

Spring 23 | Presbyterian Church of Victoria



# FELLOW WORKERS



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# FELLOW WORKERS

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### *Fellow Workers*

Quarterly Magazine of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria. State News Committee: Stephen McDonald (Convenor), Phil Betts, Rob Paix & Tony Zirngast.

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## EDITORIAL: REAL HELP FROM OUR REAL HELPER

### STEPHEN MCDONALD

What actually happens when we see and receive the sacraments Jesus gave us? Or does nothing actually happen except that our minds remember Jesus' promises?

### WHAT JESUS TAUGHT

Jesus clearly taught that the sacraments are not empty signs. They actually represent something very real, even though they are not that thing themselves. In Matthew's account of the last supper, he records:

"26 While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Take and eat; this is my body.'

27 Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, 'Drink from it, all of you. 28 This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.'"

Jesus knew that the bread He held in His hand was not part of His body, and that the wine in the cup was not actually His blood. But He taught that they represented His own body and blood. By giving these physical signs to His disciples, Jesus made sure they received something from Him that was connected to Jesus' body and blood (Romans 4:11, see also the Westminster Confession of Faith 27.2).

### WHAT HAPPENS

So, what do we receive when we are baptised or when we celebrate the Lord's Supper together? Clearly, the disciples in the upper room did not receive the actual body and blood of Jesus. And neither do we. But we do receive the grace promised to us in the sacraments.

In baptism, God promises to wash away our sin when we trust in Jesus. In the Lord's Supper, God promises to feed and sustain the spiritual life of everyone who trusts in Jesus. And those promises are given to us and confirmed to us in the celebration of those signs given to us by Jesus.

### HOW IT HAPPENS

But how do we receive those promises?

Do they work because we've made ourselves ready (or worthy) to receive the sacrament? Is it because the minister does it the right way? Do we know that we've received God's grace because of how we feel during or after the time of worship?

We certainly shouldn't come to the sacraments thoughtlessly and unprepared. Nor should they be celebrated in a disorderly way. And celebrating the sacraments should affect how we feel. But none of those are the key issue.

Does the act of being washed by water actually take away our sins? No. As Peter writes:

"Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ," (1 Peter 3:21).

So, what baptism does isn't done by the water itself.

Does eating the bread and drinking the cup automatically feed our souls? No. Paul warns us,

"29 For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves. 30 That is why many among you are weak and ill, and a number of you have fallen asleep. 31 But if we were more discerning with regard to ourselves, we would not come under such judgment." (1 Corinthians 11:29-31).

So, the Lord's Supper can not only sustain spiritual life but can also impair it depending on how we receive it.

In both cases, the issue is not whether we receive the physical sign, but how we hear the Gospel promises they symbolise. So, whenever we see someone baptised or celebrate the Lord's Supper, we need to examine our hearts: Do we understand the Gospel promises given to us? Do we believe them? Are we trusting in anything else but in Jesus Christ for salvation (even in the fact that we were baptised or celebrate the Lord's Supper)?

Ultimately, whether baptism or the Lord's Supper make any difference to us depends on the ministry of the Holy Spirit. Remember what John the Baptist told the people coming to him to be baptised:

'I baptise you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.' (Matthew 3:11)

And Paul states in 1 Corinthians 12:13, "For we were all baptised by one Spirit so as to form one body – whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free – and we were all given the one Spirit to drink."

So, the sacraments don't just work automatically. They do what they do (conveying grace to strengthen faith) because that's what the Holy Spirit is doing through them.

He gives us understanding (John 14:26 & 16:13). He gives us faith (Ephesians 2:8). He enables us to trust in Christ alone and enables us to keep trusting, despite the temptations to find our hope in ourselves or our circumstances (Philippians 1:6 & 1 Peter 1:5).

That's why the Westminster Confession of Faith summarises the Biblical teaching about the efficacy of the sacraments like this:

"The grace which is exhibited in or by the sacraments, rightly used, is not conferred by any power in them; neither doth the efficacy of a sacrament depend upon the piety or intention of him that doth administer it, but upon the work of the Spirit, and the word of institution, which contains, together with a precept authorizing the use thereof, a promise of benefit to worthy receivers." (WCF 27.3)

Fundamentally, baptism and the Lord's Supper do us real spiritual good because they are one way that the Holy Spirit helps us (John 14:16-18).

Fellow workers, let's ask the Holy Spirit to help us believe the Gospel promises He shows us in the sacraments.

*Stephen McDonald is Convener of the State News Committee*

# THE DESERT AND THE PARCHED LAND WILL BE GLAD; THE WILDERNESS WILL REJOICE AND BLOSSOM.

Narelle Chai has been nurturing an orange tree growing at the side of the Mount Magnet church building. The leaves are green and beautiful oranges hang from the branches.

A growing tree bearing fragrant fruit is an apt metaphor for the mission of Alvin and Narelle in the most remote and isolated ministry of the Presbyterian Church. This is a vital work of the PIM that needs to be further nurtured and strengthened. On the thousand-kilometre journey along the Great Northern Highway from Dalwallinu in the WA Wheatbelt to Newman in the Pilbara, the only full-time residential Christian ministry you will encounter is the Mount Magnet Church/Mid West Patrol of the PIM.

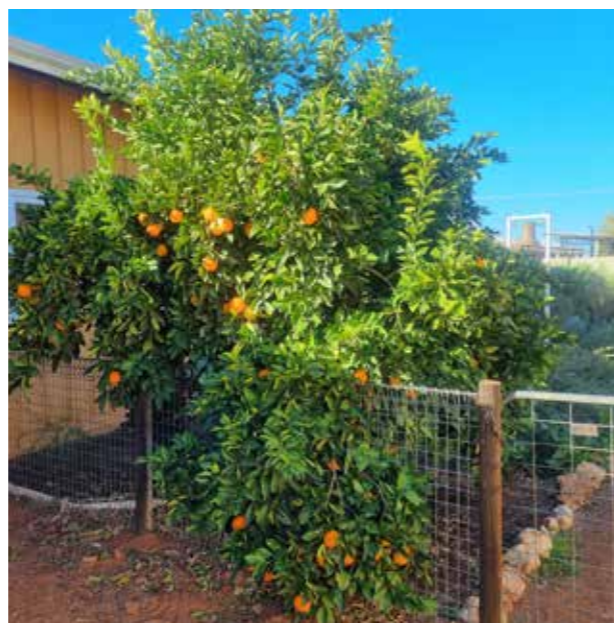
Through intentional evangelism and discipleship among the Magnet community, station residents and those who travel up and down the Great Northern Highway, fruit is being borne for the Kingdom of God.

C., a local indigenous woman, has received the gospel in clarity and truth and now seeks to minister among her people and school children. The Warrambo Christian Youth Group meets regularly with a desire to know Jesus and make Jesus known. A well-attended Bible study attracts a membership eager to grow in the Christian faith. Sunday church attracts solid local support with a steady stream of children attending the Sunday school. In all of this, Alvin and Narelle exercise a joint ministry of personal encouragement, pastoral support and Christian friendship to the community in general.

