

PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for the North Adelaide church; congregation, elders, Chris ten Broeke.
- Pray for the upcoming Federal Election of 7th September.
- 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 more PIM workers to be raised up and sent forth by the Lord of the Harvest.
- 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.
- Uphold in prayer David & Gae McDonald, Flynn Patrol, PIM.
- Uphold in prayer APWM national office: Kevin Murray (National Director).
- Intercede for the Federal Government; Prime Minister Kevin Rudd; Leader of the Opposition Tony Abbott.
- Pray for the Largs North congregation; Raymond Brewer.
- Pray for the upcoming meeting of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.
- Pray for the Persecuted Church in Syria and Egypt.
- Pray for David Cook the incoming Moderator General of the General Assembly, Paul Logan the Clerk and all the Commissioners who will be attending, as they prepare for the Assembly meetings on 9th - 12th September and for the debates, deliberations and decisions that are made.
- Pray for Christians to have a spirit of forgiveness and love towards those who are perceived as being our enemies.
- Pray for the Mount Gambier Church; congregation, elders; Gary & Margaret Ware; Ian & Heather Touzel.
- Pray for many people to become and grow as Christians through PIM patrols and churches.
- The influence of the church in China both official and underground.
- Pray for all those members of our congregations who are now in aged care residences.
- For God to reveal Christ's grace and truth to many living under the darkness of Islam.
- Pray for 'M' serving in west Asia.

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 December 2013 issue are to be in my hands **no later than 5.00pm Monday 4th November 2013.**

Email: pcsanews@bigpond.com

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

Issue 20
September 2013

Newsletter of the Presbyterian Church of South Australia

Let's have a Cuppa and a Chat

I'd like to sit down today and have a cuppa with you, and to also have a little chat with you, if that's alright? Have you put the kettle on?

You know, when we look back on our life, no matter what age we are, and can see what life was like before Christ, we can readily see how empty and dark our life was.

And sometimes we forget about those times, and because of that forgetfulness we sometimes lose the joy of the blessings that we experience each and every day since we've been saved by Christ.

Here are just two blessings that come to mind straight away, first, what an absolute blessing it is to be looked upon by God as one of His family, and because of this blessing we know where our journey is taking us to.

Second, how our lives have changed since we've been privileged to know, and understand, that peace which passes all understanding.

There are people that I meet everyday who are in pain, whether it's physical or psychological, and I believe that the pain is all to do with the darkness with being unsaved.

Now I wish to talk to you specifically about that darkness, the darkness that we had before we invited Christ into our lives.

John was telling people about Christ, and the world with its darkness, when he was speaking in John 1:5 saying "And the Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it."

Have you ever asked yourself this question, "why is government and politics so apparently opposed to common sense?" Well the answer is it's because of the moral darkness. We are to be the light of the world, and to dispel the darkness, so that people can find their way.

And people who are not saved, will not receive the light of God, and won't walk into that light, the Bible tells us that unsaved people will be cast into a place which is of fire, it has no light and is described as outer darkness. And that's such a thick black existence that you can feel, and feel all too well. We Brothers and Sisters in Christ are saved from this catastrophe, but the people of the world are not, and don't yet know why, and we're asked to be the light of the world for Christ, and to do our part to help dispel the darkness, so that lost people can find their way to a better life.

Can we just shine a little more, and let people know by our brightness that we are indeed children of God? Can we remember when we meet people of the world who are in pain, to offer them an invitation to find out where their life can be better? We don't need to have a deep theological discussion with them, just invite them to church to find out for themselves, and let them make the decision. As Christ said to Thomas in the upper room, feel My wounds Thomas, put your finger in the holes of My hands and feet, feel My side where the spear went in. In a similar manner we need to let the unsaved feel us, to get to know us, so that we can help them.

May God's light shine upon you brighter

Barry Rossiter

From The Moderator



The 2013 PCSA General Assembly was conducted on Tuesday, May 28 after a commencement service the evening before. Our venue was the North Adelaide Presbyterian church, Archer Street, North Adelaide.

It was a great pleasure to be installed as Moderator by Ian Touzel, my friend and colleague in ministry here in Mount Gambier.

Since this year we didn't have any official visiting guests I preached on both Monday night and at Tuesday morning's communion service. This gave me an opportunity to explore the first chapter of second Corinthians with the Assembly; verses 1-11 Monday night and 12-22 on Tuesday.

