



SA News



God's Remedy for Boring Prayer

When you pray, don't act like people who love outward appearances, thinking that God is impressed by flowery, unnatural language. Rather, begin by recognising that because of His amazing love for you, and because of all that He has done for us in Christ, He calls us His children, and we call Him our Father. When you pray, recognise that. Recognise that He is not like human fathers, but that He rules over all things and is highly exalted in heaven where He is worshipped by all of creation because of His unparalleled holiness. In whatever and whoever you are praying about, ask God to work so that no matter what happens, He would be known and honoured as He ought to be.

Recognise also that God is good and that He longs to bless His people. Because He is all-powerful, we can confidently ask God to do what He knows is best for the person or thing that we are praying for. Even if God has planned hardship, suffering and trouble, we know that He is with us, so we will be okay. We also know that come what may, He will be at work to bring about our highest good and His greatest glory. So make your requests openly to Him, but like Jesus, ask that what He wants for us would be done.

Ask for the courage and strength to submit to His will and Word in your life. Pray that for others, too. Next, ask that God's mission of saving lost people and building His church would be served through the person or thing that you are praying for. Then, with all those things in mind, ask God to provide the practical things that are needed to honour and serve Him each day. Ask for His grace and ongoing cleansing from sin, as well as the humility that you need to forgive people who wrong you. Pray that He would keep you from walking into situations where you will be tempted to dishonour Him, and that whatever happens, pray that He would protect you from evil people and evil things.

Finish your prayer by recognising before God that you are a citizen of His Kingdom and a servant of Christ His King. Recognise that living for His Kingdom is what we have been created and saved for. Recognise your need for His help and strength, and that without the power of His Holy Spirit, all of what you have been asking is impossible.

Finally, recognise that it is God's glory that is our inspiration, motivation and goal. Pray that His glory would be plainly seen in us; that we would find great joy in all that he is; and that many would come to know Him as God and Saviour through us.

Damien Carson

Mount Barker

Mount Barker has in recent months been helped by a number of friends in leading and preaching on Sundays. So the Lord has given more grace through His servants while Pastor Robert has taken leave and study leave allowances over January and much of February. We were given more grace especially on Sunday 1st February. Dr. Reg Mathews encouraged us through the word from Exodus 12 and 23 (cf Deut. 7:18) that we are to **‘Remember what the Lord has done for us’** and to celebrate His grace when we gather together at regular and special gatherings. Then, following the worship service, Reg helped us to examine ourselves and ministries through seven questions. Can we together, really understand where we are and evaluate where we are going, spiritually, corporately this year and in the years to come? Input from the congregation told of our achievements and areas of concern along with some things to plan and think through. The promise of God to believers (from James 4:6) is that He gives more grace to each one who humbly sees their need to love and serve God. The Session will examine the responses and bring forward recommendations to the congregation.



Next door we are also receiving more grace. Our friends, Hills Community Options are considering extending the contract on rental of the manse and seeking a different use. This may provide opportunities to increase our connections with them and the community. We are reminded that His grace is sufficient and not just for the life to come. We know all good gifts come from Him every day as we seek to serve Him in the here and now.

God gives more in answer to prayer. Answers to prayer came for a man to work on the mission field beside Chandra Smith. The Holy Spirit through the Korean Presbyterian Church in Adelaide sent Will Jeong there for two years. We thank the Lord who raises up workers for the harvest through our connections and prayers.

God gives more grace to the humble and opposes pride. We have seen this and our prayer is that the Lord will continue to fulfil His promises in us for 2015, as we seek His directions for the Parish with pure motives and a humble heart.

Robert Finster.



Hmm!

“Our faithful presence here on earth should provide a glimpse of what the life of heaven is like. We are to be a fragrance of the new world that is coming and a warning of the accompanying judgment. The church is the society where the kingdom of Jesus Christ is manifested and extended.”

— Trevin Wax, *Counterfeit Gospels*, (Moody Publishers, 2011), page 165.



Hmm!

“The curious thing about turning back to God is that, once you turn, you don’t have to walk for miles to get to the border of God’s kingdom. Instead, the boundary line is always just one step away. It doesn’t matter how far you have walked in the wrong direction. Once you turn around, God and his

kingdom are right in front of you. Go figure: it is another mystery.

