



SA NEWS

Newsletter of the Presbytery of South Australia Issue 64 December 2024

Keeping the Heart in Our Christmas Traditions

by Kristin Tabb

I made spritz cookies the other day — those beautiful cookies that look like Christmas trees and taste like almonds and butter, sprinkled with colored sugar on top. For those of us of Scandinavian or Germanic background these cookies have been a holiday tradition for generations.

However, spritz cookies are also notoriously difficult to make. The butter in the dough (and there is a lot of it) must be neither too warm nor too cold. The dough cannot be refrigerated, the old-fashioned metal press is challenging to work, and the new plastic press can (apparently) break if used with dough that is too cold, or if the press dial isn't turned the correct direction while pressing the cookies.

Why do I keep making these cookies? I thought to myself, after purchasing a new plastic press. I realized the answer was deceptively simple: It's a family tradition. Year after year, my mother made these difficult, delicious delicacies at Christmas. Every. Single. Year. My usually patient and gentle mother would mutter something about *that silly press*, whack her sturdy metal press against the sheet in an effort to get the too-soft dough to stick to the pan, then jimmy the cookies off the press with a knife.

My brothers and I would vacate the kitchen and quickly occupy ourselves because "mom's making the spritz cookies." Not wanting to leave my mom alone in the kitchen with only that press, I'd usually return to help mom "decorate" *those ridiculous cookies*.

I've decided that some traditions deserve to be abandoned.

Jesus Taught About Traditions

In Mark 7, the Pharisees and scribes confronted Jesus because his disciples didn't wash their hands before eating and didn't keep "the tradition of the elders." Hand-washing, Mark explains, was only one of many traditions that the Jewish elders established — above and beyond the Old Testament law — to maintain ritual purity ([Mark 7:3–4](#)).

Jesus had sharp words for them: "Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written, 'This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men'" ([Mark 7:6–7](#)). Their traditions did not honor God at all because their hearts were far from him.

What does God want from us this Christmas? Our hearts. Because, as Jesus goes on to explain, it is not dirt entering our bodies that makes us spiritually

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unclean, but it is “what comes out of a person is what defiles him.” Traditions can never cover a heart that is dirty, or far from God.

Now, I doubt many of us would say our yearly Christmas traditions are on par with Scripture. However, how we approach our own man-made traditions can help us gauge whether or not our hearts are near or far from God this Christmas.

When our traditions help our hearts to draw near to the living God, they are a tool functioning rightly. But when our traditions distract our hearts from the true purpose of Christmas — adoring Christ the Lord — then it is time to re-evaluate and perhaps to repent.

Evaluating Our Traditions

So, if our primary goal at Christmas time is to worship Christ from a pure heart, which traditions deserve to be kept or started? And which deserve to be trashed?

Each family will need to determine what works best. Some complicated or time-consuming traditions may be worth keeping, if they increase our joy in Christ and help us spread that joy to others. Perhaps other traditions that we take for granted serve more as distractions. Here are the kinds of questions regarding our traditions that can help us to evaluate our hearts this Christmas.

✚ Does this tradition help us to value Jesus as the Greatest Gift ever given, or does it turn our hearts toward seeking lesser gifts at the expense of celebrating the Giver?

✚ Does this tradition cause us to spend an inordinate amount of time, energy, or money on ourselves, and in doing so deplete our joy in Christ?

✚ Does this tradition increase stress and decrease holiness in our family, or does it increase our joy in God and the relationships we have with those around us?

✚ Does this tradition turn our hearts in thanksgiving to the God who made us and gave us all things through Christ?

✚ Does this tradition help us to spread the love and joy of Christ and the gospel to fellow believers and to neighbors who don't yet know Christ? If not, could it?

Do my family's cumulative traditions allow me time for serving and bringing joy to those in the church or neighborhood who are hurting, suffering loss, or lonely during this season?

These questions helped our family have meaningful Christmases during two years of transition. One year we didn't have a tree or gifts to exchange because we were living out of suitcases preparing to live overseas for a season. The next Christmas, we didn't decorate the house or even make cookies, since we moved ten days before Christmas.

