

PRAYER POINTS

- 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 Elizabeth church; congregation and elders,
- Praise God that the Word became flesh; pray that this message will come home to many during December.
- Pray for the Presbytery of Penola; Moderator Stefan Slucki, Clerk Gary Ware.
- 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 the Christians in Iraq, Syria and the Middle East who are facing severe persecution for their faith.
- Pray for safety and wisdom for all going on holidays.
- Pray for a Godly vision for your parish for 2015.
- Pray that the Lord will protect and sustain His people in Iraq. Pray that they will hope in Him at this seemingly hopeless time, for with Him there is unfailing love and with Him there is full redemption (Psalm 130:7). Ask the Lord to work radically in the hearts of the militants who are so ruthlessly persecuting Christians and other religious minorities, and turn the fighters from their destructive purposes.
- Pray for the Wattle Range Charge; congregation, elders; Don & Gloria Broadwater.
- 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; Moderator Damien Carson, Clerk John Prattis.
- Pray for the children who will receive the Christmas Boxes being distributed by Samaritan's Purse.
- Pray for protection against bushfires.
- Pray that none in retirement residences will be forgotten or neglected.
- Pray for Christ-likeness and spiritual growth in all PIM workers.

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 2015 issue are to be in my hands **no later than 5.00pm Monday 16th February 2015.**

Email: pcsanews@bigpond.com

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a blessed Christmas.

SA News is a publication of the Theological & Christian Education Committee of The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of South Australia Inc.



SA News

Your True Home

In 2002, my wife, Jenni, and I drove from Finley in NSW to Perth. It was a leisurely trip, camping here and there on the way. In South Australia, we pitched our tent at Whyalla for 2 nights, and Port Lincoln for 2 nights. At Ceduna, we found a cheap cabin, so that we didn't have to pack up the tent before travelling across the Nullarbor.

At each camping area we came to, there were lots of caravans. They seemed to arrive before we did, went to bed before we did, and set off each morning before we did. These were the "grey nomads"; and we soon realized that we were only trainee grey nomads.

After a few weeks of this itinerant life, you start to look forward to home. It's fun for a while, but you look forward to reaching your destination and settling down where you belong.

It is this picture that the writer of "Hebrews" takes up in Chapter 11. Take the time to read the whole of the Chapter, and be inspired by your forefathers in the faith. However, it is verses 8 to 16 that I want to particularly draw your attention to.

In speaking of Abraham, the writer tells you that he was a tent-dweller "looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God" (verses 9, 10). He then goes on to speak of Abraham and the other men of faith as "strangers and foreigners on earth", who were looking forward to a promised place of permanent rest (verse 13). This permanent place of rest is called "a better country – a heavenly one" in verse 16.

Because of our material prosperity in Australia, it is all too easy for Christians to forget that this world is not our true home. We need to be constantly reminded that here on earth we are mere tent-dwellers. Your true home is heaven; and you mustn't become too comfortable until you reach that heavenly destination – saved by grace, through faith, in the Lord Jesus Christ.

If you find that your vision of heaven as your true home has faded somewhat, you could always pitch a tent in your backyard for a while – a constant visual aid. However, it may be easier to prayerfully read and re-read Hebrews 11:8-16 to get refocused.

David Stone

David is currently serving the South Australian Presbyterian Church as temporary Pastor at North Adelaide.

Newsletter of the Presbyterian Church of South Australia Issue 25 December 2014

Mount Barker



"Why do we sit here until we die?" The words of four lepers (2 Kings 7:3) were said in deciding to take a relational risk and seek help from an opposing army. The decision to act a better choice than a slow death! It is the same with Mt. Barker Presbyterian Church.

Change is often painful. Recently, the congregation made a decision for change. This will lead to adjustments and change for all. We see people come and we see some go. The true picture is we have been sitting around slowly dying for the last 130 years. We need to take a risk seeking to reach people opposed, the people we don't know

and those we do not relate to now. We need to prepare to die to self and believe in fulfilment of His promises as we seek to be faithful to His great Commission on us to take action and make disciples everywhere. So please pray for us. **Pray** that whatever we do in word or deed, we do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God through Him. **Pray** that He would give us wisdom and unity in the decisions being worked out for His glory.