This is exemplified by Narelle's work at the Regional Aboriginal Medical Service in Mount Magnet and in the even more remote town of Meekatharra, two hours to the north. The September holiday children's club, run with a ministry team from the Christian Reformed Church of Canning (Perth), greatly encourages the Church and community alike.

The ministry context in the Outback is challenging, confronting and discouraging. Yet lives have been and are being changed through the grace of the Lord Jesus. The tree is planted and growing, and is producing good fruit at Mount Magnet.

Please pray for Alvin and Narelle as they seek to make Christ known in outback WA. For those planning a trip through Western Australia, put a visit to Mount Magnet on your to-do list. Alvin and Narelle and the local church family are always encouraged by fellowship with other Christians who pass through. To subscribe to regular email updates or to financially support this Gospel work in Mount Magnet, visit [pim.org.au](http://pim.org.au).



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*Get in touch with us today. We'd love to help!*



# EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS!

## TWO YEARS OF THE PTC MEN OF GOD EVENT

I am not sure that anyone would have been bold enough to predict the overwhelming response to the PTC (Presbyterian Theological College) Men of God event held for the last two years. But overwhelming it has been! When I first floated the idea of a men's ministry event to my wife in 2022 (after seeing the value of the events run for women by both Women's Ministry Victoria and the PTC), I suggested that we might be able to get 30-40 guys together for a morning of bacon, Bible teaching and fellowship.

But unbeknownst to us, the Lord in His providence had plans to bless this event to the limits of our venue's capacity.

### MEN OF GOD 2022

Before we knew it we soon had the support of the PTC, as well as Rev Ben Nelson (PTC Faculty), Rev Darren Middleton (North Geelong PC) and Rev Dave Martin (New Life PC Officer) who all enthusiastically agreed to take time out of their busy schedules to prepare content for the day. As the registrations for attendees began to first trickle and then pour in, we soon realized that we would have to borrow a large number of chairs to handle the numbers. With the help of volunteers, we finally managed to squeeze 141 chairs into the main lecture hall of the PTC—with 140 men ultimately arriving for the event.

Much frantic cooking was done by the team of diligent volunteers and due to their hard work everyone was eventually seated down to a cooked breakfast.

During breakfast Ben Nelson began the event with a workshop providing practical examples of how men can lead family devotions in their own home. Darren Middleton then preached on 'Men of Courage' from Joshua 1. Following morning tea, Dave Martin exhorted us from Colossians to become 'Men of Prayer'. A selection of hymns and songs were sung between each session, which, with 140 men singing left an impression upon those who attended. One attendee stated in the event feedback that 'the all male choir was soul enriching' and another described it as 'spine-tingling and God honouring through song'.

The event concluded promptly at 1pm with a round of generously loaded hamburgers provided in takeaway boxes—in case anyone had to return to family or work. But most of the men remained to enjoy the fellowship and encouragement on offer, or to explore the PTC facilities and grounds.

### MEN OF GOD 2023

Encouraged by the success of the inaugural Men of God event, this event was made an annual feature of the PTC Calendar.

This year Rev. Ben Nelson again began the day with Breakfast & Devotions, this time reflecting on Ephesians 3:14-21 and the Shorter Catechism Question 98 – 'What is prayer?' Rev. Gary Stephens (Bairnsdale PC) then preached powerfully from Hebrews 12:1-17 on being 'Men of God in Days of Hardship', reflecting humbly on his own lived experiences. We were then privileged to hear the testimony of Mr Michael Smith (PCV Archivist & PTC Librarian) who shared about maintaining Christian convictions in the workplace. Rev. Dr. Allan Harman then closed the day by exhorting the men from 2 Thessalonians 2:13-17 to 'Stand Firm'.

The College was filled with over 115 men representing an amazing 52 different churches spanning the state from Bairnsdale to Bendigo! Some even brought non-Christian friends along, and others, their sons or fathers (ranging in ages from 9 to 90). The PTC Bookshop was well stocked with a range of helpful and relevant resources. The discounted prices meant that our bookshop assistant was kept busy all day with purchases and orders from the many satisfied customers.

Learning from the bedlam of the previous year, the cooking for this year's breakfast and lunch was outsourced to a local Scout Group fundraising committee.



## REFLECTIONS ON MEN'S MINISTRY

To conclude, I thought it might be helpful to identify some of the lessons we've learned that might be helpful for those looking to start a similar kind of ministry in their local church.

### 1. The Bible is central

Too many churches start a 'Men's breakfast' and allow it to be nothing more than a time to talk about personal interests such as hobbies or 'share' about 'personal struggles and feelings' without any regard for structured Biblical teaching or intentional discipleship. There are plenty of other secular men's interest/emotional support groups that cater for these appetites, let's make sure the Bible is central.

### 2. Keep it simple

Another way that men's ministries become derailed is that they try to do too much. The content of a 'men's breakfast' type ministry does not need to be a polished 20 to 30-minute sermon. This can make preparation exhausting and is intimidating and out of reach for the average guy who might otherwise step up and take a turn at leading. You could instead aim to work through a simple structured resource like the Westminster or Heidelberg Catechism. Have a member of the group prepare and present a ten-minute explanation on this month's catechism question, and follow with some open discussion and prayer. Then over time encourage different members to step up and have a go. Using a structured resource like a catechism equips and models to the men how they can also spiritually lead their family and friends, and lead in the church.

### 3. Small is beautiful

Don't worry about how big the group is - even three is enough! In fact, smaller groups (i.e. less than 15) allow for a comfortable intimate culture that is conducive to discipleship. Smaller groups are easier to manage logistically too—especially when it comes to the cooking!

### 4. Food is vital

Serve up good food. I cannot emphasize this enough - don't cheap out on groceries! And make sure that the blokes take turns doing the cooking and cleaning together. The conversations that are had and relationships that are developed through serving together like this are priceless.

### 5. You can do it!

Don't underestimate the desire amongst the men that you know for direction and training in spiritual leadership. So many men yearn to become godly leaders in the home, in the workplace and in the church, but don't know where to start. Provide them with a consistent place where they can learn from the Scriptures and be challenged to develop and test their gifts and you will be amazed how God will bless this ministry.

Aim for three men, pray for six, and God might bring you fifteen!

Save the Date: Next PTC Men of God event on 27 July 2024 (seats limited!)

*Cameron Weir is a final year ministry candidate at PTC*



AARON VIOLI MP, HELEN, GAYE, JILL, BRIDGET VALLENCE MP, REV MILES FAGAN.

## MT EVELYN 90TH ANNIVERSARY

Around 150 guests attended the Mount Evelyn Presbyterian Church on Saturday 22nd July from 2:00 pm onwards. Included in the guests were former Ministers, Rev Don McLean (1965-72), Rev Warrick Davidson (1984-1999), Rev Travis Moroney (2011), Mr Ian Waller (2010, 2012-2016), and the current Minister Rev Miles Fagan. In attendance also were former congregants who have moved elsewhere and community members. Aaron Violi MP (Casey) and Bridget Vallence MP (Evelyn) were both present and spoke beautiful words about the role of the Church in the community and within their own families. Rev Fagan spoke of the 90 years of Mt Evelyn's history, and in particular highlighted the role of women in the church and the intentional work of making the Gospel known to the next generations. Three ladies are worthy of mention:

- Miss Alice Kemp was the first Secretary of the Church and a Sunday School Teacher, and she had the honour of being given the key to open the newly built church in October 1934.
- Mrs Hazel Lloyd served as a Deaconess for many years, and was influential in the lives of many young women and their growth in faith in Christ.

