Newsletter of the Presbytery of South Australia

Issue 62 June 2024

Worthy Of The Gospel

In Paul's letter to the Philippians, he encourages the church to conduct themselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, no matter the circumstances. (Phil 1:27) This sounds like a difficult task, until you realise Paul is writing from prison arrested for doing the very thing he is urging the Philippians to do. It is clear to everyone that Paul is in chains for Christ (Phil 1:13) and as a result Christians were emboldened to proclaim the gospel WITHOUT fear.

Paul suggests that being locked up has actually served to advance the gospel (Phil 1:12). This kingdom mindset seems to stand out in a world full of individualism, selfish ambition and vain conceit.

How would you feel if you were in gaol for proclaiming the gospel? Would there be enough evidence to convict you of that "crime"?

It seems to me that if I were locked up, it would be a challenge to consider it a "good" thing, like Paul clearly does. His mindset is not one of personal preservation, but of God's glory in every circumstance.

What would it look like for you to conduct yourself in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ in EVERY circumstance? At work, in your local community, in your family, at church? Having the same mindset as Christ Jesus, (and his servant Paul) would change lives, communities and even eternities!

The gospel is such a precious gift, not just for ourselves, but for all those who put their trust in Jesus. So please, whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, not just for your sake, but for everyone else.

Davo Gunning

Mount Gambier

In April one of the ladies of our church organised a Ladies Afternoon Tea for all of the ladies of our church to attend. The Woodlands Line Dancing Group were in attendance and performed a few line dances for us before inviting us to get up and join them. Several ladies were brave enough to get up and dance, under tuition, with the group and had a lot of fun. This was a great day of fun and fellowship, thank you Jan. Below are some photos of the Line Dancing.





On the 7th May the Care and Concern Committee held an afternoon tea for the Seniors of our church, especially those who are no longer able to attend morning worship. This was a delightful afternoon of enjoying a beautiful afternoon tea and fellowship. Many were able to catch up with those they haven't seen for a while. Thank you to the Care and Concern Committee for organising this afternoon tea. Below are a couple of photos from the afternoon.





During this term our Growth Groups are studying Nehemiah using the study guides that have been produced by our pastor, Gary. Gary preaches the sermon each Sunday on a part of Nehemiah and then the Growth Groups study it using the study guides the following week.

Naracoorte

Naracoorte congregation was blessed to have Rev Rudi Schwartz with us for the month of March. As well as providing Pulpit Supply each Sunday, including Resurrection Sunday, he visited members of the congregation that are unable to attend church nowadays and took communion to them.

We celebrated Wendy Loechel's 80th birthday with a birthday cake at morning tea in February.

A group of people from all the churches in Naracoorte presented "The John Drama", the gospel of John in a "theatre-in-the-round" production. This was very well supported financially by some businesses in the town and many private people, so it was possible to hire the Naracoorte Town Hall for the two performances, on Saturday evening and Sunday afternoon, the weekend before Easter. For Sunday's performance more chairs were brought in and in all it was estimated that 350 people witnessed this drama performed by members of the local churches.

The John Drama was written by Rev Keith Benn from Brisbane, who is a member of Wycliffe Bible Translators. Keith and the Director Malcolm came to Naracoorte to conduct the training and direct the drama. It was a great event with the gospel going out in the town and the district and we can recommend it to everyone.

Rev Keith Benn came back to Naracoorte on 21st April and shared about the work he is currently doing. He has overseas trips planned in the next 12 months to Bangladesh, Israel and Zambia where he will be teaching Bible Story Telling and teaching and directing the Mark Drama; anyone is welcome to join him on these trips.

Harvest Thanksgiving was celebrated at the end of April and the displayed foods were donated to the Naracoorte Community Network and needy families at one of the local primary schools.

Blessings and love to our Christian brothers and sisters throughout the state.

Pat Leitch



The gospel is the food of faith | Herman Bavinck

The new life in Christ, just like all natural life, must be nourished and strengthened. This is possible only in communion with Christ in the Holy Spirit and through the word of Scripture. Enlightened by the Spirit, believers gain a new knowledge of faith. The gospel is the food of faith and must be

known to be nourishment. Salvation that is not known and enjoyed is no salvation. God saves by causing himself to be known and enjoyed in Christ.

