into line with the new requirements.



BMIN CLASS DISCUSSING THE PENTATEUCH.

One of the highlights of this year was a visit by the Victorian State Moderator, the Rev Rob White and Mrs Sue White.

On 9th August Talua celebrated its 30th anniversary. Shortly after, John led some studies at a pastors' retreat just prior to the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu's Assembly.



ROB & SUE WHITE

“

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)

”

THANK YOU JOHN & ROSE EVANS

John & Rose write "We want to express our heartfelt gratitude to all of you who have prayed and given in so many different ways to partner with us in reaching the Japanese. God has blessed us so richly over these past five years, and it has been a blessing for us to share the hope we have within us, and to grow in ways we never anticipated!

Please pray that God would guard the Japanese hearts and souls that have been touched through us.

We are thankful to God to have just had two full weeks away as a family. We are also grateful for John's new role at PresCare Queensland; it is an entirely different mission to the last, and yet we believe that Australia is now requiring similar mission strategies to those we used overseas.

PresCare is an enormous mission field with a couple of thousand employees and many more clients, mostly non-Christian, despite being a church-managed organisation. He is excited at the possibilities his position presents for the gospel, but sometimes feels overwhelmed by its enormity.

We also praise God for removing the Blastocystis from Rose's gut. She has been able to rest, access appropriate practitioners and focus on health in a way that was not possible in Japan, and we are thankful for this. Sadly she tested positive to Dientamoeba again, as did the whole family, and we have just finished another round of heavy antibiotics to try and deal with this. We would love your ongoing prayers for this; we have been advised that



it could take up to two years for her body to recover after the bugs are finally gone."

The children are facing a range of issues:

- health
- being the only Christians in their school grade
- attempting to minister to needy friends at school
- building friendships and managing learning issues
- grief over leaving Japan.
- on the positive side the younger children have all transitioned well into the English & Japanese bilingual program at Wellers Hill State School.

"We are so grateful for your partnership over the past five years; there are so many examples of ways in which your prayers, gifts, and communication have

strengthened and encouraged us at times when we felt we couldn't keep going. We are still grieving having to leave such a needy nation, a dynamic and exciting project, and an unusually united and loving team, and yet we trust that what God has in store for us next will be further opportunities to know him more and share his love with those around us. We remain committed to seeing the Japanese know Jesus, regardless of our geographical location, and ask that you will pray for us as we continue to make contact with and get to know the Japanese living in our local area.

We also wish to publicly thank all APWM and MTW staff, APWM board and committee members, for their love and care over our time with APWM. We really did experience the love of Jesus through them in a very special way."



AN UPDATE: RICK & KAYLEEN MANTON

Many will be aware that Rick and Kayleen Manton took Long Service Leave in the first half of 2018. This was intended to refresh them in preparation for a new phase of ministry involving equipping and training Aboriginal leaders.

However in April Kayleen was diagnosed with breast cancer which necessitated surgery and chemotherapy.

All this has meant that Rick and Kayleen have not received the refreshment for which we had hoped.

Please join us in praying for:

- a full recovery for Kayleen



RICK & KAYLEEN MANTON

- peace in a time when ministry plans have been frustrated
- God to work in Rick and Kayleen to use this difficult season for His glory.

A Partnership Across the Centuries and Across the Waters

David Burke (Christ College Sydney) and Rob Duncanson, were recently in Timor Leste for a training week. Here David reflects on the partnerships at work.

Sometimes the work of overseas mission can be hard — very hard. However, sometimes in God's grace there are seasons where we experience the kindness of God in remarkable ways.



THE WESTMINSTER SHORTER CATECHISM.

The Presbyterian Church of Australia has been in partnership with the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of East Timor (IEPTL) since 2009. It is a delightful relationship.

One feature of the relationship has been the annual training week. By the grace of God, each year the training week simply blossoms and the July 2018 training week was no exception.

Chris Adams, Rob Duncanson and David Burke led sessions on Mark, the Shorter Catechism and Romans respectively. Chris and his wife Grace are from CMS Australia and serve in partnership with IEPTL — that is another delightful relationship.

One big hit this year was having a Tetun language print resource for each topic. As one Timorese said: "This helps us remember what we learnt and it gives us



DAVID BURKE TEACHING ROMANS WITH CHRIS ADAMS INTERPRETING IN TETUN.

something to pass on to our church."

Another big hit (huge) was the release of the Tetun version of the Westminster Shorter Catechism. This is a partnership between Christians in 17th century Scotland, 21st century Timor Leste, the Presbyterian Church of Brazil (which supplied the translator) and a Presbyterian congregation in Australia (which paid for the printing).

The Catechism was originally written for a largely oral culture and in a Roman Catholic environment. That's Timor Leste today! We expect to teach the catechism each year, and we expect to see great things as this passes through to the churches. Every local church was given multiple copies of the Catechism to use.

Another highlight was a weekend of preaching and a consultation with the IEPTL Synod and other local Christian groups regarding future and enhanced training possibilities. The future prospects are exciting!

David Burke, Christ College Sydney



ROB DUNCANSON TEACHING THE CATECHISM WITH CHRIS ADAMS INTERPRETING IN TETUN.

How Can You Help?

We are now beginning to see the fruit of many years of hard work by the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Timor Leste. However this is a ministry that is always in need of extra funds especially for Bible translation. If you would like to give towards this need then please use the form on page 4 of this newsletter or contact the APWM office.



A SMALL GROUP DISCUSSING ROMANS.