During these years, the traditions that mattered really stood out: our weekly worship with our church family, our celebration of Jesus through reading

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Scripture and setting up a small Jesse tree and singing Christmas hymns (our favorite being "Joy to the World"). Last year, we added two new traditions: a Christmas cookie open house for our neighbors and handmade gifts to pass out in person to friends.

So, where is your heart this Christmas? How full is the measure of your joy in the midst of this season that celebrates his birth? It may be time to abandon an old tradition or add a new one that will help spread your love for and joy in the Greatest Gift.

<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/keeping-the-heart-in-our-christmas-traditions>

Kristin Tabb lives and serves with her husband, Brian, and their three children in the Twin Cities, where her husband teaches at Bethlehem College and Seminary.

Penola

Brendan has been leading most of our services, with Malcolm Lambert willingly sharing the load occasionally. We had a Communion Service in September.

Attendance varies between 5 and 12. The Word of God continues to be preached in Penola every week, with messages from various Old and New Testament Books, including 2 Kings, Ecclesiastes, 1 Chronicles, Jeremiah, Ephesians, James, Luke, and Acts.

I commented in the last news that Bert & Nel Eigenbrood, a Dutch couple from Italy had been staying in Penola and came to Church when they heard the bell ringing. They went home to Italy in March and returned to Penola this November. It was lovely to see them back at Church and staying for fellowship afterwards. They will be in Penola for most of the next four months.

The Uniting Church closed its doors earlier this year. It has been pleasing to see a couple of their parishioners come and join us for our services.

A number of men from Protestant denominations continue to meet monthly for 'Shedmen.' A BBQ tea is followed by a devotion, usually by Brendan, unless there is a visiting Pastor. A lively discussion usually follows. The Christmas Shedmen, to which wives also attend, will be on Thursday 21st November.



Morning Tea in November

Barbara Provis

Naracoorte

As a congregation we have received mixed blessings during this latest period of time. In mid August Glenda Lane died. She had endured ill health for a while and she was ready to meet her Lord. Glenda had been an ardent worker and worshipper within the church family over many years. She held several positions – on the Board of Management, active in PWA and deeply involved in Sunday School.

At the end of August the CWCI (Christian Women Communicating International) held a special function – SPRING IS COMING! It contained a message of encouragement and hope. We actually held 2 sessions – a day session at the Presbyterian Church with about 40 ladies present – an evening session at Max's Life church with about 35 in attendance. Both sessions were most successful and further enquiries were made re KYB (Know Your Bible) studies. A new group has started in Naracoorte – there are already 2 active and existing groups

On 13th September we were so blessed by the Lord's calling. Rev Rudi Schwartz was commissioned to return to our Naracoorte parish to lead us in ministry for the next 2 years. Rudi was previously our Minister from 2000 – 2002. Since his service here Rudi and Heila have both been very busy renewing and seeking new contacts and establishing their lives in the manse. After nearly 9 years of vacancy we are thrilled to have Rudi in our midst – his preaching and teaching is a great encouragement and he is helping us with a clearer understanding of the Bible.

At this time of the year we bring Christmas Greetings to other congregations in South Australia. JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON! We all give thanks for those blessings we have experienced throughout the year and look forward to what the Lord wants us to do in 2025. May God's love and peace dwell in your hearts and may we not lose sight of His GLORY and POWER.

Julie McLean

Book of the Month

A Very Different Christmas: What Are You Hoping for This Year

Rico Tice & Nate Morgan Locke

A brief, humour-laced introduction to Christianity that invites readers to open presents from the Father, Son and Spirit. It's a great way to reach out to family and friends with the gospel at a time when many are more open to it than usual. Buy it, read it, give it away!