Herman Bavinck
 Reformed Dogmatics,

Volume 4: Holy Spirit, Church, and New Creation, page 96

Herman Bavinck (1854-1921) was a Dutch Reformed theologian and church leader. His four volume Reformed Dogmatics has been translated into English.

Karnkendi Campsite

Since our last report there has been some exciting building works and the addition of new user groups which are always welcome.

The last months of 2023 saw Brighton Grammar Boys College from Melbourne stay for a good week with students utilising the grounds for camping. The facility fitted their needs to a tee so they have locked in for a longer stay in November.

We had calls for another Outdoors Education provider from Adelaide with a Geelong based school but the size of the group at approximately 100 would have required a portion tenting which was decided not to be an option for the college so this has fallen through but we are on file for smaller groups in the future, 9 out of 10 times the camp is too big for groups, can't keep them all happy.

In November our regular Homeschool group came in with a lovely number of families and with good weather. They have rebooked for mid-November again which has led to another home-schooling group looking at October or January - February 2025.

The family groups over Christmas/ New year had a wonderful stay and already locked in next year.

We unfortunately at this time have lost the support of the local Catholic College in Mount Gambier, Tenison, for their Junior and Senior music camps due to a lack of band practice spaces but I think they were looking for a change of venue so hopefully they will cycle back through our doors one day.

Pre Covid, we got a booking and deposit for a family reunion from Adelaide and Melbourne making Nelson the perfect place being halfway, however, as we all know things were put on hold for the globe as the pandemic passed. After 4 years finally the planets aligned and they secured Easter for a lovely weekend and are considering a return in the future.



The quieter times at the camp saw the long-awaited roofing project swing into action. We have been holding nearly \$3000 in donations for this for several years so it was fantastic to see things finally moving forward. Local builder Steve did a wonderful job with the planning, removing veranda tin so to repair timbers and have all this sanded down, primed and repainted by our tenant Evan in exchange for rent. With the old roof off new timbers were set in

to lift the ridge line then insulation was installed which was not done before and then lovely new iron fitted with the exclusion of a gable gutter on the veranda side which was not required.

Once the roof was done the wall iron looked shabby so this was treated, primed

and painted by Evan and help from our son and daughter, the door and window surrounds are being done as time and groups permit.

We have always just had old rainwater tanks for firewood storage and with our tenants putting a vegetable garden into the adjoining block at the house we decided it was time for a permanent structure which Steve and our son Johnathon erected with help from good friend Peter and fabrication and delivery

of the large sliding door much to the efforts of Andrew Telford - many thanks!



The area will double up as a space to store the ride on etc and a small bench for camp repairs.

There is still one outer cabin to do but we will look to have some overhanging gum branches removed in due course.

At this point Heather and I could not thank the members of the committee enough as on the 12th of March I had to go into hospital for surgery taking 2-3 days before coming home to recover. Unfortunately complications saw me finally walk out on the 17th of April with

another visit to Geelong soon for final surgery. With all this time away from our aircraft maintenance business I had to find "Jobs" to keep our son busy so from the hospital bed I got the approval to have him finalise work to the outer cabin

and help Steve with the woodshed along with general cleaning and maintenance of the facility whilst I was recovering. This was an enormous help in me not worrying about things in our workshop and keeping Johnathon busy on much need works at the camp - big thank you from Heather and I!

We are now looking forward to launching into the aforementioned upgrades of the wet areas in the Kitchen with Rev. Alan Clarkson on standby for cupboard manufacture with



Stainless tops being fabricated in Adelaide. We were looking at July but with

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

some winter bookings hopefully now the end of July and all of August have been pencilled in for these much-needed upgrades.

At this time, we have had Beaconhills College staff and twice a week year 9's students camping at the facility, this started late April and saw them briefly depart for the Ringwood Secondary College also from Melbourne as they rolled into town for the huge Generations in Jazz event from the 3-5th of May which had big cleans at each end of their stay with continental breakfast supplied each morning.