- Lastly, Bonnie Nielson, affectionately known as Aunty Bon, who passed away late last year having turned 100. She spent her whole life involved in the Church, as a Sunday School student and later as a teacher, as a wife and mother of five children, and many grand and great grand children. Earlier in her life, Bonnie wrote a prayer which was a key focus of our celebrations and central in her funeral last year. Part of her prayer says these words: "At last, by the grace of God, the mist cleared, everything changed; I saw trees looking so much more majestic, and green grass, mountains, flowers and birds. I'd been looking at these things for years, yet all I'd been seeing was 'ME', and my needs, (How selfish, ungrateful and sinful). Then the joy of knowing that in spite of self, God loved me; he wanted me in his family, and I wanted to be there, no matter what. It was a life changing revelation, and its all true. I would love for everyone to know that peace and joy. I wish I could give it to you all, but I am not able. Only the Holy Spirit, who changed my life, can do the same for you"

## BONNINGTON IS BACK WITH PIM

The Presbyterian Inland Mission is pleased to announce the appointment of the Rev Stuart Bonnington as our new, full-time Superintendent.

Stuart has served as a local church pastor in both Western Australia and Victoria since 1990 and will take up his appointment as Superintendent in January 2024.

Stuart has a long-standing love for Gospel ministry in remote and outback Australia. He served part-time as PIM Superintendent from 2005-2015, during which time he was involved in a wide range of new initiatives for PIM. These included the establishment of the Mount Magnet patrol, development of the initial vision for the Snowy Mountains Patrol, and the staging of the memorable Australian Inland Mission centenary celebrations in 2012.



Stuart is greatly looking forward to helping PIM ministry teams to make disciples (Matthew 28), and to further developing New Dunesk to 'inspire, equip and send out' people for Gospel work in Australia.

He is eager to continue to grow support from the PCA and to engage with people, organisations and congregations Australia-wide, working together in partnership to reach into the remote regions with the word of Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 10:16).

Stuart will succeed Hugh Castleden who has been PIM's CEO since 2022. The PIM Committee wishes to extend their deepest thanks to Hugh for his service to the Mission, especially for his help in navigating through these changes to our governance structure. The introduction of a Superintendent is the first step in this restructuring that aims to strengthen PIM's ministry focus across all areas of the organisation.

For the remainder of 2023 as PIM transitions to this new governance structure and prepares for Stuart's commencement in 2024, Les Fowler will step into the role of Interim Superintendent. Les is a long-term supporter of PIM, having served on the Committee in past years. The PIM Committee extend its thanks to Les for assisting in this transition process.

Stuart is eager to meet as many friends and supporters of the PIM as possible. If you would like to organise a time to meet, or to simply have a chat, please call him on 0400 012 865 or email [superintendent@pim.org.au](mailto:superintendent@pim.org.au). He is eager to hear from you.



Sorrento & Rye Parish

## 135TH ANNIVERSARY THANKSGIVING SERVICE AT ST ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SORRENTO

On Sunday 10 September 2023 more than eighty people gathered to celebrate the 135th Anniversary of St. Andrew's Presbyterian of Sorrento (1888-2023). It was attended by many pastors, friends and families, with some coming long distances to be there. St Andrew's is a beautiful sandstone and wood building that has stood the test of time. But as our Moderator the Right Rev Peter Phillips said, it was the people who had built and were the real church. Speakers included Cathy Stirling, representing her mother Jean Stirling who at 99 is the longest serving member. Noela Clark and June Robertson testified of the love and sacrifice of people who played music, taught Sunday school, held concerts, and organised picnics and playgroups. The Rev. Professor Allan Harman also gave some encouraging words.

Nandi du Preez, one of our newest members, sang a beautiful song, and Graham Sutherland played the piano. The beautiful flowers from Amanda Flood, the history booklet collated by Anne Lee, and the Special 135th anniversary pew sheet created by Soyoung greatly enhanced the service. The wonderful afternoon tea prepared by members of the Parish were both delightful to the eyes and pleasing to the tummies. Thanks also to all who helped in cleaning and getting the church ready. We praise God for the blessing of this church and for the future.

*Val Jelleff*

## EXIT STUDENT INTERVIEWS

### MITCH AMOAH FRANKSTON PC

Reflecting on the significant milestones in my life, I can see God's gracious hand at work, which provokes deep gratitude to our great God. I lived with my family in the northern suburbs of Melbourne for most of my life. We tended to move around throughout my early childhood, meaning we would move churches and schools. It seemed like going to church was more about doing the right thing than loving and worshipping God as His gathered people. So, that is what I did for many years at the Baptist church, going to the youth group and young adults events because that was what Christians did. If you had asked me if I was a Christian, I would have said yes because I thought Christians were good people who read the Bible and prayed regularly. In a very real sense, I was spiritually deceived into thinking that I was saved by the combination of my good works and what Jesus has done. Unfortunately, none of church services and Christian events I attended challenged me with the true gospel of grace.

It wasn't until I attended a gap year course at Youth Dimension that God rescued me, as I heard the good news of Jesus Christ loud and clear. In that year, God opened my spiritual eyes and gave me a desire for his glory. I was passionate about seeing God work through his gospel in the church and eager to go into gospel ministry right then and there. I couldn't understand how I had lasted so long in church without hearing the pure gospel of grace, so I wanted to serve God as he would enable me. However, due to my age and spiritual maturity, I was graciously encouraged to complete the civil engineering course at RMIT, which I had postponed for the gap year, and to revisit gospel ministry later.

While at university, I was active in the Christian Union (CU), where I met my lovely wife Sarah. Through the Christian Union, God built up my faith, trained me for service, refined my theology and blessed me with ministry-minded friends. After completing my four-year civil engineering course at RMIT, Sarah and I got married and moved to Melton Presbyterian Church (MPC). Sarah worked as a pharmacist in Ballarat, and I worked for a civil engineering company in Melton while we served alongside the people of God at MPC for six years. Through reading Scripture, attending a gospel preaching church, and listening to books and podcasts, it was clear that the Holy Spirit was refining me for pastoral ministry. God used all the ministry opportunities and conversations about ministry with my spiritual mentors at CU and MPC to lead me to study at the Presbyterian Theological College (PTC).

The PTC has been a blessing in many ways, preparing us for full-time ministry. The primary blessing is the way college provides a theological foundation from a reformed perspective, equipping candidates with biblical languages and demonstrating the importance of church history. Another major blessing of PTC is the practical subjects such as preaching and pastoral care classes. Thinking through how to preach the word of God well and how to allow God's word to speak into the lives of hurting people has been profoundly helpful. Similarly, College Mission and Summer Placement have been tremendously valuable in putting all the knowledge learned at PTC into practice, serving God's people in different contexts.