There is only one way this could happen though, God must always be pursuing you. No mere mortal would ever do such a thing. If you turn your back on friends or lovers, you might get another chance, but you would have long walk back from the doghouse. Make a habit of it and they are gone. They will turn their backs on you.

God, however, keeps following you in love. He orchestrates events in your life so that you will listen to him. He is always inviting you back. He is always near.

Do you ever worry that you have backslidden so far from God that it will take you the rest of your life to get back to him – which means that it can’t be done? Not true. Just turn to God.”

Edward T. Welch

What Do You Think Of Me? Why Do I Care?
New Growth Press, 2011. (pg 54)

Mount Gambier

Averaging about 25 children each day, Holiday Muster 2015 focused on Paul’s teaching from the book of Romans. We were able to celebrate the kindness of God who makes us part of His family and then learn about the difference that



being in His family makes to our

attitudes and actions.

Round that out with farmyard crafts, lots of songs and games, and a great morning tea (and Friday night dinner) and we all had an enjoyable time that had young people and parents alike expressing appreciation to Mount Gambier Presbyterian Church for conducting this activity each summer.

Special thanks go to Rachel Ware who organised the programme, crafts, games and decorating; and Deanna Ferguson and the catering team.



Naracoorte

On Saturday 8th of November a breakfast was held in the Church Hall at which David di Lima spoke on "The Preamble to the Federal Constitution" and on Sunday 30th November a congregational luncheon was held following the Worship Service to celebrate St Andrews Day. These congregational luncheons are always popular and a great time of friendship and fellowship is enjoyed by all.

The Sunday School Presentation and special morning tea for the children was held on Sunday 14th December. Children who had attended Sunday School during the year and their parents were invited to attend.

On the fourth Saturday every month an inter-denominational prayer meeting is held in one of the churches, (on a rotational basis) where those present pray for Naracoorte and other issues that require urgent prayer. December was again St Andrews turn and this time of prayer is usually followed by a cup of tea and fellowship.

The baptism of Ethan Phillips, son of Matthew and Deb Phillips was conducted on the 11th January with many visitors attending and a sumptuous morning tea was provided by Ethan's grandmother Del Phillips.

Rev Stefan Slucki's appointment at St Andrews has been extended until June 30th and we are thankful for his love and service to this congregation. The regular activities have begun again, Fellowship, PWA and Bible Studies along with the usual meetings.



Cory Sharam, Ethan's older brother Jordan, Kathleen, Matthew holding Ethan, Jackie Moy with her child, Cory and Jackie being God-parents

This is my prayer for us all this year.

"...let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus the author and perfecter of our faith....."

Hebrews 12:2b-3a.

Pat Leitch



Hmm!

"The Christian is to carry on his warfare in faith. You will be vanquished, indeed, if you attempt it by any other method! Brethren, there is not a sin in your heart which will not master you if you seek to fight it by resolutions of your own. Faith in the precious blood of Christ must win you the victory."

— Charles Spurgeon (1834-1892)
Jesus Meeting His Warr

PIM SEEKS A CEO

The PIM is seeking to appoint a full time Chief Executive Officer. Future planning by the Executive that commenced in mid 2013 identified the need for an intentional organizational restructure. It was recognized that for the PIM to continue to develop and progress its work it required the skills and business acumen of a CEO.

Like all mission organizations, the PIM operates in challenging times. Global financial markets, government regulations, changing approaches of ministry, management limitations and a vast mission field make for a complex operating environment. The Centenary Year of the PIM provided the opportunity to look back with thankfulness and celebrate all that has been accomplished, but the Executive knew they needed to look forward. They needed to urgently engage in mission specific planning that would ensure relevant ministry for the next one hundred years.

In January 2014, the full Committee of the PIM resolved to review the organisation's governance structure and administrative processes. After meeting with members of the GAA Trustees, the need for organisational change was affirmed and they kindly offered ongoing help to ensure its implementation.