Beaconhills are back in now which sees them finalise their Outdoors Education Programs for Pakenham and Berwick campuses in the second week of June before my Dad once again has his "Old time music" weekend on the 14-16th.

It is lovely to have a family from MGPC now regularly booked in to use the facility in early January but if you have a group of families or friends that are looking for some time in sleepy little Nelson maybe fishing, enjoying the weekend trails or just reading a book by the open fire please do not hesitate to call Heather on 0448 871 225, a nights accommodation and use of the camp by day is around \$40 per adult.

As always, many thanks for all the prayers that are focused our way to keep Karnkendi moving forward for all that visit.

Harvey and Heather McBain Karnkendi Caretakers Nelson

Book of the Month

Is Jesus

in the Old

Testament?

Basics of

the Faith

lain M. Duguid

Is Jesus in the Old Testament? | Iain Duguid

Many Christians find the Old Testament to be a difficult book and ultimately ignore large parts of it— often because they simply are not sure what to do with it. Yet Iain Duguid maintains that the Old Testament is for Christians too. What is more, Christ is present throughout the Old Testament—in fact, when rightly interpreted, the whole book is about him. Duguid explores what it means to rightly see Christ in the Old Testament and looks at some specific ways the Old Testament prepares us to see and understand Christ's ministry in the gospels.

If reading the first two thirds of your Bible feels like wandering through a foreign country, Iain Duguid's Is Jesus in the Old Testament? offers hope. Not only does he demonstrate that the Old Testament is all about Jesus, he shows how the ancient Scriptures' promises and longings find fulfillment in our Savior as the new Adam, new Israel, and new David. This booklet will enrich your appreciation of the events and words by which God forecasted Christ's redemptive mission before his arrival and will deepen your faith and wonder.

Available from Reformers' Bookshop (www.reformers.org.au) for \$9.99 plus p+p



Sharing the Word of God in Wartime



In Myanmar, our Partner Church is the Evangelical Reformed Church of Myanmar, led by the Rev Dr Thang Bwee. He recently provided an update on some of the issues facing the Church:

In southern Chin State, fighting has meant that many people have left their villages. The Church has many congregations in the region and they

have been able to provide food and shelter for the refugees.

The fighting has led to damage to communication infrastructure so contacting many congregations has been difficult.

The schools in the region are also closed which means that there are no students in the church dormitory accommodation. Young people are fleeing to safer locations.

It is not safe to travel more than 50 kilometres outside of Yangon, and with most of the Church's congregations being outside the city, the Church leaders cannot visit them. Thang Bwee has been spending his time in teaching preparation and doing paperwork in anticipation of the day when things have settled down.

Prayer is needed, that in the midst of the fighting, there would be opportunities to share the Word of God.

Thang Bwee adds a personal note:

"I thank very much the churches in Australia for your continuous prayer and support. I always thank God that the churches in Australia helped me to have surgery for my heart. So now my heart is so much improved and I don't need to worry anymore for my heart problem. I really thank you."

Contact

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A 5-hour walk & a 6-hour bus ride



How far would you travel to attend a course to be better equipped to teach the Bible?

David Burke recently returned from teaching 27 Christian workers in Timor Leste how they might better understand the Bible. For one student that meant leaving home and undertaking a 5-hour walk and then a 6-hour bus ride to reach the capital city where the course was run. At the end of the course, the student made the journey in reverse. That's determination! But it demonstrates the hunger for good Bible teaching in this relatively young nation.

Please look at the photo above featuring another student in the course.

Did you notice the condition of her Bible? That's one well-worn Bible! What a powerful example for each of us as we aim to grow each day in our grasp of the Word of God. Let her example spur us on so that in the words of Thomas Cranmer's prayer about God's words, we might hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them.

Timor Leste: Can you help?



APWM Treasurer Peter Burke with Pastor Mario de Jesus

Imagine if you can, that when your church's Sunday collection is counted, there's a total of \$9. That's not a typing error. That's the situation in our Partner Church, the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Timor Leste, particularly in the many congregations outside the capital city. This means that very often the pastor must find a second job, such as carting wood up and down hills, or find another income supplement to feed the family.