CHRIS ADAMS, DAVID BURKE & ROB DUNCANSON WITH A WESTMINSTER SHORTER CATECHISM SMALL GROUP.

PRAYER AND FINANCE Response Form

Please send to: **APWM**

1 Clarence Street, 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 _____

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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 telling us that you have made a deposit and provide the name of the missionary that you are supporting.

Enquiries

finance@apwm.org.au • (02) 8073 7490
www.apwm.org.au/supporting/finance

Have you heard about MissionSeek?

Suppose someone in your congregation would like to explore possibly serving overseas? Where could they look to find out some of the needs that exist across the globe?

MissionSeek might be just what they are looking for!

MissionSeek is an exciting initiative from 'Missions Interlink', the peak Australian missions organisation of which APWM is a member.

Workpartners 2018

For many years, APWM has sent Workparties to serve at the Talua Bible College in Vanuatu. We plan to send another team from Sunday 18th November to Sunday 2nd December, 2018. If you are interested in joining the 2018 team then please contact Sheryl Sarkoezy in the APWM National Office national@apwm.org.au or (02) 8073 7492. (Please note that we plan to send another team in April 2019.)

MISSIONSEEK

At missionseek.com.au, people enquiring about mission can explore an incredibly diverse range of opportunities for service which are on offer.

Do you know someone who needs to know about MissionSeek?



Thank You Presbyterian Church of Australia!

Some very generous donors from NSW made it possible for subsidies to be provided for secondary school fees for the children of pastors of the Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu.

APWM recently received this photo and text from the church: "The Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu Assembly Executive members pose together with a thank you sign to APWM of PCA ... expressing our heartfelt thank you."



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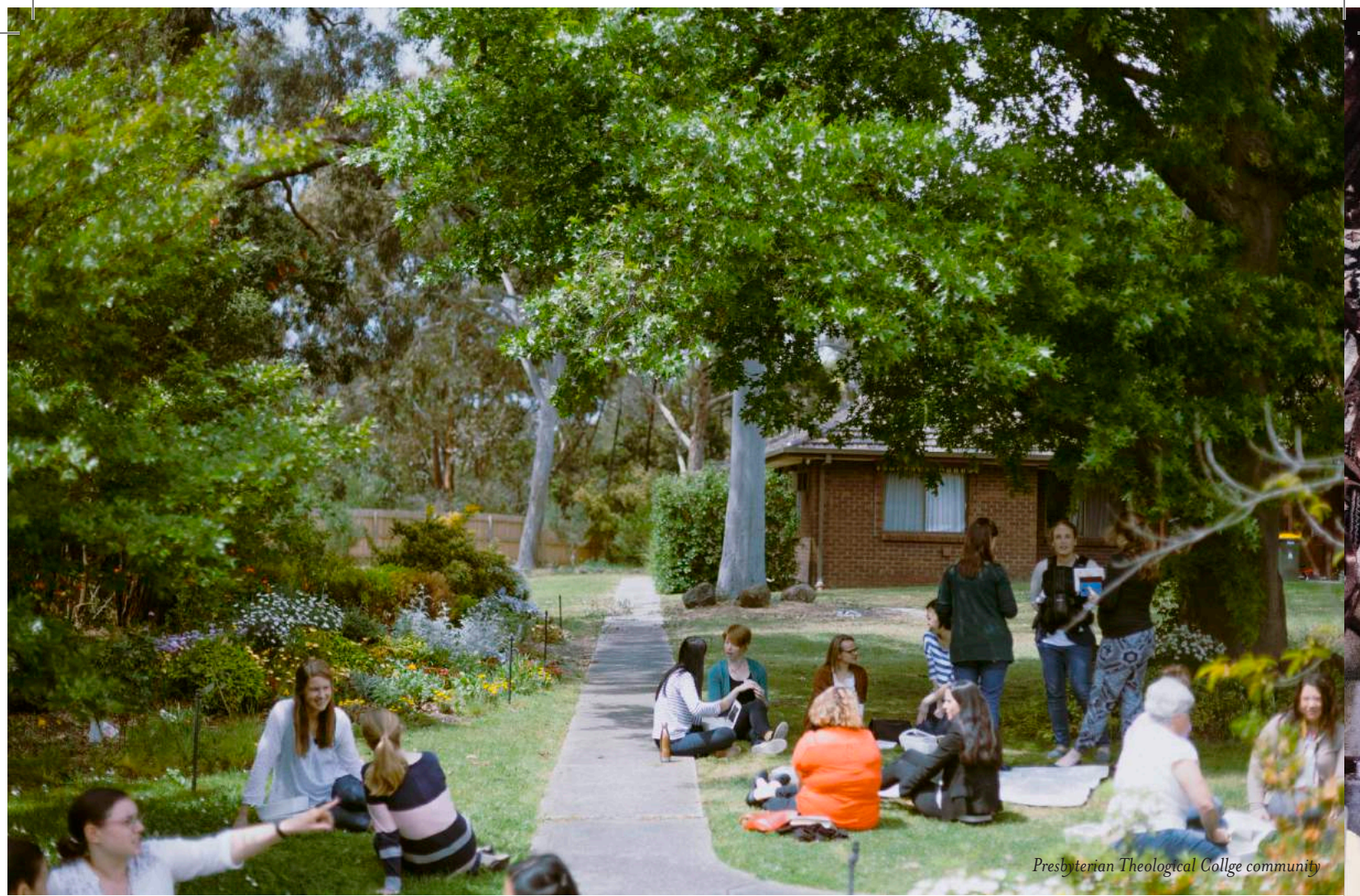
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