



SA NEWS

Newsletter of the Presbytery of South Australia

Issue 65

March 2025

The Stone will be Rolled Away for Each One of Us

He came back.

After that brutal Friday, and that long, quiet Saturday, he came back.

And that one intake of breath in the tomb changes everything. It changes the very reason I drew breath today and the way I move about in this world because I believe he's coming back again. The world has gone on for more than two millennia since Jesus' feet [trod] the earth he made. What would they have said back then if someone had told them that some two thousand years later we'd still be waiting? They would've thought back to that long Saturday and said, 'Two thousand years will seem like a breath to you when you finally lay your crown at his feet. We don't even remember what we were doing on that Saturday, but let me tell you about Sunday morning. Now that was something.'

These many years of waiting will only be a sentence in the story. This long day will come to an end, and I believe it will end in glory, when we will shine like suns and stride the green hills with those we love and the One who loves. We will look with our new eyes and speak with our new tongues and turn to each other and say, 'Do you remember the waiting? The long years, the bitter pain, the gnawing doubt, the relentless ache?' And like Mary at the tomb, we will say: 'I remember only the light, and the voice calling my name, and the overwhelming joy that the waiting was finally over.'

The stone will be rolled away for each of us.

May we wait with faithful hearts.

— Andrew Petersen,

CD liner notes for Resurrection Letters volume II (Centricity Music: 2008)

Karnkendi Campsite

We hope you all had a fantastic festive season and were able to enjoy precious moments with your loved ones. As we step into the new year, we're happy to be back and feeling energized for what's ahead. We've got some exciting projects in the works, and we can't wait to share them with you throughout the year!



As we wrapped up 2024, we were grateful to welcome back several familiar groups to Karnkendi. Two wonderful families and a large homeschool group all returned to enjoy another memorable stay at our camp. It's heartwarming to know that these groups are making memories at the camp that will last a lifetime.

We're thrilled to announce that many of the groups that have utilised the camp before, have already marked their calendars for another visit this year. We've also received interest from new enquiries, and we can't wait to welcome fresh faces to Karnkendi.



Big events for this year include Generations in Jazz, being base of multiple Outdoor Ed programs and also welcoming a seniors rowing club to the area.

If you're interested in becoming a part of the committee for 2025, we'd love to

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hear from you! Please contact Harvey McBain or Gary Ware for more details on how you can get involved. We are always happy to welcome new members to our committee.

Blessings and the very best for a healthy 2025!

Harvey and Heather McBain
Karnkendi Caretakers.
Nelson



Book of the Month

O Love That will not let Me Go

| *Nancy Guthrie (Editor)*

For many modern day Christians, death has become what J. I. Packer terms “the great unmentionable.” This attitude denies not only the reality of the human condition, but also the reality of God’s promises for believers beyond this life. The church needs to think more about death in the light of the gospel.

This compilation, edited by Nancy Guthrie, includes the writings of twenty-two classic and contemporary theologians and Bible teachers on how to prepare to die in faith. The short meditations are drawn from sermons, books, and other writings of classic

theologians such as Jonathan Edwards and John Calvin, and of leading contemporary communicators such as John Piper, Tim Keller, J. I. Packer, and others. The writers provide a solidly scriptural and countercultural way to view the inevitability of death, explaining how and why believers can face physical death with hope, joy, and confidence in God’s promises for the life to come.



Nancy Guthrie teaches the Bible at her home church, Cornerstone Presbyterian Church, in Franklin, Tennessee, USA, speaks at conferences around the USA and internationally. She and her husband, David, are the cohosts of the GriefShare video series used in over 6,000 churches around the country and host Respite Retreats for couples who have faced the death of a child. She is the author of numerous books.

Available from Koorong Books for \$21.99

Mount Gambier

The start of the new year saw the recommencement of our Growth Groups. This year we are working through a topical study titled The Name of God - The Father The Son The Holy Spirit. For this series we work through different scripture readings every week and each Growth Group studies the readings from the sermon preached the Sunday before using a study guide prepared by Gary Ware.

On the 9th February the long awaited arrival of Hannah & Amos's baby boy occurred. We are all waiting to meet him when they are able to get back to fellowship with us.

Sunday School resumed at the start of the school year and continues each Sunday of the school terms.

The Diaconal ministry of our church continues to provide meals and support for those of our congregation who are in need.

Penola

Greetings to all the SA Church folk, from Penola.

We celebrated Communion and Christmas Eve Services in December.

The Penola various denominations ladies held their regular Christmas Social afternoon in our hall in December with Christmas readings and Carols, followed by fellowship and afternoon tea.