It's a significant issue. Congregations don't have the income to support their pastors, but pastors need to be able to support their families. Congregations typically give their pastors 37 dollars per month. The goal for a minimum salary in Timor Leste is 175 dollars per month so pastors have to choose a commitment to poverty to engage ministry. This scenario is common among the Church's approximately 25 pastors. When APWM became aware of this situation it was decided to provide an additional 40 dollars per month for the church's pastors.

But where does APWM find the money to provide such funds? Excellent question! The money comes from gifts received for this specific purpose. If you would like to assist APWM in helping these pastors and their families then please send an email to finance@apwm.org.au



APWM Australian Presbyterian World Mission

Rick & Kayleen Manton



Rick and Kayleen Manton continue to serve at the Mount Druitt Indigenous Church in Sydney's western suburbs. This year has been fairly full with little respite in sight. Over the next few months, they are both speaking at various conferences and other gatherings about Indigenous ministry. Please keep them in your prayers.

If you would like to receive their prayer letter please email office@apwm.org.au and provide your name, email address and the church which you attend. If you would like to consider financially supporting this ministry then please email finance@apwm.org.au

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Church Growth: Hard places



Jesus said that people would come to Him from east and west and north and south (Luke 13:29). And what have we seen? Take Nepal as an example.

In 1950, it was thought that there were no Christians in Nepal. It's estimated that by 1970, there were about 1,000. By 1980, 5,000. By 1990, 50,000. By 2020, it's estimated that the church had grown to as many as 3 million! All this incredible growth has taken place under some degree of persecution. The Lord Jesus has done this.

Penola

Services at Penola have continued weekly, with an average attendance between 5 and 10 people. We just need to remember what Jesus said in Matthew 18:20 'For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I with them.' Communion Services are again being held quarterly, now that Session Clerk Brendan Provis has been authorised to lead them. Brendan has led most services, with messages from God's Word including 1 Corinthians 15:3-44. Hebrews10:24-25, Colossians 2:6-7, and John12:20-26.



A Dutch couple, Bert and Nel Eigenbrood, who live in northern Italy were in Australia staying in Penola and other places, escaping the European winter. They came to our Church when they heard the bell and kept coming each week for the three months they were in town. They are a lovely couple and good singers! Several people invited them to their homes for dinner and fellowship. They expect to be back in Penola again in November. We had other visitors over Easter as well, which was very pleasing.

The Hall roof was replaced in late February. The hall is used by the Ranger Guides infrequently and the Coonawarra Choir for irregular practice, which will see the piano in the hall tuned for free.

Then this month the Penola/Coonawarra Arts Festival will use the hall to display and sell recycled clothing on the weekend of 17th - 19th May, raising funds for the local Stand Like Stone Committee.

Men from various Churches meet monthly for Shedmen with April being hosted by Brendan, and May's gathering being a farewell for the Lutheran Pastor Shaun Manning who has been called to Canada.

Barbara Provis

(Continued from page 11)

We have been joined recently by new people, some who are unchurched and some who are newly arrived believers. It is such a joy to those who have been there for many years to have a growing congregation. In June and July we will have 2 Saturdays when we will meet together at another church that has offered their premises for the day. These are Vision gatherings where members will focus on jointly exploring, seeking God's direction and establishing our vision for the next years together. Please join us in asking God to bless these times and to use us in the work of the gospel.

Heather Blunt

Seacliff

'Now thank we all our God' is how the song goes and we at Seacliff can sing it readily as we proceed into 2024.

In February we welcomed Jordan and Song Ai Brown with their 3 children, Josiah, Abel and Annaliese. They have quickly become integral members of the church and have embedded themselves in our church life and in our hearts.

Jordan has taken up the reins of ministry and we now have a second growth group with some overseas students joining other of the more youthful members of our congregation to explore and apply the truths of the gospel in their lives.

Jordan has regular meetings with the ministers at Norwood church and together they plan sermon series and reflect together on the scriptures. It is a blessing for us that should anything untoward happen there are ministers available to follow the planned outlines and also that the ministers can encourage and support each other as they pastor and lead.