A humorous introduction to Christianity by Rico Tice and Nate Morgan Locke which invites readers to look at the presents under God's tree. They'll discover some very different things about God, about themselves and about Christmas, and how Jesus really is everything they could ever hope for. This page-turner is accessible for those who have never heard the gospel before, and gripping for those who think they have heard it all before. Ideal for giving away to friends and family as a gift, and cheap enough for churches to buy to give out at services this December (bulk deals available). Buy it, read it, give it away!



Available from www.koorong.com.au for \$7.99 plus p+h

NARACOORTE NEWS

On Friday 13th September, the congregation gathered to witness the induction of Rev Rudi Schwartz as part-time minister. Denominations in town were well represented by many of their members. Rev Gary Ware led the service on behalf of the Presbytery.

Rudi had served in the congregation between 2000 and 2003. In 2020, he retired from Hervey Bay Presbyterian Church, Qld., and he and Heila moved to Bathurst, NSW.

Rudi has made several trips back to Naracoorte since 2021, and in March 2024 the congregation issued an invitation for Rudi to come back to Naracoorte for a period of two years. All due processes were followed. He is now a full member of the presbytery of South Australia, having received a seat on Presbytery.



Our elders did a splendid job of preaching and pastoral care during the vacancy. The congregation is small, with quite a large contingent of elderly people. The manse was prepared for the new residents. The PWA ladies provided the funds for a dishwasher. Not long after they moved into the manse, our new pastor's wife entertained all members of the congregation to a lunch of soup and other niceties after church in their home. The manse presents as a welcome and warm place of meeting.

At a recent congregational meeting, the congregation approved plans of Dunbar Home P/L to extend its operations to erect two new units on available land on the eastern side of the church building. The meeting also approved the rationalisation of the area on the eastern side of the church building. When the land was divided many, many years ago, the block of the manse included land right up against the front door of the church hall! What became a service 'road' between the manse, the hall and the church, was technically manse yard! This will be re-surveyed to allow for more practical boundaries to be established.

We look forward to the new year. Rudi plans to establish firm Bible study groups – one for all men of the community! Also, in mid first quarter, we plan to invite the community to a Sunday afternoon of hymn singing to the praises of God.

In 2026, our congregation will be 170 years old. We anticipate to celebrate the occasion with a "Back to Naracoorte" weekend. Watch this space!

Rudi Schwartz



Changes in the APWM National Office

For the last 10 years Sheryl Sarkoezy served at the APWM National Office, located at Christ College. Her official title was “Director’s Assistant” but Sheryl was much more than that title implies! Her role included things such as keeping track of APWM missionary membership, advising the National Committee on the impact of various pieces of legislation, navigating communication with missionaries in security sensitive locations and much more.

Sheryl is a Christ College graduate with a Master of Divinity degree and over those ten years Sheryl used her theological training in helping the Committee navigate some quite complex issues. For example, how do we approach risk in the light of God’s sovereignty and how do we then apply our conclusions in a missionary context?

We are grateful to God for leading Sheryl to serve with APWM, often ‘behind the scenes’ and sometimes in a more ‘up front’ role.

As Sheryl leaves, we welcome Ingrid Yapari, our new Director’s Assistant. Ingrid and her family belong to the Kingsway Church, the English ministry of the Indonesian Presbyterian Church Randwick, in Sydney’s Eastern suburbs. We praise God for providing Ingrid to serve with APWM at just the right time to ensure a smooth handover.

Ingrid can be contacted at iyapari@apwm.org.au





God Calls an '8 Year Old' to Bible Translation

When Anne Spragg was 8 years, a visiting Wycliffe Bible Translator spoke to her Sunday School class about her Bible translation work in Papua New Guinea. God used that visiting Bible Translator to place a passion in Anne's heart for Bible translation.

Anne went on to study linguistics and ESL teaching at university. This was followed by a period working as an English teacher to international students and then Bible College. Anne is currently studying at the Summer Institute of Linguistics Australia training school. When she commences service she will be translating in the Top End of the Northern Territory with West Arnhem land languages.

Anne is from Ashfield Presbyterian Church and is among APWM's newest members. If you'd like to find out how to support Anne please go to <https://wycliffe.org.au/member/anne/>



Bible Translation: 1,268

1954

Whole Bible: 210 languages.
New Testament: 190 languages.