Penola continues to have the Lord's Word preached most Sundays. During January, we had Services every second week because people were away on holiday.

Services are being led by Brendan with messages from John, Romans, Acts, Daniel, Ezekiel and Jeremiah.

We will celebrate the Lord's Supper again on 2nd March.



Fellowship after service

Barbara Provis

Naracoorte

Naracoorte parish hosted the Moderator General, Rev David Burke and his wife Glenda for afternoon tea on Tuesday 10th December. David gave an update on the Presbyterian Church of Australia and was keen to answer questions. He also was happy to follow up on some questions and provide answers at a later date.

On Monday 16th December the funeral service of Elder Emeritus Doug Bradley was conducted in the church by Rev Rudi Schwartz. Doug was Session Clerk for 21 years and is survived by his wife Fay, sons Philip and David and daughter Carolyn. His service was live-streamed which made it possible for more people to attend. Doug was Elder Representative on the Assembly of South Australia, the Presbytery of Penola and on the initial committee that formed Dunbar Homes Naracoorte and the building of many of the homes. He had a wonderful sense of humour, great organisational skills and was able to bring people together. Doug was well respected by the congregation and in the Kybybolite district where he lived for most of his life before retiring from farming.

A KYB Introduction for Term 1 of 2025 was held in the church hall on Wednesday 22nd January. The Naracoorte ladies provided morning tea and this was followed by the talk by Karen Moore from Adelaide. The study is called "Tabernacle and Temple: the promise of God's presence with us". Karen gave a very interesting introduction to this study and it was enjoyed and appreciated by all present. Karen was accompanied by Heather Love, KYB Administrator for the Southern Region. 31 ladies were present, with visitors travelling from Tintinara, Keith, Nhill, Mundulla and Mount Gambier for this session. Naracoorte KYB group is very appreciative of this support from the CWCI (Christian Women Communicating International) Regional Board.



KYB Introduction
Julie McLean welcoming everyone

Pat Leitch



The Fuel, Fire, Furnace and Heat of Worship

The **fuel** of worship is a true vision of the greatness of God;
the **fire** that makes the fuel burn white hot is the quickening of the Holy Spirit;

the **furnace** made alive and warm by the flame of truth is our renewed spirit;

and the resulting **heat** of our affections is powerful worship, pushing its way out in confessions, longings, acclamations, tears, songs, shouts, bowed heads, lifted hands, and obedient lives.

— John Piper, *Desiring God*, page 82 (emphasis added).



— worth driving for —

Nomads in every corner of the nation

Through the PIM Gospel Nomads, a growing group of active, mature church members have dedicated themselves to sharing the gospel and helping the Lord's people wherever and however, while enjoying life on the open road.



Pictured: Gospel Nomad Lee making damper for campers at the Tracks Outback Concert.

Throughout 2024, PIM Gospel Nomads visited congregations across the nation - encouraging members, helping out and offering lay preaching where needed. Their support was received everywhere from Miles-Roma and other areas in outback Queensland, up to Darwin, and throughout NSW including Cootamundra, Griffith and Temora.

The Nomads were of invaluable help in making events successful at New

Dunesk, including the inaugural Tracks Outback Concert. Our Nomads have also taken a very welcome interest in the PIM Ministry Teams, both personally and by prayer.

Michael McNair was a PIM Gospel Nomad, and found involvement in it to be the final stage in a journey that has now seen him and his wife Jemima joining PIM as the Ministry Team in Mt Magnet, WA. You never know where being a PIM Gospel Nomad might lead you!

PIM is continually advancing, and one key area is through the growing number of PIM Gospel Nomads. Come and join us, you will be very welcome.

The 2025 Gospel Nomads will kick off with a Training and Orientation week from 25-30 March, plus several reconnect events throughout the year, from New Dunesk to WA! If you are interested in joining the network, please email admin@pim.org.au or visit pim.org.au/gospel-nomads to find out more.

What's on at new dunesk

and across the country!

PIM events are back for 2025. This year you'll find us not just at New Dunesk, but also several locations across the nation!

Whether you're looking to improve your ministry skills, connect with other Nomads out on the road, or celebrate Easter in the high country, there's something for everyone.

For further details on each of these events and to register, visit pim.org.au/events. To find out more, email events@pim.org.au or call 0438 868 964.



MARCH

25-30 March 2025

Gospel Nomads Training and Orientation
A week of practical evangelism and apologetics training with other Nomads.



APRIL

18-20 April 2025

Easter in Bombala
A weekend hosted by Noah and Nerroli in the Snowy Mountains, celebrating Easter with the Bombala community.