Central to their advice was the need for the PIM to obtain an employee to focus on management issues and who would work for the PIM in a way similar to that of a Chief Executive Officer. They also provided guidance for a remodelled governance / management structure and approach to business processes.



The PIM resolved that the Chief Executive Officer when appointed would be directly responsible to the Committee through its Executive. The Chief Executive Officer would take on all of the work presently done by the Superintendent and other duties as assigned by the Executive. The position title of Superintendent would remain but functionally the current role of the Superintendent would be absorbed into the position of Chief Executive Officer. The current Superintendent is remaining as Minister of Scots' Church, Fremantle and is fully supportive of the PIM organisational restructure.

The search Committee is seeking expressions of interest from suitably qualified people with both business experience and pastoral skills. Those interested are welcome to call and speak with either Rev Les Fowler or Chaplain Martin de Pyle.



**PRESBYTERIAN
INLAND
MISSION**

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

The Presbyterian Inland Mission (PIM) is an inland and outback ministry of the Presbyterian Church of Australia. It has an expanding network of patrol ministries, is responsible for a number of Mission Churches and has a developing range of caring, philanthropic and community assistance programs.

As a result of structural organizational change the PIM is seeking to appoint a CEO. This is a newly created position.

Essential requirements for the role are developed pastoral skills, proven business experience, preparedness to travel extensively throughout Australia and prior to commencement in the role, obtaining a current Working With Children Compliance Check.

The ideal candidate must be a change agent and have appropriate business experience. In addition, a demonstrated ability to work with initiative and facilitate strategic change in management services and processes is crucial.

The successful candidate will be required to monitor and maintain compliance with legislative, policy and contractual requirements. They must also be able to express a personal commitment to the values and beliefs of the organization.

If you genuinely want to contribute to the lives of those in inland and outback Australia by utilizing your pastoral, business and organizational leadership experience then you are encouraged to apply.

A competitive salary package is offered.

General enquiries and a confidential discussion can be made by phoning Rev. Les Fowler (0427 521083) or Rev. Martin de Pyle (0420 981267). Email fowler@internode.on.net for application information.

Closing Date for applications: 31 March 2015

TASKS OF THE PIM CEO

Although not an exhaustive list, the following will be some of the CEO's responsibilities.

1. Pastoral Responsibilities

- a. Pastoral care for patrol teams and Mission Church workers

2. Administrative Responsibilities

- a. Oversight of all PIM management and administration
- b. Induction training of new Padres
- c. Administering personnel issues, liaising with charitable/philanthropic bodies
- d. Liaising with State Home Mission Committees
- e. Coordination of deputation work
- f. Secretarial responsibilities

3. Compliance

Ensuring that PIM complies with all relevant State, Federal and Church Laws, especially regarding

- a. Employment Contracts
- b. Superannuation and Taxation requirements
- c. Work Health and Safety requirements in all the jurisdictions in which we minister including documentation and training.
- d. Incident reporting
- e. Child Safe legislation
- f. Privacy legislation
- g. Dispute resolution

4. Development and maintenance of a PIM Policy Manual and Patrol handbook.

5. Organisational Development

- a. Strategic organizational guidance
- b. Maintenance of corporate knowledge
- c. Development of best practice financial reporting systems
- d. Refinement of communication methods to all supporters
- e. Development of recruiting procedures.
- f. Review of current publicity, evaluation of its effectiveness and proposals for future publicity
- g. Development of Fundraising processes and activities.

Wattle Range

Millicent

Best wishes for 2015, to all church members from the Millicent congregation. We congratulate Heather and Max Skeen who recently celebrated their 68th Wedding Anniversary, solemnised here in St Andrew's Church Millicent in 1946. Congratulations also go to Betty and Alan Thompson Who celebrated their 64th wedding anniversary recently.

In October we held a luncheon in our lounge for some of our ladies, and then went to the Museum, where Mona pointed out a small kilt that she wore as a 4 year old Highland dancer. Mona is now over 90, and she also pointed out her doll that she had donated.

The Lutheran Church next door to us, once again had the True Vine Bookshop. Some of our people purchased books, cards and toys there.

We are thankful that Rosslyn Davies, who was badly injured in a car accident, as well as her husband, Steven, has returned to Millicent and is making slow but sure progress.