1973

Whole Bible: 300 languages.
New Testament: 600 languages.

2024

Whole Bible: 750 languages
New Testament: 1,700 languages
How many waiting for translation work to begin?

1,268

Contact

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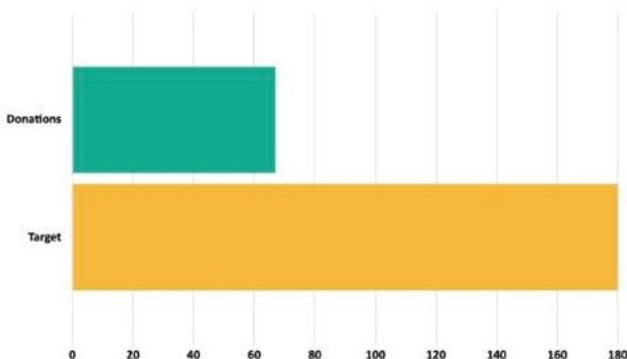
Changing Lives: One Bible at a Time

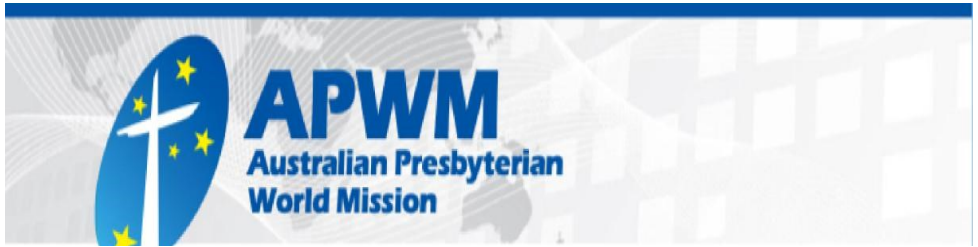
How many Bibles do you have in your home? Is it three or four? Maybe even ten? For some of us, it's even more! ten? For some of us it's even more than that! Now try to imagine that your answer to that question is zero. Why? Well you can't afford one.



The Rev John Wilson hands out a Bible in a village in Malawi

Most of us take owning a Bible for granted. But not the Christians in remote villages in Malawi. Buying a Bible isn't easy, and for many, it's a choice between putting food on the table and owning just one Bible. APWM is trying to change that. We're running an appeal to buy 10,000 Chichewa-language Bibles. That's 100 Bibles for each of 100 remote villages in Malawi. Our goal is to raise \$180,000. Can you help? At the time of writing \$67,000 has been donated.





But we're not just raising money. In June next year, the Rev. John Wilson from Victoria, a former Moderator General of our church, is leading a small team of about a dozen people to visit those villages. They'll be traveling in twos and threes, spending a few days in many of those villages teaching people how to read the Bible. How do you use a Bible if you've never had your own copy to read and enjoy? This team will be a tangible expression of love between us and the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian congregations in these villages. To watch a video about this project please go to <https://vimeo.com/994971825>

If you would like to make a donation, you can give:

Online

Go to www.apwm.org.au/finance/ where you can use one of the options.

The easiest option for many is direct deposit.

Account Name: Australian Presbyterian World Mission

BSB: 032 260

Account Number: 151207

Please write 'Malawi Bibles' in the description box.

If you'd like a receipt please send an email to finance@apwm.org.au letting APWM know you've made a donation.

Cheque

Send a cheque to: APWM National

1 Clarence Street

Burwood NSW 2134

Please make your cheque payable to 'APWM'.

Please note that donations are NOT tax-deductible.

If you have any inquiries about this, please contact

Kevin Murray kevinmurray@apwm.org.au

Mount Gambier

Our Growth Groups have continued meeting in Term 4 and have been studying the first three chapters of the Gospel of John. The sermons every Sunday have been on a section of this book and then during the week the Growth Groups look at that section in conjunction with study books prepared by Gary Ware.