APRIL

25 April 2025

Beltana ANZAC Day Service

Head back to where the first AIM patrol began in 1895 for the Beltana Dawn Service, led by PIM.



MAY - JUNE

QLD, WA & NSW

Ministry Training Roadshow

Partnering with local churches and Presbyteries to provide ministry training for Elders and lay-workers.

OCTOBER

30 Sept - 5 Oct 2025

Gospel Nomads Reconnect Week
An informal week of fellowship, encouragement and reflection with other Nomads in the Network.

3-6 October 2025

TRACKS: Outback Concert

A family friendly weekend of camping and live music at New Dunesk. Camp out under the stars, sit around a warm campfire and enjoy live music from an exciting lineup of gospel and country music singers.



International Women's Day

an article from Dignity Freedom Network

Saved from exploitation, finding freedom and life!

Walking up the stairs to the platform, *Laxmi is careful not to step on the hem of her new sari. She dressed carefully this morning, adding fragrant jasmine flowers to her hair. She couldn't believe this day had arrived!

Until recently, Laxmi and her two children, *Amiya and *Rakesh had barely enough food to eat, her children vulnerable to traffickers. Laxmi herself was the victim of systemic trafficking at the age of just 12. Exploited and abused by any man in her village. Day and night.

But Laxmi met one of our Village Leaders who introduced her to an alternative life, supporting her every step of the way. Providing healthcare, counselling and care, Laxmi was empowered to break free.

Today Laxmi is receiving a government-accredited diploma as a phlebotomist assistant. She studied for six months learning to draw blood from patients, test it, and help make diagnoses to help impoverished patients return to health. Her new skills will support her family, and change the lives of people in her community. People who once exploited her, used her, looked down upon her.

This day is beyond her wildest imagination. And seated in the audience are her proud children. While Laxmi has been studying, thanks to generous sponsors, they have been attending one of our Good Shepherd schools where they receive a quality English medium education.

In 2024, nearly 300 formerly exploited women like Laxmi graduated from our skills training programs. Receiving government-sponsored certificates in garment making, beautician training, computer literacy, and paramedical skills, the smile on their faces expressing their joy.

Additionally, in the 350 villages where we have Village Leaders working, it is now two full years **since we have seen any young girls dedicated into sexual servitude!** We are truly seeing this systemic dedication of vulnerable girls coming to an end, where we have an active presence.

International Women's Day (March 8) provides an opportunity to share the work of our Village Leaders as they rescue and restore exploited women like Laxmi. It is a time we raise funds to ensure this transformative work continues. Just \$250 supports a Village Leader advocating in her village for an entire year, rescuing women and protecting vulnerable girls. People are invited to organise local fundraising events such as clothes swaps, high teas, movie nights, or 101 other ideas, being a champion for these brave women. More information is on the [website](#).

Join us this March to support Village Leaders helping women like Laxmi to find freedom and have their dignity restored, while ensuring at-risk girls like Amiya are safe from a life of horrific abuse.

Because of generous partners, Laxmi and her children can dream dreams, and see those dreams come true.

Dfn.org.au | 1 800 949 774 | info@dfn.org.au



Love is in it for Good | David Powlison

In a single phrase, the first two words characterizing love in 1 Corinthians 13:4 — “*Love is patient and kind*”— can be expressed this way: Love is in it for good.

Love is in it for good: patient. God is committed for as long as it takes, whatever is going on, however slow the process. He bears with us purposefully, intentionally, through all time. In his great patience, he will complete what he has begun, to his glory and our joy.

Love is in it for good: kind. God freely gives every good gift, doing and saying what is helpful, always constructive, always merciful, always generous. He gives more grace. He gives what is needed. In his great kindness, he will complete what he has begun, to our glory and his joy.

God is love, therefore God is patience and God is kindness. And of course, since every promise of God is Yes in the Son of God, this Jesus is patience and is kindness. Love walked among us, taking on flesh, tempted as we are yet without sin, touched with the feeling of our infirmities, dealing gently with the ignorant and wayward.

Such love is a communicable attribute of God. This means that in taking us on— often impatient, often unkind— and making us over into the image of Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit will make us patient and kind. He will teach us to become in-it-for-good with other people, amid the ups, the downs, the vicissitudes, the exigencies. This is the life-long goal of Christian ministry: “*love, that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith*” (1 Timothy 1:5).