Firstly I spoke of the 'Abundant Consolation' which is ours as Christians, an experience of God's character which is both the fruit of our relationship with Him and the roots of our ministry to others. Far better to focus on whether we are a church of comfort rather than a comfortable church. As a small and struggling group, we need not despair or look to better days as the time when our ministry will flourish, but rather we should be encouraged that God is currently equipping us with such profound experience of His comfort, so we can comfort others right now.

This led into the second sermon, 'Always Yes', which began with the thought that pastoral search committees don't usually ask a prospective pastor when his heart has been broken and how God comforted him. Unfolding Paul's explanation of his change of plans with regard to the church in Corinth provides us with an insight into how our plans need to be formulated, but also open to

Whyalla

Greetings from Whyalla.

Over sixty(60) people attended the World Day of Prayer Service which, this year, was held in the Whyalla Uniting Church. The service was attended by a number of members from our congregation who enjoyed fellowship with other Christian Groups within Whyalla.

The Whyalla Ministers Association continues to hold regular meetings in the Presbyterian Church Hall. This year, 2013, Mrs Mashford has chaired the meetings.



On July 24th the Presbyterian Church hosted the Whyalla Ladies Guilds and Fellowships Birthday Celebrations. This was a gathering of some fifty (50) ladies from various Denominations and Christian Groups within the city of Whyalla. Elder Annabell McVey, President of the Whyalla PWA conducted the service and the Guest Speakers were David and Gae McDonald of the PIM Flynn Patrol. The McDonalds were very interesting as

they outlined the work of the PIM, the location and size of the Flynn Patrol Area as well as some of the problems and highlights of taking the Gospel to the remote parts of South Australia. David mentioned that his former work as a motor mechanic, was much appreciated by people in the remoter parts of the Patrol Area. The offering for the day was presented to Gae and David to assist with their work in the Patrol. At the conclusion of the service people were given the opportunity to look over the new PIM Patrol Vehicle.



At lunch Gae McDonald and Rita Howard were invited to cut the Birthday Cake.

The members of the congregation were saddened to hear of the passing of Noel Cusack. Noel was a good friend to Whyalla Church.

On Saturday 3rd August, the Board will run a Soup and Sandwich Lunch. This is a community outreach as well as a small fundraising event. These are generally well attended.

The ladies of the PWA were delighted to welcome Gae McDonald and Sooh Lee as the new members of the Whyalla Branch, which now has 19 members.

Under the authority of the Moderator our three elders continue to lead the service each week. The congregation remains in good heart as it continues to serve and worship God, and His Son, Our Lord, in this place.

Jessie Mitchell

A New Church In Australia's Heart

The main reason for planting a Presbyterian Church in Alice Springs is not that Alice Springs needs a Presbyterian Church, but that Alice Springs needs more and more churches and Christians proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

What a joy it was to share a time of worship with over fifty other folk, including representatives of the Northern Territory, South Australia, Tasmania, Western Australia, Victoria, our national church (Moderator-General David Jones), and the Presbyterian Inland Mission Superintendent (Stuart Bonnington) for the formal constitution of Alice Springs Presbyterian Church.

Keith and Jenny Bell have three decades of experience with churches in country Queensland, South Australia and Victoria. In addition, Keith has served as a children's hospital chaplain and Jenny has worked as a project manager for RMIT University (Melbourne). Their residence and the church's place of worship is being leased from Australian Indigenous Ministries.

The building is spacious and welcoming and promises to serve the mission and ministry of the church for some time.



Keith and Jenny Bell



Congregation at the inaugural service of Alice Springs Presbyterian Church.

At the commissioning service we had great opportunity to pray and praise, to hear God's Word and have it preached by David Jones. As a starting point our prayer is that this service will serve as a continuing encouragement to this congregation as the challenging days of planting and nurturing a new work truly begin.

We pray that Jenny will recover from recent surgery, and that Keith's new work in local Police Chaplaincy will meet the critical

needs often experienced by the emergency services community.

Hopefully those who remain will find the service a continuing source of encouragement, and a tangible reminder that prayers from around the nation continue to uphold this work in Australia's centre.

We'll continue to pray that this new work will declare the Gospel in Australia's heart.

Gary Ware

change as circumstance unfolds and as new insight comes to light. What anchors this process is the reference point that we serve the one true constant, that God saves His people through the Gospel of the person and work of The Lord Jesus Christ, and we hold every non-essential (including locations, buildings, who will be working, and what the nature of the work will be) in such a way that we are always able to assert with a clear conscience that we believe this is the wisest way of carrying out our ministry and mission at this time in this place.