On 28th August the Christian Women Communicating International held a function in our church. The theme was “Spring Is Coming” and the message was one of hope and encouragement, the speaker being Merilyn Packer and the leader was Karen Moore both with CWCI. Anne Dainty from our church organised this function to be at Mount Gambier Presbyterian Church. There were two sessions held at the church, one in the afternoon and another one in the evening.



Karen Moore, Merilyn Packer & Anne Dainty



Two of our children adding some Shoeboxes to the trolley.

In September 120 filled shoeboxes were sent on the start of their journey to children in other countries. This was a great effort by the Care & Concern Committee, Coffee & Craft and congregation members.

Two new members, Peter and Rita van Zyl, were welcomed into membership on Sunday 3rd November. They have been worshipping with us for a little while and it was lovely see them become members of our church.



Peter & Rita

The Care and Concern Committee held a Seniors Afternoon Tea on Tuesday 19th November for all the senior

members of the church, many are no longer able to attend worship on a regular basis due to incapacity and ill health. This was a lovely time of fellowship and catch up for all who attended.

Over the last three months some very dear members of our congregation have gone to glory and we do miss having their physical presence at worship and other functions of the church but we do know that they are now with their Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.



Clockwise starting at the front left: Sergio Cesaro, Peter Walker, Alan Fox, Brian Johnson, Bob Berlin and Alan Walker enjoying the Seniors Afternoon Tea.



Starting clockwise at middle left: Ted van Eeten, Des Taylor, Geoff Crouch, Alan Clarkson and Peter van Zyl Enjoying the Seniors Afternoon

Seacliff

The church at Seacliff is continuing to see the blessings of God. We have seen growth in attendance numbers which is always pleasing but more than that, we have seen growth in memberships too. There have been two regular attendees who have made commitments to the work of God in Seacliff and others are planning to do so soon. At present Rev. Jordan Brown is exploring with the congregation, through a sermon series on Church Membership, our understanding of discipleship. In our regular Growth Group meetings, we look at the foundations of the faith, with a *Back to Basics* course, the focus of which is Christian belief and living.

In September, Trinity Church Brighton, a local Anglican church, hosted *Taste and See*, a four week look at the core beliefs of the Christian faith. Rev Brown and Seacliff were invited to join in hosting and about 15 people were invited to attend from our congregation. Those who accepted the offer were all Mandarin speakers, several of whom had met Jordan through the Overseas Christian Fellowship at Flinders University. While the talks were given by Rev Simon Marshman of Trinity, Rev Brown prepared and presented the material in Mandarin at a table set aside for up to 9 Chinese attendees. The talks and discussions were given while delicious food was served. Extra support for the Seacliff group was provided by a Chinese couple from Norwood Presbyterian Church and a few people from Seacliff. Relationships were cemented during these sessions and truths about our faith presented.

Following continued enthusiasm from Taste and See to learn about God and the Christian faith, we are beginning a Mandarin Bible Study group in mid-November.

We were grateful to have services taken by Damien Carson, Peter Lim and David Tsai while Jordan Brown was on leave for three weeks.

While the spiritual life of the congregation has seen growth and blessing, our elder Ian Gossip has been laid low with serious illness from which he is slowly recovering. His absence has been deeply felt. Other absences have been felt due to members of the congregation being on holiday.

Planning is in the initial stages for a multicultural Christmas celebration this year and a Centenary celebration for our church in the lead up to Easter in 2025. Partly in preparation for this, regular monthly working bees are now held on a Saturday morning to help improve the appearance and functionality of our facilities.

Heather Blunt



— *worth driving for* —

Making tracks: from dirt to beats

PIM patrol teams travel great distances on dirt tracks, though it was a different type of track that attracted people from near and far to New Dunesk for a weekend of country and gospel music.

People arrived from across Australia for the inaugural Tracks Outback Concert in early October. As well as the standout open air performances from three incredible musical groups, the weekend also boasted 4WD tours, bushwalks, a colouring competition for the children, early morning ridgeline prayer times, and an outdoor worship service on the Sunday morning.