I'm grateful to be exiting to Frankston Presbyterian Church as the assistant minister and hope to love God's people there well. As an assistant, my priorities will be shaped by how to complement and assist Jared Keath in ministry, working closely with the Session. Building up the people of God with the word of God will be a high priority, as well as lovingly shepherding God's flock at Frankston PC. Another important priority would be to reach Frankston with the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, making the most of the opportunities God provides. That being said, my ministry priorities will largely depend on the context of Frankston PC, prayerfully seeking God's will through the wisdom of Scripture and in agreement with the pastoral heart of the Session at Frankston PC.

Prayer is vital for longevity in full-time pastoral ministry, for without God, we labour in vain. Therefore, we would love to be covered in the prayers of God's people. So, please pray that God would allow us to humbly serve God's people at Frankston PC, building up people in the gospel of grace. Also, ask God to strengthen our marriage

in ministry and to grant our children the blessing of enjoying church life. Pray that God would strengthen and sustain us for the work he has prepared for us, that we may walk in a manner worthy of the gospel, bearing fruit as the Spirit works through clay vessels. Please pray for wisdom about where the leaders of Frankston should invest the time and energy God has graciously given us. Pray for patience, unity and love to abound at Frankston PC, that we all may become more like Christ in every way, and all for His glory.

Many of our dear brothers and sisters in Christ have supported us through PTC, without which we may not have made it this far. We thank God for the faithful men and women who are just as passionate as we are to see God bring people from death to life through the power of the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ. It has been a joy to see God work through His church, and I can't wait to see how God continues to do that in this next season of our lives. May all the glory, honour and praise be to our great God, forever and ever.

### CAMERON WEIR (WITH ANNIE & ELSIE)

Cameron's Home Church: St John's Presbyterian Church Bendigo  
 Annie's Home Church: Bundoora Presbyterian Church  
 Sending Church: South Yarra Presbyterian Church  
 Exiting Church: Colac Presbyterian Church

#### PLEASE TELL US ABOUT YOUR BACKGROUND, INCLUDING WHERE YOU GREW UP, HOW YOU MET YOUR WIFE, AND WHAT YOU DID BEFORE TRAINING FOR THE MINISTRY

I grew up with a fairly rural lifestyle in Bendigo. My parents owned 24 acres, so I quickly developed a love of animals and petrol-fuelled activities. Prior to studying at the Presbyterian Theological College I worked for eight years as a metal machinist in the automotive industry where I built and repaired engines for vintage and exotic cars (which definitely had its memorable moments). I didn't meet my wife Annie until my second semester at the PTC, when we happened to be in the same Ministry Formation class. She enrolled to continue her studies following a hospital chaplaincy placement, while considering future chaplaincy or pastoral ministry work with women, teens, or children.

#### AT WHAT STAGE OF YOUR LIFE DID YOU BECOME A CHRISTIAN? HOW DID THAT HAPPEN?

My parents both have a very sincere faith and I was taught the basics of the Gospel at church and in the home from a young age. I cannot remember a time when I did not believe in the existence of God, but, as I progressed through my teenage years and early adulthood there was a definite deepening of my understanding of what Jesus has done for me, as well as a growing ownership of my own faith in Him.

#### WHY DID YOU START THEOLOGICAL STUDY? WHAT TRAINING AND OPPORTUNITIES IN YOUR LOCAL CONGREGATION PREPARED YOU FOR MINISTRY TRAINING? AND WHO ENCOURAGED YOU TO ENTER INTO FULL TIME MINISTRY?

Initially, my desire to study was not necessarily aimed at entering full-time ministry (although I did not rule out the possibility). Rather, I had gradually felt a growing dissatisfaction with my work and a growing desire to equip myself with a deeper understanding of the Scriptures so that God could use me in the future—whether that be as a better witness in the workplace, as a husband or parent, or one day in some form of church leadership. I was further into my studies at the PTC when I had seen my gifts increasingly tested that I became more sure that God was preparing me for full-time ministry. This was also confirmed to me through prayerful discussions with members of the College faculty and my wife Annie, all of whom reassured and encouraged me.

#### WHAT WERE SOME HIGHLIGHTS OF YOUR PREPARATION FOR FULL TIME MINISTRY?

Highlights include:

- Living on campus and developing lifelong friendships with other students and members of the faculty and college staff. As well it was a privilege to preach for, and build relationships with, more than a dozen churches around Victoria.
- Having the opportunity to work as the PTC Property Manager while studying and being trusted to make extensive modifications and improvements to the gardens and grounds.
- Annie and I were also encouraged by starting the PTC Men of God event and were blown away two years in a row by the number of men that God brought together, and the opportunity for 'equipping ordinary men with the knowledge and courage to lead, love, and serve'.
- Being invited to serve on the PCV Archives Committee which led to finding a permanent home for the PCV Archives, now at 690 Elgar Road.

- Classes, essays and sermons which have stretched me, challenged me, and grown me to know, love, and give greater glory to our Sovereign God.
- Student Field Education (SFE) Placements at South Yarra, West Footscray, and Woori Yallock Presbyterian Churches, and the training and wisdom gained from the pastors, elders, and congregations there.

#### WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR YOUR MINISTRY IN YOUR EXIT APPOINTMENT?

- To preach God's Word faithfully and clearly.
- To invest in relationships and pastoral care of the people in the Colac Presbyterian Church.
- To assist the Colac Presbyterian Church in being a witness for Jesus Christ in the broader community of Colac.

#### HOW CAN WE PRAY FOR YOU (AND YOUR FAMILY) AND THE CONGREGATION YOU ARE SERVING?

- Praise and thanks to God (and the Exit Committee) for an opportunity to return to a regional community and serve in a country parish.
- For finishing well at College and the practicalities of our move – including studies, College mission to WA, relationships, and current church placement commitments.
- For our families in both Bendigo and Sale as we move geographically further away from them both.
- For good friendships and support networks in Colac, both spiritually and practically.
- For the congregation of Colac, that we might love and serve each other well, and that God would continue to sustain them as He has already during the past four years of vacancy.
- For our Presbyterian Theological College – for the student community, the faculty and their tireless work, and the TEC with their guidance and support.



## MINISTRY MOVES

On Friday 18th August, Daryl Jackson was ordained and appointed to the Home Mission Station of Castlemaine by the Presbytery of Western Victoria.

## STEVE DENNESS LEONGATHA PC

My pre-school years were spent in North-East Victoria, but school years were in Pakistan where my parents served as missionaries. I became a Christian in those early years but it wasn't really until hitting university that those ideas were challenged, because it was easy in a Christian school and missionary context not to feel personally challenged.

It was particularly through the university ministry of the Australian Fellowship of Evangelical Students (Christian Union at RMIT University) that I was challenged to go into ministry. At university and in the workplace I saw the emptiness of life without Christ, but also experienced the opportunities that exist to speak through life to people with the gospel, opportunities that often bear fruit. I was disciplined weekly for three years, was trained to lead, was challenged to think, was lovingly rebuked, and was shown faithful and clear preaching that moved from the Bible to life and kept pointing us to the saving work of Christ.