Once again we have been making welcome to our services, people who have been passing through or have been staying in the area, which is very pleasing.

Our Christmas Service was held Christmas Eve, and we were pleased with the attendance. Jenny and Pat Beckett conducted the service while Don was at Penola for their service.

We have suffered some bushfires, but thankfully no lives were lost.

There are several people in our congregation who have ongoing medical problems, and we pray that those who are "poorly" and who are unable to attend church will have better health in the future.

The following, by Millie Haskins, was quoted by King George the fifth on New Year's Day in 1930 –

"I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year; Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown"

And he replied:

"Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God that shall be to you better than light and safer than the known way."

Thelma Thomas

Penola

The PWA members had their AGM in early November with all Office Bearers remaining the same. The combined Churches Christmas social was held in early December with about 40 women (& 1 man) present. Our item, 'The Chocolate Christmas Story', was very well received and was repeated for the congregation after the lunch that followed the Communion Service held on the following Sunday.

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The Christmas Eve service was led by Don and was well attended by members who enjoyed the music and a time of refreshment of the coming of Christ. There was an offering for the PresAid Christmas Appeal which was left open until the end of January.

The New Year saw many people coming and going to holiday pursuits leaving the faithful older generation attending regularly. The meetings all started again in February, so the calendar fills up quickly. Our Harvest Thanksgiving Service will be held on 22nd February with the auction of goods on Monday 23rd February.

Shedmen will resume on 19th February at John Zwar's shed.

Please note that the Penola **Church Fair** will be held on Friday the 19th **June** this year. We hope everyone will put this in their diaries and try to attend.

Barbara Provis



Dependence on God in a Self-sufficient World
Ladies Weekender 2015
To be held at Karnkendi, Nelson 13th to 15th
March (incl)

Come to this year's Ladies Weekender for a weekend of fellowship, friendship and fun with other ladies from South Australia and Victoria. You will eat healthily, sleep like babies, be mentally and spiritually stimulated and go away from the weekend in the secure knowledge that God loves you.

This year's **Guest Speaker** is Mrs Fleur Letcher. Fleur is wife to Andrew and mother of three primary-aged children. Fleur grew up in Geelong and then studied in Melbourne. After working as a secondary school teacher, she spent the last decade as a stay-at-home mother. She now works part-time from home as the Researcher for the Church and Nation Committee of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, and attends Croydon Hills Presbyterian Church.

Our **Mission Speakers** are Ian & Vivian Dennis of the European Christian Mission. They have been sharing the gospel in the Port of Melbourne over the past 30 years, discipling merchant seafarers from over 40 different countries that visit that port.

For enquiries and/or a registration form contact:
Vivienne Peate, PO Box 2893 Mount Gambier 5290,
Phone: 0438 608 651, Email: vjp18051@bigpond.com

Seacliff

We begin the new year with thankful hearts because we continue to experience the sovereign work of God in our midst. As we meet together each Sunday to worship Him, we are encouraged to see the evidence of His Holy Spirit working in us to produce patience, endurance in suffering, the love of the brethren for each other expressed in practical ways (visiting those unable to attend services, transportation), faithfulness in the preaching of the Word.

On the Sunday night before Christmas there was a carol service in the church preceded by a bbq. Led by Rev Dr Reg Mathews, it included a range of readings and songs focused on the promises and prophecies of the coming of the Messiah and their fulfillment in the birth and ministry of Jesus Christ.

We were able to share worship over the holiday break with a couple of interstate visitors, which always brings blessing. Dr. John Hughes brought the message on Christmas Day.

Prior to Christmas many members gathered to watch the movie 'The Book Thief' and to consume the usual delicious pizza meal.

We welcomed Matt B home and were blessed in his presence at worship on three occasions after one of which we shared a meal and Matt spoke about the situation in the place where he serves. This has enabled us to be specific in our prayers for him and his work, where major changes have occurred recently. The continued functioning of the facility in which he works is problematical and so much prayer for the workers is needed.