New Dunesk has likely never seen such a flurry of activity, with caravans, camper trailers, tents and swags spread far and wide across the property. Campers mingled and chatted, and Gospel Nomads and Ministry Teams worked tirelessly to help where needed.

The drizzling rain did not dampen anyone's enthusiasm on the Friday night. Hugh Price impressed everyone when he played Amazing Grace on the hand saw with a piece of wood he found near the fire, followed by a singalong in the Piggery to a variety of well known Australian bush songs, and a couple of favourite hymns.

Zoë Tyne opened the concert on Saturday morning with original pieces from her EP Dirt Roads. The songs highlighted her faith in Christ as she reflected upon nature, people and experiences. Zoë is from Chalmers Presbyterian Church in Melbourne, but holds strong country roots having grown up in the Mallee regions of NSW and Victoria.

Mayfair Lane showcased their unique indie-folk style that was enjoyed by everyone. Those that attended commented on their sweet harmonies, conversing guitars and authenticity. Rhys and Esther Duursma are from Albury in NSW and the percussion sound brought by Rhys from an old suitcase while

he played his guitar was a regular talking point.

The bush band McQuoid's offering from Canberra finished the afternoon's musical program with a combination of traditional and contemporary ballads, ending on a high with an all in bush dance.

The Saturday concluded with an open mic around the bonfire, with a variety of musical and spoken word performances, finished off with delicious damper.

It was an enjoyable weekend for all, bringing music lovers and PIM supporters together to learn more about PIM's work and to be inspired for the many opportunities for ministry that exist throughout Australia.

The Tracks Outback Concert will be back in 2025, will you be there?

Photos courtesy of Steven Dyer



Getting To Know You



My name is Josiah, and if you'd asked me 5 years ago where I'd be in 2024 – I would never have imagined living in Adelaide!

At the beginning of this year, my wife, Bloss, along with our two daughters, Clara (3) and Lydia (1), packed up our home in Ipswich, QLD, and said farewell to our friends and family so I could take up the role of Assistant Minister at APC Norwood. It has been a real adventure, and we've loved settling into this city.

My journey into ministry began unexpectedly. I didn't grow up in a Christian home, and my first encounter with church was when my good friend from school invited me to come along with his family to their local Baptist church. As an 11-year-old kid, I was often at Stephen's house on weekends, and so going along to church was just an opportunity to spend some time with my friend.

But it was in my teenage years when I really began grappling with the truth of the gospel. I had now been attending church regularly for a few years and had joined the local Youth Group. I encountered in the church something I couldn't explain – a strange community of people from different cultures and backgrounds who seemed to be joined together with a real sense of joy. I experienced something in the church that was different from any other community or gathering. It wasn't like the experience of belonging in a sporting team. And it seemed to go even deeper than the connection I felt with my family.

The gospel I heard spoke of connection to the God who made the world, and everything in it, and who made me, and had destined a new creation where people will be joined together in the love and delight and fellowship of God for all eternity. I heard about the sacrifice of Christ, who secured the way for me to be accepted, and welcomed, and to belong to something that will last for all eternity. I sensed that any experience of love or belonging I had felt was just a dim shadow of the kind of love that is found in the person of Christ.

Throughout school, my deep passion was music, and I played drums in as many bands as I could: The school orchestra, the jazz band, and the funk band. I also played drums at church every Sunday. I couldn't imagine anything else I'd rather do but play music, and so I set my heart on auditioning for the Conservatorium to

study jazz drumming. After failing my audition, and wrestling with the disappointment that was, I took a gap-year to work and get ready to audition again – better prepared this time.

But during that year I was challenged to grow much deeper in my faith. I was a youth leader and was also co-leading another program for young kids. I could see the impact of the gospel and what happens when a good team works together to do good ministry. I loved those early experiences of being able to disciple kids, and it gave me a yearning to pursue Bible College and pause my plans and ambitions to do music.