Melanie and I met at university through the Christian Union. Looking back, it was a real blessing to have got to know each other while we were involved with ministry, as it gave us the same ministry mindset and calling. God has blessed us with four kids, three in high school and one about to enter primary school.

I loved working as an engineer building roads and bridges after going to uni for four years. But there were limits – gospel conversations were squeezed into the cracks and spare time. Working, sharing life and having conversations with friends and colleagues weren't insignificant, but they were limited.

So after two years of a ministry apprenticeship at RMIT university (which I recommend – look up the equivalent PCV Metro program), I spent four years at theological college so I could be better equipped to serve God, with the intention of going back into university student ministry. It was a busy and deeply enriching time, full-on, but wonderful to be able to explore the deeper things of God and his work in the world.

Since then I've spent the last 14 years serving in student ministry at RMIT University. It's been a privilege to share my life and the gospel with the students there – in evangelism and discipleship through the ministry of the word. But over the past few years, especially through what's been happening at our Cranbourne Presbyterian church, God has been laying on my heart the need to serve in local church with the wider body of God's people.

Having spent the last couple of years doing some additional study at the Presbyterian Theological College, I'll be serving as the pastor at Leongatha next year, Lord-willing. I'll be doing my best to love, preach the gospel clearly, and work with the congregation so that together we're all growing more and more into the likeness of Christ and living as lights in the places God has put us.

I'd love you to pray for the move to Leongatha, especially for the family. Our oldest will probably move back to Melbourne to study at university. The others will need to adapt to a new environment, a new school, and the hardship of leaving old friends and making new ones. Please pray that I would adapt to the different context of church-based ministry and love my family. Melanie and I are looking forward to being in the same ministry together, so please pray that we'll do that well. Above all, please pray that God would use us to grow his church



# ADVANCE CHURCH PLANTING CONFERENCE

'Planting from the inside out'



18  
Nov



Scots' Church  
156 Collins St,  
Melbourne



08:30  
12:30  
AM - PM



Derek Hannah  
Phil Campbell  
John Huynh

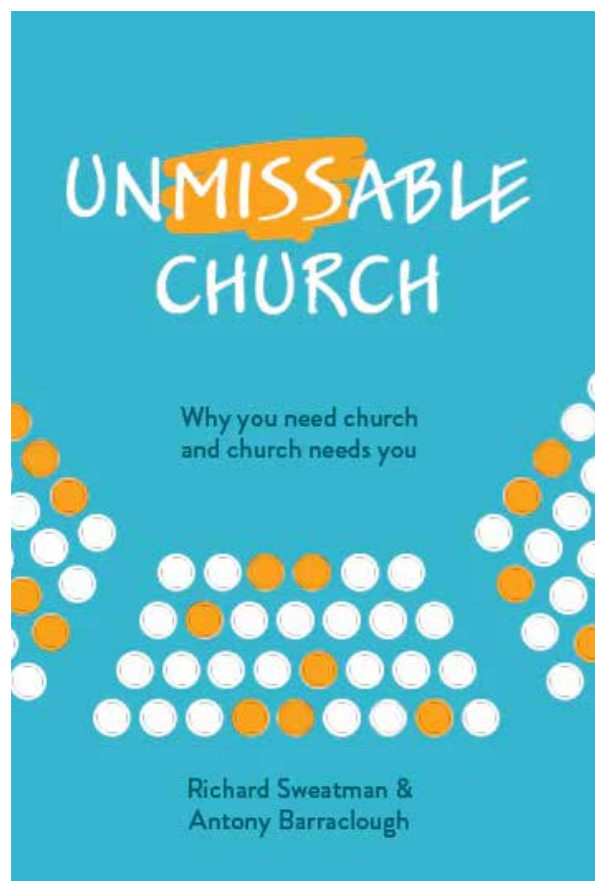
[trybooking.com/CJMVZ](https://trybooking.com/CJMVZ)

**RA** | GENEVA PUSH  
REACH AUSTRALIA



PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH OF  
VICTORIA



**REVIEW:****UNMISSABLE  
CHURCH****REVIEWED BY BRIAN HARVEY***Richard Sweatman & Antony Barraclough*

Sometimes you read a book and think to yourself, “That’s the book I wanted to write.” This is one of those books. What these authors bring to the book that I couldn’t - is research. But I’m getting ahead of myself.

Unmissable Church is written by two Australian pastors, Richard Sweatman and Antony Barraclough. This fact alone piques my interest. In a world full of guidance and advice for church members and leaders, it is a delight to read something that is from my own country.

The subtitle is helpful too - “Why you need church and your church needs you”. Living in an age where church attendance is generally sporadic and people wonder what they get out of coming to church, it is a good reminder that your church needs you.

I mentioned research. While I could do my own, Barraclough has done the hard yards already in his doctoral level research on church attendance. This was centred around Sydney Anglican churches so some might think this is too narrow. However, as this group in many ways reflects my own, it is helpful to me. I am also assuming that this group - which takes the Bible very seriously - also takes church attendance seriously. Maybe my assumptions are too generous.

The early chapters help to define what church is. These chapters are important reading for all of us as they point out, or remind us, what a church is supposed to be and achieve. Even a small church is a gathering of God’s people, just as heaven will be a gathering of God’s people.

The biblical images of the church are pointed out in chapter three: a body, building, family, etc. The importance of these images can’t be overstated as they all reveal the church to be a group, not an individual.

The middle section of the book focuses on some of the reasons that people are inconsistent in attendance or stop coming to church all together. These chapters are helpful reading as I consider why some people aren’t in church, and why moaning about a lack of commitment might be completely wrong.

Chapters six and seven deal with ‘relationships’ and ‘mental health’ respectively and highlight some aspects of life that I don’t often consider, or at least don’t have in front of my mind. I am one who battles at times with poor mental health, or ‘dark days’ as I call them. On these days I would often be content to stay home, sit on the couch and just avoid people. But I can’t do that. I’m the pastor and I have to get to church and be with my people. And while some days are difficult I can say how glad I am that I go to church even when I don’t feel like it. There is something about being with God’s people who are praying for me and who love me that spurs me on.

Chapter seven offers encouragement to the one dealing with mental health issues AND to the congregation. The Bible’s instruction to the church is not “let the fainthearted and the weak fend for themselves”, but encourage and help them.” (p. 137)

Chapters eight and nine invite us to consider our place in the church. It is good to be reminded of the value we find when we have the opportunity to serve others, and your church is a place where you can serve others. It is also good to be reminded that service doesn’t mean your name is on a roster. You can serve others and encourage others simply by being there each week. As a pastor, I can assure you that your presence matters more than you might possibly imagine.

Chapter nine spends time considering what the book of Hebrews teaches us about involvement and attendance at a local gathering.

You might be surprised to learn just how much is to be found in Hebrews.