The fuller Old Testament equivalent to 1 Corinthians 13:4 had already been revealed on Sinai: “*The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger [in the Greek, “patient”], abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin.*” (Exodus 34:6–7a)

He is in it for good with all who take this revelation to heart as God’s great gift of himself, as our greatest need, as the goal of our moral transformation. (And this God will justly destroy intransigent iniquity, all that spurns such a gift, denies such a need, refuses such a goal—Exodus 34:7b.)

It is striking that when revealing his glory and goodness, the LORD chooses to show forth communicable attributes. He could have mentioned his omniscience, omnipotence, omnipresence, selfexistence, eternity, things infinitely beyond the creature. But he chose to reveal his mercy, what is within our comprehension, within our experience, within our grasp, by grace. We, too, learn to become merciful and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, forgiving. (And we, too, learn to justly hate what is evil.)

What we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. He is in it for good, and so are we.

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As a pastor friend often says, "That'll preach." And, it's worth adding, "That'll counsel," both for would-be helpers and for those in need of help.



David Powlison is a faculty member at Christian Counseling and Educational Foundation (USA).

He has written numerous articles and a number of books on biblical counseling and on the relationship between faith and psychology. David has taught across the United States and in Korea, India, Brazil, Europe, and Sri Lanka.

An Easter Meditation | Scotty Smith



Lord Jesus, how timely, stunning and encouraging to know that the most repeated command throughout the whole Bible is "Do not be afraid". The angels spoke these words to startled shepherds at your birth, and you repeated the command to a devastated Mary on the morning of your resurrection, and now you speak these liberating words to my heart and conscience, "Do not be afraid!"

Because you are the First and the Last, Jesus, I don't have to be afraid of anything in between. You are God, and I am not. You will never say "Oops" about anything in world history or in my own life. You never "try" to do anything. You never have to scratch your head in confusion. You never have to resort to plan B. You are perfectly executing your sovereign will, from naming the stars to numbering my hairs. Glory!

Because you are the Living One, who was dead and who is now alive forever, I don't have to be afraid of judgment Day or this day. For your death on the cross is my judgment Day and your resurrection from the dead is my assurance of being eternally and fully accepted by God. Constantly sung over me by my Father, and all my brothers and sisters in you, is the most liberating of all lyrics, "There is now and forevermore NO condemnation for those who are in Christ!" Not only is there no condemnation, there is only full delight! Oh my goodness!

Because you hold the keys of death and Hades, Jesus, and to everything else, I don't have to be afraid to die, or to live. You have robbed the grave of its victory, you have removed the sting of death, and you have defeated the devil and all the powers of darkness! I don't have to be afraid of people. I don't have to be afraid of failing. I don't have to be afraid of getting old. Yes, yes, yes!

Place your right hand on me today in the gospel, that I might be freed more fully from my fears and live more fully to the praise of your glorious Name. Amen and Amen forever!



Scotty Smith is Pastor for Teaching, Preaching and Worship at Christ Community Church (Presbyterian), Franklin, TN, USA.

Chris Balzer now with Christ



Leah and Chris Balzer

The Rev Christie Balzer, went to be with Christ on Friday the 24th of January after a short battle with cancer. Chris and his late wife Leah, served at the Talua Theological Training Institute in Vanuatu from 2003 to 2004.

Prior to Talua, Chris taught at the Sydney Presbyterian Theological Centre for many years. He was passionately committed to the truth of the gospel and its spread. After the seismic events associated with the 1977 disruption to the Presbyterian Church of Australia, Chris poured his energy into playing his part in the recovery of the Bible within the Presbyterian Church.

Chris once wrote an article about the resurrection of believers and said:

“If we really believed that only those who trust in Christ for their salvation will go to be with him after they die, then we’d be more involved in missionary work abroad. More of us would go ourselves, and more of us would financially support those who do go.

It was for this reason that, in the late 18th century and the first half of the 19th century, thousands of Europeans left the comparative comfort and safety of their homes to preach the gospel in far away places, knowing that many of them would die there and never see their loved ones in Europe again. The men knew that many of their wives would die on the mission field. The women knew that they would bury many of their children there.”

Praise God for Christ’s resurrection!

An investment for Eternity



Motor Yat (centre) training

“My word ... goes out from my mouth: It will **not** return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.” (Is 55:11)

God’s word never fails. It’s the investment that lasts for eternity. We ask that you consider leaving a gift to APWM National in your will to help us continue to declare God’s word throughout the world.