In send-offs we fulfilled the wishes of Mrs. Hazel Crawford, originally from Scotland, who passed away around 23rd of October. In the service on October 31, we celebrated her 70 years of life and her faith in Christ. We were her closest family as Hazel had no family in Australia. We also farewelled two dear friends, Terry and Elizabeth Lawson in a send-off on 5th of October. Our loss will be the gain of the Ulverstone Presbyterian Church. On a more positive note we look forward to another baby due next year to one of our members. Matthew and Rachel recently stood and made a profession of faith to become communicant members. We have been reminded of our covenant keeping God and our responsibilities to teach children. So we witnessed the sign of the Covenant in the triune name for Jonathan, Benjamin and Theodore Green with the hope that even now and more so as they grow up, these children like their parents, profess Jesus as Lord and Saviour. Risk-taking is connected with change. But not to worry. **Our future hope** rests in His mighty power to change us and those who become His disciples.

Robert Finster.

John Chrysostom (c.349-407), Archbishop of Constantinople, was an important early Church father. He was known for his powerful expository preaching of the Scriptures and his de-nunciation of abuse of authority by both church and political leaders. He died on the way to exile after denouncing the lifestyle of the Empress Eudoxia. His final words were, "Glory to God for all things".

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"24 manifestations of what Christ exalting humility should produce in your life".

Recognizing and trusting God's character (Psalm 119:66)

Seeing yourself as having no right to question or judge an Almighty and Perfect God (Psalm 145:17; Rom. 9:19-23)

Focusing on Christ (Phil. 1:21; Heb.12:1-2)

Biblical praying and a great deal of it (1 Thess. 5:17; 1 Tim.2:1-2)

Being overwhelmed with God's undeserved grace and goodness (Psalm 116:12-19)

Thankfulness and gratitude in general towards others (1 Thess. 5:18)

Being gentle and patient (Col. 3:12-14)

Seeing yourself as no better than others (Rom. 12:16; Eph. 3:8)

Having an accurate view of your gifts and abilities (Rom. 12:3)

Being a good listener (James 1:19; Phil. 2:3-4)

Talking about others only if it is good or for their good (Proverbs 11:13)

Being gladly submissive and obedient to those in authority (Rom. 12:1-2, 13:1-2)

Preferring others over yourself (Rom. 12:10)

Being thankful for criticism or reproof (Prov. 9:8, 27:5-6)

Having a teachable spirit (Prov. 9:9)

Seeking always to build up others (Eph. 4:29)

Serving (Gal. 5:13)

A quickness in admitting when you are wrong (Prov. 29:23)

A quickness in granting and asking for forgiveness (Col. 3:12-14)

Repenting of sin as a way of life (Col.3:1-14; 1 Tim. 4:7-9)

Minimizing others' sins or short-comings in comparison to one's own (Matt. 7:3-4)

Being genuinely glad for others (Rom. 12:15)

Being honest and open about who you are and the areas in which you need growth (Phil. 3:12-14; Gal.6:2)

Possessing close relationships (Acts 20:31-38)

From Church Matters: <http://blog.9marks.org/>



Hmm!

"Why do angels long to look into the good news (1 Pet. 1:12)? Because it is fascinating! It is eternally interesting. It is thrilling. It is simple, yet complex. It is a diamond: one brilliant treasure with a million gleaming facets, each offering a million vantage points alight and gleaming with the majesty of its architect."

— Jared C. Wilson **Gospel Wakefulness**
(Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway Books, 2011), 203

<http://firstimportance.org/2011/12/the-fascinating-interesting-thrilling-good-news/>

Whyalla

There have been two major events in the life of our church since the last edition of the SA news. Undoubtedly, the major event was the refurbishment of the entire inside of the church. During this time the whole of the inside of the church was given a makeover – a new concrete slab was laid, the entire church, including the vestry, was repainted, the windows were repointed and repaired, new electrical points were installed. We were three weeks in the James Harris Hall before the concrete was cured, the underlay and the carpet laid new bi-fold doors installed and we were able to move back into the church. Shortly after we moved back into the church, new vertical blinds were installed. As funds were not available from the General Assembly for this financial year, the congregation responded to our appeal for funds to do the work with amazing generosity. We give thanks to God, not just for the generosity of our own congregation but for the help and assistance offered to us by members of the wider community, family and friends.