The book closes with four appendices. I found the ‘practical tips for pastors’ to be wise and helpful. Sometimes I need to be reminded to ‘not tie my self-esteem as a pastor to the attendance of my flock.’ (p. 193)

The final appendix is timely and important but I confess I also find it distressing. This relates to the impact of Covid on Australian churches. The material here is timely and important because we need to reflect on the impact on our churches of Covid restrictions, lockdowns, mask and vaccine mandates etc. This appendix reminds us of a moment in history when church-in-person suddenly became church-online, a time when we were all learning something new and dealing with the difficulties of it all.

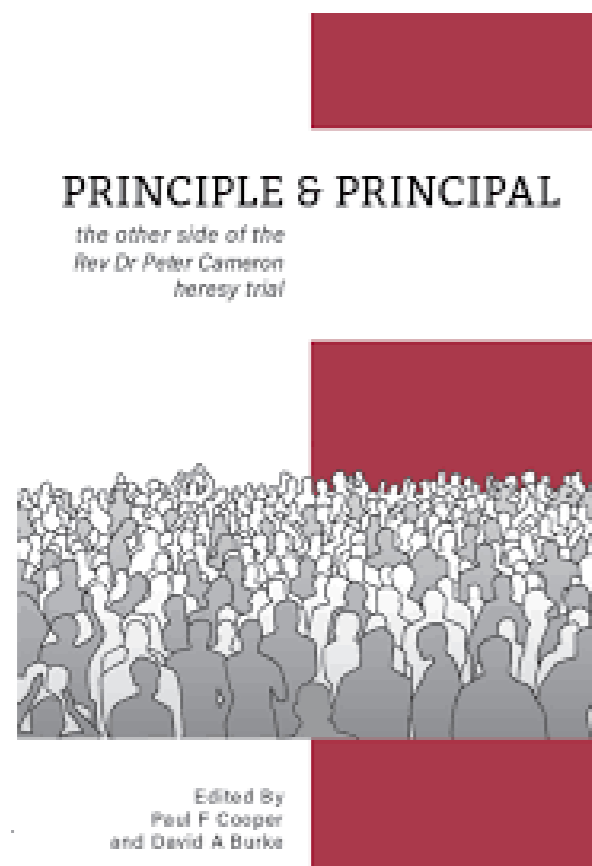
I confess I also found this distressing because it was a period of church life that was difficult, and I’m not sure I want to think back on that time. Perhaps that’s because I am in Victoria where we had the harshest lockdowns in Australia. But that doesn’t take away from the value of this appendix.

I highly recommend this book. Pastors, you should read this book to remind you that the lives of our church attenders is often very different to your own.

Church attenders should also read this book to remind you what church is, why we meet together, and why your attendance and absence makes an impact.

Perhaps we should all have a copy in our church library for people to read.

*Brian Harvey is the minister of Heathmont Presbyterian Church. This review first appeared at his blog [sitwonder.blogspot.com](http://sitwonder.blogspot.com)*

**REVIEW:****PRINCIPLE &  
PRINCIPAL****THE OTHER SIDE OF THE REV DR PETER  
CAMERON HERESY TRIAL.****REVIEWED BY CAMPBELL MARKHAM**

*Book Review, Paul Cooper and David Burke (eds.). Principle & Principal: the other side of the Rev Dr Peter Cameron heresy trial. Stanhope Gardens, NSW: Eider Books, 2023. It can be purchased at eiderbooks.wordpress.com for \$28 plus \$9 postage.*

“Know Thyself”, inscribed in ancient times upon Apollo’s Temple, is a maxim that applies just as much to a Christian denomination as to the individual. If we are going to be at all true and effective then we must know who we are, why we exist, and what our mission is.

The Presbyterian Church of Australia (PCA)

ought then to be very grateful to Paul Cooper and David Burke for their three edited books so far, devoted to the recent history and doctrine of our denomination: *Burning or Bushed: the PCA 40 years on* (2017); *Read in the Light: the 1901 Declaratory Statement of the PCA* (2019); and now *Principle & Principal: the other side of the Rev Dr Peter Cameron heresy trial* (2023).

*Principle & Principal* is a major exploration of a defining moment in the history of the PCA since the 1977 Union: the 1993 trial of the Rev Dr Peter Cameron, Principal of St Andrew’s College in Sydney, for public statements he made disowning and disparaging the inspiration and infallibility of Scripture.

It was a defining moment because if the denomination had refused to prosecute Cameron, or had failed in its prosecution, then the PCA as a whole might well have drifted into a similarly low view of Scripture or, at best, would have learned to accommodate such poisonous teaching in its seminaries and pulpits. In which case the PCA would have looked very different today: manned more by theological liberals and cultural appeasers than spirited guardians and exponents of Reformed Confessional orthodoxy.

Cooper and Burke’s book contains twenty-two (mostly) short essays from nineteen contributors. With its quaint punning title, copious duplicative material, and idiosyncratic formatting, it is a rough-hewn but nonetheless solid and nourishing piece of work: more shepherd’s pie than soufflé au fromage.

The book builds a careful historical context to the Cameron trial, describing the doctor’s history and the Church of Scotland from whence he came, as well as the theological and organisational state of the PCA at the turn of the 1990s. John McClean carefully explains the nature and purpose of theological confessions and the various kinds of false teaching that a confessional church may have to deal with, heresy constituting the most dangerous and consequential form of false teaching. The case itself and the trial and appeal are thoroughly and carefully described. It is all very interesting and compelling and the reader benefits from a lot of patient research into the minutes

of various presbyteries and assemblies, into Cameron’s copious books and articles, and into an abundance of contemporary church and newspaper articles and media reports.

Bruce Meller’s expert description of the trial and appeal processes, “A Court of Kangaroos or a Court of Owls”, is for me the highlight of the book. Meller helpfully explains that the Confession describes instead of prescribes our doctrine: office-bearers sign the Confession as a statement of the faith that they themselves own and intend to propagate and defend. Meller shows us how useful and important our statements of doctrine and polity are; we must labour to know them and to learn to use them well. May this chapter be required reading for all students of PCA theology and polity.

David Burke’s answer to the question, “Why Prosecute Dr Cameron?”, shows how vital it is, and always will be, for the church to actively defend its doctrine from false teaching. Our Lord promised that false teachers would come, and it is the pastor’s core duty to both teach the flock the Word, and to defend the flock from error, with loving diligence.

A number of essays describe the immediate public response to the trial (predominantly blind disgust), and the long-term result (an orthodox and steadfast PCA).

Three things struck me from *Principle & Principal*:

First, Cameron’s arrogance and dishonesty. He never hid his contempt for what he thought was the backward, uneducated, and unsophisticated “fundamentalist” doctrinal commitment of the PCA. By his own admission he entered the church with a mission to change it from within, to save it from its knuckle-dragging obscurantism to (his own idea of) enlightened liberalism. Yet, no guns were held to heads. No one compelled Cameron to come to Australia and to sign the Formula as one who owned and pledged to defend the Confession. It amazes me that a man who delighted to excoriate the church for its “dishonest or stupid” fundamentalism could at the same time be so blind to his own dishonesty as to sign with pen and ink documents that he, inwardly, fully intended to undermine. “There but for the grace of God go I.”