The small groups within the church took a break over the school holiday period and are now beginning again, the craft group to meet and laugh and create, the bible study group to explore together God's word guided by the Matthias publication 'Jesus through the Old Testament'. The church planning group will also recommence for Prayer, Praise and Planning.

Our continued thanks goes to Damien Carson for the supply preaching roster which brings us the ministry of the word each Sunday.

Heather Blunt



Hmm!

"To add to the finished work of Jesus Christ is to disfigure it, mar it, and destroy it altogether. There is nothing you can contribute to the payment that Jesus made on the cross for sin. There is no penance you can undergo, no good work you can perform, no pilgrimage upon which you can embark, no punishment you can endure to clear your guilt before God. When Jesus said, 'It is finished,' he meant it. He meant that he had completely paid the price to release his people from their bondage to sin. So for you to try to pay for your own sins is to deny that Jesus really did finish paying for sin. For you to try to do something to earn your own salvation is to make Jesus Christ out to be a liar."

— James Montgomery Boice and Philip Graham Ryken
The Heart of the Cross

(Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway Books, 1999), 52
<http://firstimportance.org/2012/01/he-meant-it/>

Whyalla

The period leading up to Christmas as well as Christmas and New Year were very busy for the Whyalla Congregation. The ladies held their Christmas dinner on Saturday 29th November, which was attended by most of the ladies and guests. The following week, on 3rd December the men went out to dinner at the Laguna Restaurant. This is the first time there have been enough males in the church to be able to do this.



On the 10th December the Whyalla Church hosted the Inter-Church Advent Service, which was very well attended and on Sunday 14th December, after the Service, we held a Congregational Christmas Luncheon, which, as always, was well attended by congregation and family.



Undoubtedly one of the major highlights of the Season was the Carol Service held on 21st December. It had been our intention to set up the car park with seating and lighting and hold the service in the open air, however, at 43°C it was just a tad too hot and the service was held in the air-conditioned Church. This was a major success and attended by over 50 people, which included congregation, family

and invited guests from many of the other churches in Whyalla. A great night of singing praise to God as well as fellowship both at the service and at the light supper after the service.

The Session have been more than pleased with the year that has ended. We have had a few problems but with prayer, trust, and our working together as a family of God, we have overcome all our concerns and look forward to the year ahead with growing confidence that God will guide us through 2015 as He has 2014.



John McVey

PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for all those who have been affected by the cyclones in the Northern Territory and Queensland.
- Pray for the Ladies Weekender being held at Karnkendi Campsite on 13-15 March
- Pray for Gary Ware South Australian Moderator, John Langbridge Moderator-elect, Brian Johnson Clerk, all conveners and committees as they prepare reports and other work for the upcoming General Assembly of SA.
- Pray that your own, neighbouring and all Presbyterian churches will be focused on mission to a dying world and not just maintenance of our institutions.
- Intercede for the Federal Government; Prime Minister Tony Abbott; Leader of the Opposition Bill Shorten, that they will be guided by Christian principles and stand firm in their belief. Uphold in prayer your parliamentary representatives, federal and state.
- Pray for the North Adelaide Church; 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 Christ-likeness and spiritual growth in all PIM workers.
- Praise God for our new and living hope through the raising of Jesus Christ from the dead and pray that multitudes will discover this as this message is proclaimed over Easter.
- Pray for the Mount Gambier Church; congregation, elders, and Gary & Margaret Ware; Ian & Heather Touzel.
- 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 Presbytery of Torrens, Damien Carson Moderator, John Pratts Clerk.
- Pray for the SA Assembly commencing at Naracoorte on 25th May - John Langbridge Moderator, Brian Johnson Clerk, Conveners, - devotions, debates, fellowship and the reaching of wise, godly decisions.
- Pray for hearts to be opened as the Lord Jesus Christ is proclaimed by word and deed by PIM workers.
- Pray for persecuted Christians throughout the world
- Pray for 'M' serving in west Asia
- Pray for the Presbytery of Penola, Stefan Slucki Moderator, Gary Ware Clerk.
- Uphold in prayer David & Gae McDonald, Flynn Patrol, PIM.

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 2015 issue are to be in my hands **no later than 5.00pm Monday 11th May 2015.**

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