The second event was the 35th Anniversary of the Whyalla Presbyterian Women's Association. The service was attended by over 40 members of the congregation, friends and invited guests. In her opening remarks Mrs. McVey, President of the Whyalla PWA, spoke of the route we have travelled over the last thirty-five years, paid tribute to the ladies of the past, what we achieved then and what we have achieved now with our present group of Ladies. The Guest Speaker was Joseph Mahoney, Whyalla High School Chaplain, who spoke of his Christian Conversion, his awakening to what God wanted in his life as well as the



successes and challenges of Whyalla High School. Joseph was an excellent speaker and a great pleasure to listen to.

We give thanks to God for all that he has helped us to achieve in His Name and understanding this has given the congregation a new sense of confidence regarding our future in this place where He has set us and where we are certain He wishes us to be.

For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8: 38-39

John McVey

Mount Gambier

Special thanks to everyone who prepared 162 Christmas boxes, brought items for the boxes and donated money.

Please pray for the children who will receive the boxes and their families. Pray that along with these gifts they will receive God's greatest gift — knowing Jesus as their Lord, Saviour and Treasure.

And thanks to the Coffee and Craft / Care and Concern members who organized our own *Operation Christmas Child*.

Above all, thanks to our generous and good God for such giving!



Faith of our Fathers

| words from John Chrysostom

[God] himself took on him the burden of our iniquities, he gave his own Son as a ransom for us, the Holy One for transgressors, the blameless one for the wicked, the righteous one for the unrighteous, the incorruptible one for the corruptible, the immortal one for them that are mortal. For what other thing was capable of covering our sins than his righteousness? By what other one was it possible that we, the wicked and ungodly, could be justified, than by the only Son of God? O sweet exchange! O unsearchable operation! O benefits surpassing all expectation! — that the wickedness of many should be hid in a single Righteous One, and that the righteousness of one should justify many transgressors!

John Chrysostom(c.349-407), *Epistle to Diognetus*, 9



Mount Gambier

We were greatly encouraged by the generosity of everyone towards the appeal for the persecuted church in Iraq through Barnabas Fund. Over \$3,000 was given.

An appeal was launched to assist the Highfield Reformed Church in Harare, Zimbabwe to purchase a replacement vehicle for Pastor Isaac. A total of \$10,000 US is required. It has been overwhelming to learn that at the time of writing this report this sum has been raised and has been forwarded to the church in Zimbabwe. The generous response to this appeal and to the Iraqi appeal has been staggering. Well done Church of God.



On Saturday 20th September the Youth Group ran a car wash to raise funds towards the purchase of a vehicle by Highfield Reformed Church, Harare, Zimbabwe. 23 cars were washed and/or vacuumed and/or waxed, raising \$1,422.95.



Above:
The Hamilton farm ute getting a wax treatment!

Opposite: The wash line in operation



Hmm!

"Satan accuses Christians day and night. It is not just that he will work on our conscience to make us feel as dirty, guilty, defeated, destroyed, weak, and ugly as he possibly can; it is something worse: his entire play in the past is to accuse us before God day and night, bringing charges against us that we know we can never answer before the

majesty of God's holiness.

What can we say in response? Will our defense be, 'Oh, I'm not that bad?' You will never beat Satan that way. Never. What you must say is, 'Satan, I'm even worse than you think, but God loves me anyway. He has accepted me because of the blood of the Lamb.'

— D. A. Carson

Scandalous: The Cross and Resurrection of Jesus

(Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2010), 98-99

<http://firstimportance.org/our-response-to-satans-accusations/>

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followed by the Rally. There was no guest speaker. The Thanksgiving offering was for the new Presbyterian Church in Alice Springs.

Ten church ladies visited Amber Ridge Nursery near Apsley in early October, where they bought plants to beautify their gardens. Our lunch in the cafe was served on wooden platters or tin plates. The flower decoration was in an old clag jar. It was lovely that Gloria was able to join us for the day.



It was pleasing to have about 30 people at the Communion Service on 5th October. A shared lunch was held in the hall after the service.



On Saturday, 25th October Don and Gloria hosted a breakfast at their home in Millicent. About a dozen people from both congregations got to know each other better as well as consuming the scrumptious breakfast lovingly cooked by the hosts.