May the Lord deliver us all from such hypocrisy.

Second, the mountain of patient preparatory work undertaken by Bruce Christian, who agreed to be Cameron’s prosecutor, and Paul Cooper, who agreed to be spokesman for the PCA – to publicly defend the church’s actions to an inevitably hostile media. Not to mention their bravery. Thank God for these men who stood, like Horatius on the Tiber bridge before the Etruscan horde, to defend the church from such dazzling enemies at a critical time.

Third, it is only a matter of time before we are called to mount a similar defence. I can picture pastors bowing before our nation’s near-and-present anti-conversion laws, by refusing to help a same-sex attracted church member who comes to them for help and prayer; or by refusing to preach from the Bible against homosexual conduct without fear or favour. Will we be willing to lovingly correct and support such a negligent brother in our own midst? Will we be willing to prosecute him if he forsakes his vow “to the utmost of [his] power” to “assert, maintain, and defend the doctrine, worship, and government of this Church.”

Church discipline is an act of love; may I be surrounded by a strong and diligent band of brothers who will love me and Christ’s church enough to keep me true and faithful to my own confession, teaching, and pastoral work – by correcting me, admonishing me, or even, if needs be, by prosecuting me.

Right now we are entering into a new storm of challenges: challenges of an even greater and more insidious severity than those faced by our faithful brothers in the 1990s. May the Lord raise up men with like diligence, conviction, skill, courage, and love.

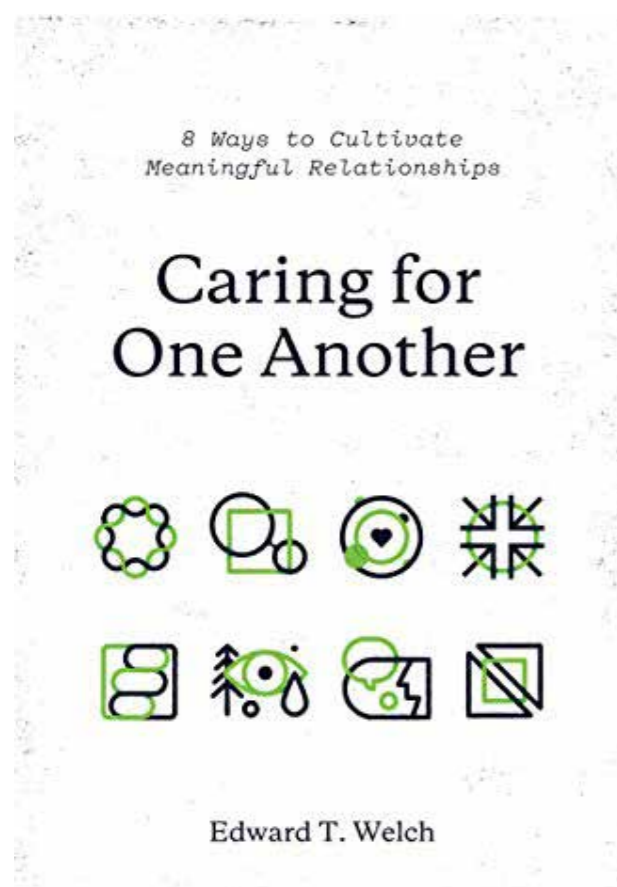
We can be very grateful to Paul Cooper and David Burke for *Principle & Principal*. I feel certain that it will be an important tool as we prepare and equip to face the storms ahead.

— Campbell Markham is the Minister of Fremantle Presbyterian Church

## REVIEW:

## CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER

REVIEWED BY STEPHEN MCDONALD



Edward T. Welch  
 Crossway (2018)  
 ISBN 978 14435 6109

What's a minister good for? And what should elders do?

There are many places we could look for answers in the New Testament. One of the best is Ephesians 4:11-14:

“<sup>11</sup> And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup> until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, <sup>14</sup> so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.”

Yes, elders (including ministers) are fellow workers, actually doing ministry (1 Peter 5:2). But they are also called to “equip the saints for the work of ministry” (Ephesians 4:12). In fact, every Christian not only receives ministry from others, but is called to minister to others.

That's the main point of Ed Welch's book *Caring for One Another*. In eight short lessons, Welch outlines how Christians can cultivate meaningful relationships. As a counsellor and faculty member at the Christian Counselling Education Foundation, Welch is an experienced advisor. The discussion questions at the end of each chapter are a real practical help to reflect on what we have experienced of this kind of caring ministry and how we can put it into practice ourselves.

Welch starts by pointing out that our own need for help is the basis from which we are able to help each other. That way to maturity is through dependence, expressed in prayer and grounded in the Scriptures. So, we care “with all humility” (pages 11-16).

Then, recognising our own need, we are able to move towards others (pages 17-22). Based on God's initiative in moving towards us, Christians should be people who don't ignore other people and their needs. “Imagine a group of people who move towards each other – active rather than passive, loving more than fearing rejection. They look glorious; they attract the world. This is an example of what the apostle Paul calls putting on Christ and is evidence of the Spirit of Christ at work in us.” (page 19)

Welch then encourages us to move our conversation beyond football, the weather and the kids into the realm of the heart (pages 23-32). At this point he provides a helpful diagram that he continues to build on throughout the book. It locates our hearts not only in relation to our bodies but also the material and spiritual influences on us. These influences are fleshed out in chapters 4-7: Know the Critical Influences, Be Personal and Pray, Talk about Suffering, and Talk about Sin. Finally, Welch urges us to remember: “God uses ordinary people and their increasingly wise, childlike, God-dependent conversations to build his church.” (page 69).

It's worth noting that helping others isn't just about pointing out how the other person is sinning. This way of thinking might be the reason that we pull back from deep Christian relationships. Meaningful relationships are more complex than that. But that doesn't mean it's too difficult. If it seems like it, pick up a copy of *Caring for One Another*. Or get two and discuss it with someone else.

*Caring for One Another* is a great introduction for everyone in church as we seek to be equipped to minister to one another. May it be widely read, studied, discussed, and put into action.

*Stephen McDonald is the minister of the Benalla Regional Parish.*



MOPS.ORG.AU



## Want to reach young families?

MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) is a ministry for your church that serves mums and creates connections.

To find out more, email [info@mops.org.au](mailto:info@mops.org.au) to get an info pack

#thisismotherhood

## A GOD MOMENT AT NIMMITABEL

Recently on our holidays to NSW whilst visiting our son on the Monaro (Snowy Mountain) Plains, we happened to call in at Nimmitabel for morning tea. Nimmitabel is an historic township of just 320 people, about 52 kilometres from Bombala.

Whilst enjoying a cuppa in one of the old historic buildings, we couldn't help but overhear two women on the table next to us discussing the pros and cons of Christianity. By the way they spoke it was clear they were not Christians themselves.