The soup roster for our after-service supper has been formalised and there are about 8 people who are prepared to serve the congregation with a delicious soup over which we can get to know each other and share our reflections on the sermon content. This time has become firmly fixed in our calendar and has given us a wonderful opportunity to become closer to each other and to welcome newcomers and visitors.

In late March we joined Danielle and Mark Bidwell as they celebrated their birthdays in our hall, a special time for them as there was a big '80' birthday. It was good to meet members of their family from nearby and interstate.

For the first time in many years we were able to have a Good Friday service at Seacliff. In previous years we had an occasional Thursday evening service or had to travelled to Norwood for the service there. Another blessing due to having an incumbent minister.

Last Saturday we had a successful working bee in which we were able to complete some general maintenance and cleaning work but also to progress the establishment of a children's room in our previous vestry. Painting is underway and a new carpet has been ordered. With Jordan's contacts with similarly focused local churches, we were joined by 5 members of the nearby Trinity Brighton church for the working bee, where links were forged, relationships begun and more work completed. Praise and thanks to God for the fellowship of believers and the love and service of the brethren.

We are also updating the colour scheme on the external doors of the buildings selecting a brighter and more 'modern' blue intending both that it covers the damage done by notices attached during the pandemic but also to signal to passersby that the church is an active place with a new look.

Having our minister on the premises most days, with our banner out on the footpath alerts the neighbourhood and passing traffic to the presence of a congregation and new life at the site.

(Continued on page 10)





— worth driving for

Sending out Gospel Nomads

In March, five couples and three individuals attended the Gospel Nomads Orientation Week at New Dunesk, Ardlethan NSW. This is the largest Nomad Network we have had since the ministry began.

PIM's vision is to see people living in the remote and sparsely populated areas of Australia become mature and faithful followers of Jesus. The PIM Gospel Nomads help bring this vision to pass through using their time and mobility to serve the Lord Jesus Christ wherever He leads.

At the Orientation week at New Dunesk, the Moderator-General, Rev. David Burke, led comprehensive studies on evangelism, discipleship and apologetics. Daily devotions and teaching on pastoral and practical theology were provided by the Rev. David Hawkin, PIM Committee member and Minister of Griffith Presbyterian Church. Colin and Alison Morrow of the PIM Mungo Patrol (NSW/VIC) contributed significantly to the gospel effectiveness of the event.

Ron and Lynn-Marie Hick (Mittagong), who have been part of the network since it began in 2021, helped immensely in preparation for the event and were active and keen participants.

'There was good attendance at Nomads, small enough to be personal but big enough to allow for a variety of interactions. The atmosphere was welcoming and supportive'.

New to the Nomads for 2024 were Bob and Jenny Allen (Tuggeranong).

'We were so impressed by the quality of the teaching from David Bourke and David Hawken and came away feeling so much more equipped to care for people and to have gospel conversations as God opens opportunities and prepares hearts. We were also deeply blessed to spend time with the other potential Nomads and a current PIM Ministry Team, Colin and Alison Morrow. New Dunesk is a wonderful place and we are excited by what God is doing there.

We enthusiastically recommend the Gospel Nomads to other people who are considering PIM involvement in their season of life and encourage people to pray for God's ongoing blessings and provision for the Gospel Nomad ministry.'

Much work is now being done to organise and deploy the PIM Gospel Nomads in 2024 to the glory of God.

The Gospel Nomads Orientation Week is held every year in March at New Dunesk. If you would like to learn more about the Gospel Nomads and how you can get involved, visit pim.org.au/gospelnomads or get in touch with Stuart by calling 0438 868 964 or emailing superintendent@pim.org.au.



Gospel Nomads

What's coming up at New Dunesk

Over the coming winter months, PIM will be hosting two practical workshops at New Dunesk, each with a unique purpose and vision:

Country Preachers Workshop

7-10 June

PIM is once again partnering with Langham Partnership to offer the third installment of the Country Preachers Workshop. This course is very practical in its presentation, catering to both the first-time preacher and those who are seeking to develop their preaching abilities further.