In my 3rd year at Bible College, studying at QTC in Brisbane, I was invited to do a ministry internship and one year later I was accepted as a candidate for ministry in the Presbyterian Church of Queensland. I married in 2014, and in 2015 my wife and I were sent to revitalize a small church in Springfield, in the western suburbs of Brisbane.

After four years of study had flown by, I was so looking forward to settling into ministry and to learn the ropes of preaching and pastoring. We spent nine years ministering in that small community of God's people, and in the thick of the relationships we shared - we learnt to laugh and cry and live together as disciples of Christ.

After we amalgamated our church with a new Presbyterian church, planted in a suburb next-door, we began exploring where God might want us to go next for ministry. The short version of that story is: We chose Adelaide!

It's now thirteen years since I started Bible College as a very young nineteen-year-old. Back then, I could never have imagined how God would guide the way into full-time ministry. I still love music, and I still play drums (but only very quietly at church!) But I'm so glad to be here in Adelaide, and working in a team ministry in a church that's hungry to seek God and his purposes for us.

As I reflect on my journey into ministry, I'm reminded of the words in Psalm 77:19:

*“Your path led through the sea,
your way through the mighty waters,
though your footprints were not seen.”*

Just like the people of Israel, as they were led by God through the Red Sea in the Exodus, we so often can't see where God may be leading. Often the path ahead is not so clear, and sometimes it seems as if God is actually leading us into troubled waters. Yet he holds out his promise to us: 'Trust in me, and I will make your paths straight.'

Karnkendi Report

A Step Closer to completing our Kitchen Renovations

After weeks of hard work, the renovations of our kitchen is nearly complete! When we last updated you all, we had just completed the demo work ready for all the trades to come in and complete their part of the process. Since then, we have had an array of trades in who have ticked off most of the major milestones. We would like to say special thanks to Grant Brown – Stainless Steel Bench, Kyle Kuhn – Cabinet Maker, Tye's Plumbing, Tristan Hunt – Electrician, Griffiths Walls and Ceilings, Steve Maloney – Builder and Johnny & Sally McBain.

Updates to the kitchen include removing the hot water service to outside making room for more bench space and custom cabinetry. We have added two extra sinks – a hands free sink and one at the oven end of the kitchen to make filling up/ draining pots easier and safer for our guests. Our electrician also upgraded the lighting and installed extra outlets. New elements that we think will get a lot of use are the new dishwasher and a filtered rainwater tap.

Unfortunately, we weren't able to complete the painting in the timeframe like we were hoping but have painted the undercoat ready of the final coat when our group currently staying have left. We are very excited to have our returning groups see the changes and new guests have upgraded facilities.

In amongst the renovations we did



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have some returning groups stay – who we would like to thank all for being so understanding with our temporary kitchen setup. We saw the Old Time Music weekend return and jam out with the fire roaring, the Branxholme Craft ladies in from the 19-23rd and the Bordertown Trinity Church family camp in from the 27-29th September.

Skip to November and we have had Annesley Primary School in for a two day camp then backed with Brighton Grammar using Karnkendi as a base camp while the students are out in the park for their Outdoor Ed Program until the 23rd November. The Home Schoolers will finish off November then we will have the lovely returning family finish off the year – 2024 has come and gone way too quickly.

We would like to thank everyone who has helped our committee and camp throughout the 2024 season. It has been a very exciting year for the camp with all the renovations and the ones to come in 2025. We thank you for the constant support and hope that everyone has a safe festive season with loved ones.

Blessings and the very best for a healthy 2025!

Kind regards,

Harvey and Heather McBain

Karnkendi Campsite

Nelson Victoria





APWM

Australian Presbyterian World Mission

Missionary Recycling



In early 2023, APWM advertised for someone to oversee the coordination of new policies and academic requirements at the Talua Theological Training Institute in Vanuatu.

A few days later Robert McKean, then the minister at Orange Presbyterian Church (NSW), phoned the APWM office and asked "Did you write this advertisement for me?. This describes me and what I'd like to do!" At the end of 2023 Robert retired from parish ministry and within a few months began to serve the Talua community.