I took the opportunity to lean over and say, "I can't help overhearing your conversation about Christianity. We're Christians, and it's encouraging to hear people discussing matters of faith and religion." We ended up joining together in a very pleasant and I hope fruitful conversation. The two ladies had just moved into town. After they left, the owner of the café came over to us and said, "I couldn't help overhearing your conversation with those two ladies." He then said, "I'm an Anglican and help run the local youth group here."

What followed next was a great encouragement to us. As we chatted, he told us about a young couple who had come up from Gippsland to do ministry at Bombala. He told us that they had visited Nimmitabel, and, while in the town, the young man had helped him cut down a large tree. His practical help apparently made quite an impression. The owner of the café seemed to be amazed that a young couple were coming up onto the Monaro to do ministry in this day and age. We said to him, "I think we know who you are talking about – are their names Noah and Nerroli Vasiliades?" He responded with surprise, "Yes, that's them!"

Noah and Nerroli, don't think you're not making an impression for the Gospel! People are taking note. There are fields white and ready for harvest up there, including the café owner, and the two ladies who have just moved into town!

### David and Isabel Schulz

*Noah and Nerroli Vasiliades began their work on the Snowy Mountains Patrol for the Presbyterian Inland Mission in January 2023. Since then, they have been working hard to engage in evangelism and discipling work in their home town of Bombala and the surrounding area, running outreach events and building relationships through one-on-one bible reading. If you would like to stay updated on the work of the Vasiliades, visit [pim.org.au/give/snowymountains](http://pim.org.au/give/snowymountains) and sign up to their mailing list.*



## CHURCH CAMP IN THE OUTBACK

Over a weekend in early September more than sixty people attended the Griffith and Leeton Presbyterian Churches camp at New Dunesk. We shared dinner together on Friday as other campers gradually arrived and were warmly greeted by the onsite manager who gave us a brief orientation. Then, over a campfire and some toasted marshmallows, we spent time together enjoying the peaceful surroundings and one another's company. We then got ready for bed, making use of the warm showers on an otherwise cold night!

Over the next two days we focused on the theme of church unity as we heard God's word taught and attended Bible studies. We were challenged to keep Jesus as the source of our unity since his death and resurrection is the sole reason we are Christians! Our kids attended their own programme too, which included making Father's Day crafts for the dads. During our free time some of us explored the area on a bushwalk while others sat back at camp and read a book or talked amongst themselves. There was something for all interests at New Dunesk.

We didn't just hear about church unity, we also got to put it into practice as we all served each other through cooking, cleaning and competing in family fun games. We had a great weekend together and have already booked our camp for next year. If your church is planning a camp or weekend away I recommend you consider New Dunesk.

### Rev. David Hawken, Griffith Presbyterian Church

*Is your church, youth group or conference looking for a location to hold your 2024 camp? The Presbyterian Inland Mission's New Dunesk may be the perfect fit! Located one hour north of Wagga Wagga in NSW, New Dunesk hosts a self-catering campsite set in a beautiful outback landscape, complete with powered camp kitchen, amenity blocks and an air conditioned conference centre. For more information about booking your camp at New Dunesk, email [newdunesk@pim.org.au](mailto:newdunesk@pim.org.au), call 0493 294 798 or visit [pim.org.au/new-dunesk](http://pim.org.au/new-dunesk)*





## TIMOR LESTE: EQUIPPING LEADERS AND PROVIDING RECOURSES

You may not realise it but in terms of theological resources, Christians in Australia are incredibly blessed. We have access to thousands of books in English and other common languages. We have a relative wealth of excellent theological colleges from which to choose, in addition to all the resources and materials on the internet.

It's not like that in Timor Leste and a number of other countries across the globe. The number of books in the Tetun language (the language of Timor Leste) is probably around one thousand and a very small proportion of those books are for Christians. So what is being done to help our brothers and sisters in a country where the Protestant churches are a small minority within a culture that follows a mixture of Roman Catholicism and animism?

### TRAINING

As you may be aware, APWM Associate Missionary David Burke and Church Missionary Society Missionaries Chris and Grace Adams (Anglican) and Chris and Julie Dean (Presbyterian), together with local church leaders, are piloting a local training scheme for pastors and other leaders.

A pilot training week took place in late August, and it was aimed at equipping the church pastors who have the least training. The plan in 2024 is to develop this training into six one-week intensive courses. Participants won't receive any accredited recognition for this training but they will be equipped to better teach the Bible and lead the people of God. This is an incredibly exciting development for the church, and in the words of the Moderator Pastor Carlos Marcal this is training 'by Timor Leste, for Timor Leste'.

Photo: David Burke Timor Leste  
L to R: Chris Adams, Local Pastors & David Burke

### RESOURCES

Scripture Union Timor Leste plays a pivotal role in the production of Biblical teaching materials. A few years ago Scripture Union published a Tetun translation of the popular The Big Picture Story Bible. Scripture Union works very closely with our partner in Timor Leste, the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Timor Leste.

With funding from a 2021 PresAID Appeal, Scripture Union produced a series of training resources to equip Sunday School teachers across Timor Leste's protestant churches in the use of The Big Picture Story Bible, thus sowing gospel seeds in the minds of young people — as well as providing an overview of the Bible for adults. Training days are also being conducted in the use of The Big Picture Story Bible curriculum for children's ministry. In addition to these materials, there are approximately six other Bible resources in the pipeline.

We are seeking to play our part in training local believers and providing them with the resources so that they can be equipped to carry out their ministry. These are exciting days! However in the midst of these developments sometimes there is much spiritual opposition. Please pray!



## MATT & KATE VINICOMBE UPDATE

Thank you very much to the individuals and congregations who gave so generously to the appeal for Matt and Kate Vinicombe. Our goal of \$800,000 was exceeded! Through gifts from members of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, Bundoora Presbyterian Church (their home congregation) and the Church Missionary Society, \$1,130,590 was given toward the purchase of a suitable house.

Kate has moved to the Royal Talbot Rehabilitation Centre meaning that she now has her own room and is spending a lot more time in an electric wheelchair. This makes for more enjoyable family visits. Matt and the children have moved into rental accommodation while they search for a suitable house to purchase and modify.

Please join us in praying that:

- There will be no further need for surgery.
- Kate will adapt well to using the electric wheelchair.
- The family would adapt to their new life and routines.

Photo: Matt & Kate Vinicombe



## LET'S LIGHT UP TALUA. TARGET EXCEEDED!

Again, we praise God for the generosity of His people in supporting the project to install solar power at the Talua Theological Training Institute in Vanuatu.

Rob Falls writes: "Some time in the next twelve months, Talua will receive a huge solar farm that will give 24/7 power to the campus, and thus transform the living and learning at the Institute. THANK YOU to everyone who gave, and gave so generously."

Gifts to the PresAID Easter Appeal exceeded the target and this has enabled the solar system to be upgraded with the provision of:

- additional solar panels
- additional batteries
- a lightning arrester
- electrical sub-boards

And money has also been set aside for ongoing maintenance of the system.

The materials for the system are currently being ordered prior to shipping to Vanuatu. Depending on the shipping times, it is hoped that the installation team from Australia will travel to Talua in late October/early November 2023 for an installation that could take up to two weeks.

Photo: Let's Light Up Talua



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