Barbara Provis

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A lack of admitting when you are wrong (Prov.10:17)

A lack of asking forgiveness (Matt. 5:23-24)

A lack of biblical prayer (Luke 18:10-14)

Resisting authority or being disrespectful (1 Peter 2:13-17)

Voicing preferences or opinions when not asked (Phil.2:1-4)

Minimizing your own sin and short-comings (Matt.7:3-5)

Maximizing others' sin and short-comings (Matt. 7:3-5; Luke 18:9-14)

Being impatient or irritable with others (Eph. 4:31-32)

Being jealous or envious (1 Cor.13:4)

Using others (Matt. 7:12; Phil.2:3-4)

Being deceitful by covering up sins, faults, and mistakes (Prov.11:3; 28:13)

Using attention-getting tactics (1 Peter 3:3,4)

Not having close relationships (Prov.18:1-2; Heb. 10:24-25)

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All of history is moving toward one great goal, the white-hot worship of God and His Son among all the peoples of the earth. Missions is not that goal. It is the means. And for that reason it is the second greatest human activity in the world.

— John Piper

Wattle Range

Millicent

Greetings to all our S.A. Churches from the congregation of St. Andrews Church

In August, as usual, the Penola ladies had a successful fete with stalls and lovely food for lunch.

One of our members, Mrs. Janice Nitschke has recently received an O.A.M. and other awards for her services at the Library and community work. We congratulate Janice.

Fifth Sunday combined worship was held in the Lutheran Church. Each month with five Sundays, a combined service is held in different churches.

We were sad to lose Mrs. Gwen Burdon in August. Gwen had been a member here for many years, taught Sunday School, played the organ and in later years became an elder of the church. Our sympathy goes to her family members.

We remember all our friends who are unable to attend worship owing to age and ill health. We remember and pray for all who are in war torn countries.

Don's specialists are pleased with his progress, so we hope this continues.

One of our Senior Ladies celebrated her 90th birthday recently. Happy Birthday, Nestor.

The Combined Churches Christmas Appeal Fete was a great success. Total raised was over \$4,600 with \$600 being taken on the cake stall, which was run by Salvation Army and Presbyterian ladies.

Remember Jesus' promise "I will be with you always."

Theлма Thomas

Penola

We have been continuing with Don's study of Nehemiah and love his expressive way of teaching. It is a delight to have him and Gloria with us each week. Coffee and a chat are always shared in the hall following services.

The regular Board and Session meetings have been held, either meeting face to face or by phone conference. The men have attended the 'Shedmen'



group. Don was able to join them in October.

The PWA Thanksgiving Rally was held in our church on 28th August attended by 15 ladies. Rev Ian Touzel was able to come and take the Communion Service instead of Don who was undergoing medical treatment on that day. Lunch was served in the hall

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Naracoorte — Comings and Goings

Travel, to and fro, can be tiring, but it is often a Blessing—including to God's People. This has proved to be so for numbers of folk at St. Andrews, Naracoorte.

Several households have enjoyed significant times of holiday: Stuart and Julie in Queensland, Ross and Vivian in the USA, Tom and Wendy in Europe, and others in less exotic locations.

It has been superb to welcome Ian and Heather into our midst as regular worshippers. Also, little Catherine Mary, third child of Andrea and Mark who was Baptised in October and is pictured here.

Another travelling household was Jan and Robert who made it to the African continent. Jan spoke to those gathered for the annual ladies' morning tea about their trip through the game-parks of Kenya—and an informative and interesting half-hour that was, as well.



Our attention has been on the life of Abraham and the lessons we can learn from it and is now focused on the First Letter of John. In recent weeks the Bible-Study group has been considering various sections of Scripture using the *One To One* method of reading the Bible as outlined in the book of that name by David Helm: I commend it to you. This month we are doing 4 studies, prepared by my Evangelical UCA colleague, on money.

Greetings in Christ Jesus for Christmas and the New Year from Sue and I on behalf of the congregation.

(Note, Pat who normally prepares this column returned, safely, from Korea, on 9th November, the day before the deadline for this article's completion)

Stefan Slucki



North Adelaide

The PWA continues to meet monthly on the first Wednesday morning of the month, with about 7 or 8 attending. In November, the meeting started with Morning Tea at "Hutt Street", which is an organization providing welfare, as well as support for the homeless. On Sunday 19th October, the PWA catered for a lunch after Morning Worship as a fundraiser. Financial support is given to various welfare, Christian and missionary works.