Why Talua? Robert and his wife Pam, served at Talua in the mid 1990's. When they returned to Australia, Vanuatu was still on their heart and so Robert went on to write a book, "Cargo Cult to Christ", about Maliwan Tarwei, one of his former students.

Today Robert is based in Sydney and serves Talua on a "fly-in, fly-out" basis, visiting 2-3 times per year. He spends two weeks at Talua, consulting with various staff members and students and then returns to Sydney where he develops the material he gathered at Talua to do the necessary work. Rob Falls, one of APWM's missionaries at Talua, says that Robert's work makes a significant difference to Talua's administration. Robert's ministry frees up an already-overloaded staff as Talua experiences record student numbers.

APWM is looking for partners who could contribute toward the airfares for Robert's ministry in 2025 to enable this 'behind the scenes' work to continue.

If you'd like to help then please email Bruce Campbell, our Accounts Clerk at finance@apwm.org.au



PRESAID

CHRISTMAS APPEAL 2024

Fresh water for Chasefu Theological College, Zambia
A chapel for Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Timor Leste
New dorms for Talua Theological Training Institute



MAKE A DIFFERENCE



0418 537 209

Convener: John P Wilson

presaid.org.au



PresAID's Christmas Appeal 2024 is an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of many brothers and sisters in our overseas partner churches.

PresAID invites you and your congregation to participate by donating your congregation's Christmas offering that will be directed to:

1. Basic sanitation and fresh water for the residential Chasefu Theological College, Zambia that are training pastors for future gospel ministry. This will supply reticulated water to toilets and washrooms.
2. Church plant for the Evangelical Presbyterians of Timor Leste, who are constructing new chapels for worship in villages. We could help bring them to completion – fit for purpose: the worship of God.
3. New dormitories at Talua Theological Training Institute, Vanuatu for married couples. This is due to the increasing enrolment at the institute that are training pastors for future gospel ministry.

PRAYER POINTS

- Praise God that the Word became flesh; pray that this message will come home to many during the preaching of the word in December.
- Intercede for the Federal Government; Prime Minister Anthony Albanese; Leader of the Opposition Peter Dutton; that they will be guided by Christian principles and come to know Jesus as their Lord and Saviour.
- Pray for a Godly vision for your parish for 2024.
- Pray for the APWM office, Kevin Murray (Director)
- Uphold M serving in West Asia.
- Praise God for the privilege of being able to support our brothers and sisters overseas. Please pray that the response to the PresAID Appeal will be generous and that the assistance that it will provide would be effective.
- Please pray for the continued generosity of God's people as funds are raised for Chichewa-language Bibles for Malawi.
- Praise God that He continues to raise up people to serve in the strategic task of Bible translation for the spreading of His name among the nations (Romans 16:26).
- Pray for safety and wisdom for all going on holidays.
- Pray for people not to be fooled by the false advertising of the spirit of Christmas and that they will come to know the Saviour who was born to die for them.
- Praise God that even while we rest He is at work throughout the world as He sends out His people, so that the whole earth might hear about Christ.
- Pray that God might use ordinary people such as yourself to reach family, friends and neighbours for Christ.
- Pray for teachers and students as they finish the school year that they will finish well and enjoy a well deserved break in the holidays.
- Pray for the people of Ukraine that through their suffering they will look to Jesus.
- Pray for the war in Gaza that there will be a peaceful resolution to this and hostages will be set free.
- Pray for all our emergency services (Police, Ambulance, Fire & SES) that they will be preserved and kept safe during the summer period of bushfires.
- Praise God for the significant advances in Bible translation over the last 70 years. Please pray that the Lord of the Harvest would raise up translators for the remaining 1,268 languages.

Editor's Note

Thank you to all who have contributed items for this issue of SA News, they are all very much appreciated. Contributions for the March 2025 issue are to be in my hands **no later than 5.00pm Monday 19th February 2025.**

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I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a joyous and blessed Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.

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