You might like to consider giving:

- a) a percentage of your estate to APWM
- b) a specific amount to APWM
- c) a piece of property to APWM

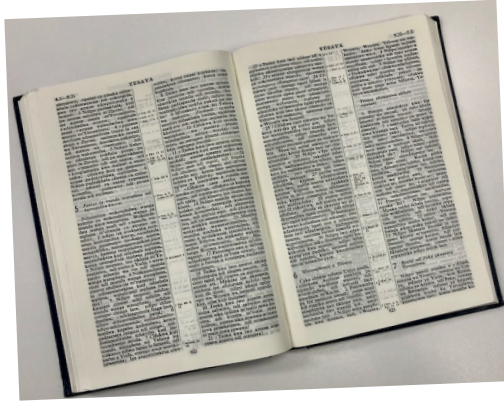
Please provide this wording to your Solicitor when seeking advice and assistance in drawing up your will.

“I give to The PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (AUSTRALIA) PROPERTY TRUST for the Australian Presbyterian World Mission National Committee (intended amount), (description of property/item) free of testamentary charges and duties for its general purposes and I declare that the receipt of the Secretary of the Trust shall be sufficient discharge to my Executors.”

Giving to APWM for its general purposes allows APWM to best respond to the needs of the time.

If you need any help with this then please contact us on (02) 8073 7490 or email us at national@apwm.org.au.

“Your investment in souls in Malawi”



We praise God that, at the time of writing, \$120,000 has been donated for APWM's Malawi (Chichewa) Bible project and 5,500 Bibles have been ordered.

Over the last few months, the team from Victoria who will be traveling to Malawi in June, have been undergoing training. [Please note that team members are travelling at their own expense].

Team Leader, the Rev John Wilson from Victoria says: “Over the next two or three mission trips, over 5,500 people from the poorest Malawian villages will be blessed as they read God's Word. For many of these dear Christians, they have never had their own copy of God's Word.

In their family units, small groups and churches, they will be able to read God's Word in their own language and grow in their knowledge of Christ. Thank you for your investment in souls in Malawi. As the members of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, you have raised the standard high, and you've purposed to bless the hearts of over 5,500 of Malawi's poorest with the eternal blessing of the Word of God.”

Please note: The Appeal was closed on the 28th of February. Any donation for Bibles for Malawi received after the closing date will be gratefully received and will be used for unforeseen Chichewa Bible distribution needs. Any remaining funds will then be placed in APWM's General Funds to be used for Partner Church causes as decided by the APWM National Committee.

What does it take to distribute Bibles?



What is involved in distributing Bibles in Malawi? Team Leader, the Rev John Wilson explains:

We have a Presbyterian Church of Victoria-based team preparing to go to Malawi from the 24th of June to the 19th of July this year. The team will give three full weeks to distribute Bibles in villages and to train local Christians in the use of their new Bibles. I'm so grateful to God for gathering together 16 talented members (each self-funded) from 9 different Victorian congregations (aged from 20 to 80, 11 men and 5 women). The training and preparation to go is a six-month commitment. When we arrive in Malawi we'll divide into 4 groups and, by visiting 2 villages each week, we might be able to distribute 2,000 Bible packages (leaving another 2,000 in the shed).

I already have one expression of interest to form a second mission team planned for June - July 2026.

If the Bibles Appeal continues to flourish, then we'll probably need a third team for 2027. Who will come with me?

I mentioned six-months training and preparation.

This means:

- Practicing how to meet and greet one another in Chichewa;
- Learning how to use and teach the COMA method of Bible study;
- Learning how to teach the Bible story overview in small groups;
- Honing what is in our skill-set and giftedness in terms of singing, reading Scripture, children and youth ministry, preaching and women's ministry.

Contact

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PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for all those who have been affected by the recent fires and floods throughout our country.
- Praise God for our new and living hope through the raising of Jesus Christ from the dead and pray that multitudes will discover this hope as this message is proclaimed over Easter.
- 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 Norwood Church; Davo Gunning; congregation and elders.
- 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.
- Praise God for the privilege of being able to support our brothers and sisters overseas. Please pray that the response to the Easter PresAID Appeal will be generous and that the assistance that it will provide would be effective.
- Pray for the Mount Gambier Church; Gary & Margaret Ware; congregation and elders.
- 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 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 'M' serving in West Asia.
- Pray 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 and all those who stay there.
- Pray for the Presbytery of South Australia, Davo Gunning Moderator, Gary Ware Clerk.
- Pray for the situation in Ukraine and pray for a peaceful solution and outcome.
- Pray for rain to fall over the areas of our country that need it.
- Pray for persecuted Christians throughout the world.
- Uphold Jeroen & Diana 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. Contributions for the June 2025 issue are to be in my hands **no later than 5.00pm Monday, 19th May 2025**

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