Mid-week activities have been continuing. After studying 1 & 2 Peter, the Thursday night Bible Study has gone back to the beginning, Genesis. There are usually about 7 or 8 in attendance, and they have found the study enlightening and challenging.

The Saturday Book Club has been reading CS Lewis's "Mere Christianity". Each member has a copy of the book to read, and at the meeting, we listen to an audio version, and discuss what Lewis has said.

Please pray for the "Easy English" classes on Friday mornings. Numbers have been small and inconsistent – not enough to keep the 4 or 5 teachers fully occupied. The aim is to help with written and oral English, as well as provide some spiritual input with everyone reading some verses from a Bible reading for the day.

Over the time, some people from the "Easy English" have come to "Emerge", the Sunday Evening Service. This Service is at 5.00pm and is followed by an Evening Meal. These meals usually have a theme, such as "Asian", "Hot Pot", "Mexican", "Soup and Sandwiches". It is a time of warm fellowship.

Numbers attending Morning Worship have grown as Winter turned into Spring. The Choir often leads us in worship with an Anthem. The Choir practices most Friday afternoons, and usually has 7 members.

Pray that Christ might be honoured throughout the various areas of our church life, and for fruitfulness in outreach activities.

David Stone



Hmm!

"Only Christ is the whole of man's happiness; the sun to enlighten him, the physician to heal him, the wall of fire to defend him, the friend to comfort him, the pearl to enrich him, the ark to support him, the rock to sustain him under the heaviest pressures; as an hiding-place from the wind, and a covert from the tempest, as rivers of waters in a dry place, and as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land. Only Christ is that ladder between earth and heaven, the Mediator betwixt God and man; a mystery which the angels of heaven desire to pry into. Here is a blessed subject indeed: who would not be glad to be acquainted with it?"

- Isaac Ambrose *Looking Unto Jesus*

<http://firstimportance.org/only-christ-is-the-whole-of-mans-happiness/>

Seacliff

Ministry from a range of godly men has continued to support us as a congregation and we thank God for his provision. Revs. John Calvert, Reg Mathews, Mr Ian Smith, and Dr. John Hughes have taken the pulpit while Pastor Raymond Brewer comes regularly for bible study. Rev. John Langbridge from Queensland, one of the Presbytery assessors also preached on 'cities of refuge'. He preached from Joshua 20, noting that in Christ we too have a level highway, to a readily accessible place of refuge and, as in ancient times, the death of the high priest was the signal for the release for the one who committed the crime.

We have had 2 new regular attendees which brings joy to us as we see the encouragement of Christ through us to them. Kath and Keith Blomeley enjoyed a 6 week break, travelling to Victoria meeting with friends and Graham Edwards has had a short term break too.

We have had a couple of shared lunches and are eagerly awaiting the time in early December when Matthew will be home for 3 weeks during which time he will share in worship and a luncheon.

The hall has been provided with new scrim curtains which has freshened it up.

Later this month the bible study group and others will gather at Sturt Palms Retirement Village (where 2 of our congregation reside) to share with the residents, singing hymns and hearing a brief message from Raymond Brewer

Heather Blunt

"30 biblical indicators as to whether pride is resident in our hearts"

Complaining against or passing judgment on God (Num. 14:1-4, 9, 11; Rom. 9:20)

A lack of gratitude (2 Chr. 32:25)

Anger (Prov. 28:25; Matt. 20:1-16)

Seeing yourself as better than others (Luke 7:36-50)

Having an inflated view of your importance, gifts and abilities (Acts 12:21-23)

Being focused on the lack of your gifts and abilities (1 Cor. 12:14-25)

Perfectionism (Matt. 23:24-28)

Talking too much (Prov. 10:19)

Talking too much about yourself (Prov. 27:2; Gal. 6:3)

Seeking independence or control (1 Cor. 1:10-13; Eph. 5:21)

Being consumed with what others think (Gal. 1:10)

Being devastated or angered by criticism (Prov. 13:1)

Being unteachable (Prov. 19:20; John 9:13-34)

Being sarcastic, hurtful, degrading, talking down to them (Prov. 12:18, 24)

A lack of service (Gal. 5:13, Eph. 2:10)

A lack of compassion (Matt. 5:7, 18:23-35)

Being defensive or blame-shifting (Genesis 3:12-13; Prov. 12:1)

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