The workshop is made up of seminars and small groups, known as preaching fellowships, where participants learn how to study a Bible passage, and build a sermon that is faithful, clear and relevant.

Cost: \$250 (includes camping facilities and all meals)

More information: pim.org.au/event/country-preachers-workshop

Country Believers Leadership Workshop

1-4 August

A new event for 2024, this workshop will provide practical training and biblical guidance on how to be a church leader in the areas that God has placed you. Whether you are an elder, bible study leader, youth group leader, Sunday School teacher or are preparing to take on a leadership role in the future, this workshop is applicable to everyone.

Cost: \$250 (includes camping facilities and all meals)

More information: pim.org.au/event/country-believers-leadership-workshop



Christianity is About Jesus

It is well to be acquainted with all the doctrines and principles of Christianity. It is better to be acquainted with Christ Himself. It is well to be familiar with faith and grace and justification and sanctification. They are all matters "pertaining to the King." But it is far better to be familiar with Jesus Himself, to see the King's own face, and to behold His beauty.

This is one secret of eminent holiness. He that would be conformed to Christ's image, and become a Christ-like man, must be constantly studying Christ Himself.

—J.C. Ryle

Holiness, page 191

J.C. Ryle (1816-1900) a fervent evangelical, was the first Anglican bishop of Liverpool, UK. Many of his books and articles are still in print today.

Presbyterian Inland Mission presents

Tracks Outback Concert

5 October 2024 New Dunesk, Ardlethan NSW

Camp out under the stars, sit around a warm campfire and enjoy live music from a fantastic lineup of Australian country and gospel singers.

Tickets: pim.org.au/event/tracks events@pim.org.au



At Presbyterian Inland Mission (PIM), our vision is to see people living in the remote and sparsely populated areas of Australia become mature and faithful followers of lesus.

New Dunesk is the home of PIM - a place for the whole church to be inspired, equipped and sent out for ministry across Australia.

Find out more at pim.org.au

PRAYER POINTS

- Intercede for the Federal Government; Prime Minister Anthony Albanese; that he will lead with integrity, and will be guided by Christian principles and come to know Jesus as his Lord and Saviour.
- Pray for the Leader of the Opposition Peter Dutton; that he will be guided by Christian principles and come to know Jesus as his Lord and Saviour.
- Pray for the Presbytery of South Australia, Davo Gunning Moderator, Gary Ware Clerk.
- Pray for the Mount Barker Church; elders and congregation.
- Pray for persecuted Christians throughout the world.
- Pray for goodwill, hope and compassion of all who bear responsibilities in government -Commonwealth, State, Territory together with local authorities to address the issues we have as a nation.
- Pray for the Mount Gambier Church; Gary & Margaret Ware; elders and congregation.
- Pray for the people of Ukraine that through their suffering they will look to Jesus.
- Pray for 'M' serving in West Asia.

- Pray for the Port August Church;
 Barry & Cheryl Rossiter; elders and congregation.
- Pray for Christians to be instruments of truth and grace in the midst of skepticism and increasing opposition to the Christian faith.
- Pray for the towns and cities of South Australia, for the people in them who do not know Christ, including unsaved family members, friends and work colleagues.
- Pray for people living in remote and rural parts of South Australia with little access to the gospel. Pray for PIM and the churches in SA to find effective ways to make disciples amongst these people.
- Intercede for all our emergency services (Police, Ambulance, Fire & SES) that they will be preserved and kept safe as they serve the community.
- Pray for the Karnkendi campsite.
 Harvey & Heather McBain; all those who stay there.
- Pray for the war in Gaza that there will be a peaceful resolution to this.
- Pray for the APWM office, Kevin Murray (Director).
- Pray for Jeroen & Diana as they work in Papua New Guinea.

Editor's Note

Thank you to all who have contributed items for this issue of SA News they are all very much appreciated. It would be lovely if there were articles from more of our churches in the State. **Please consider** being the representative for your church to send in an article for SA News. Articles can be sent to the email address below by the due date every quarter. Contributions for the September 2024 issue are to be in my hands **no later** than **5.00pm Monday, 19th August 2023.**

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