The primary challenge before our grouping of churches continues to be that the city of Adelaide, population 1.2 million and the fifth largest city in Australia, does not have an independently viable Presbyterian Church of Australia Congregation. We have two churches which are close to that status and four other locations that function at a very modest level.

As such, the focus of our denominational committees must not divert energy away for working towards healthy Presbyterian churches in Adelaide, and, where possible, their efforts should strive to work in harmony with that goal.

A Special Committee charged with trying formulate a streamlined denominational structure for the church in order to facilitate support of Adelaide, brought a report noting, that on advice from the Federal Church, that the present structure be maintained, and instead that the body which has oversight of the Adelaide churches be supplemented by assessors from the Federal Church and our other Presbytery. The Adelaide Presbytery of Torrens, acting on an interim report of the special committee have already initiated this direction with assessors already having been present at meetings of the Presbytery. The Presbytery, so augmented will now evaluate each of its parishes and formulate a strategy to nurture healthy Presbyterian churches in the city.

The Finance and Administration Committee's proposals included financial support for the ministries of the North Adelaide and Para Hills churches, the two Adelaide congregations which conceivably at this point could attain non-dependent status. In addition pastoral remuneration continued to be set at the level established by the New South Wales assembly, in order to ensure, as much as is possible, that pastors from other regions in Australia will feel encouraged to consider serving here. Support of the patrol work of the Presbyterian Inland Mission in outback South Australia was also approved.

The Mission Committee's recommendations largely took up the denomination's practical support of those in cross cultural situations outside of Australia. Workers in Vanuatu, India and a closed location were supported; along with other agencies.

The Theological & Christian Education committee sought support for the annual Ladies Weekend Camp, commended the usage of Sonworld Vacation Bible School program material, and were authorised to continue production and distribution of South Australian News.

Resolutions from the Church & Nation committee expressing support for existing laws relating to prostitution and euthanasia, and opposing proposed

changes in these areas, were supported by Assembly.

Karnkendi Campsite and Dunbar Homes both reported on their operations during 2012.

The Assembly took time to note the deaths of Noel Cusack and Sarah Macgowan, who were both active in wider denominational life. We also remembered long standing members of Assembly Bob Arstall and Brian Redpath who both died during the twelve months since our previous Assembly.

The Assembly directed the Code Committee to publish a new edition of the recently revised rules and regulations, declaring all previously printed copies as superseded. The new edition is the version published on the PCSA website.

With great pleasure we also heard from David and Gae McDonald, Presbyterian Inland Mission patrol padres who care for the iconic Flynn patrol in outback South Australia. It was a great encouragement to hear that the work seems to be fully operational after their commencement and initial establishment phase.

The Assembly also directed the Moderator to represent them at the commencement service of the PIM church-plant in Alice Springs on July 21. Keith and Jenny Bell are spear-heading this exciting work to plant a new church in the geographic heart of Australia. Maybe Mrs Moderator will be able to come along too.

The Assembly was pleased to receive the nomination of Rev. Chris ten Broeke, pastor of North Adelaide to serve as moderator of the 2014 Assembly, and unanimously elected him to that position.

Flowing from that we decided to return to North Adelaide for our commencement service next year, with our business session the next day to be conducted at Norwood Presbyterian Church.

We also noted that Rev. David Cook, who will become Moderator-General of the Presbyterian Church of Australia in September 2013, has accepted our invitation to attend next year's Assembly. We look forward to him having significant input into our devotional and practical theology sessions. Perhaps we will add a planned time of training to our Assembly in order to avail ourselves of that which the retired principal of Sydney Missionary and Bible College can share with us.

The congregation of North Adelaide supplied supper, lunch, morning and afternoon tea, making us all feel very much at home.

Business was concluded at 4.08 which left us a couple of hours to relax before most commissioners regathered to enjoy dinner together at a local restaurant.

Personal thanks to Brian Johnson (Clerk) and Alan Clarkson (Business Convenor) for organising everything.

Gary Ware



by John Stayte, Penola's Christian Pastoral Support Worker, and Brendan Provis for the second week.

Andrew Jung, a Korean Pastor, started a Bible Study on Saturday 27th July in our hall for the Korean workers in the district. Unfortunately, this will not continue at present as the workers have to work on Saturdays.

A number of our members are very elderly and not enjoying good health. Stuart Balnaves spent time in the Penola Hospital, after being in the Mount Gambier Hospital off and on for several weeks. He passed away in early August.

Glen Clifford passed away on 27th June, aged 95. He had been a member of our Church for most of his life and an Elder since 1968. He served the church as a manager and preached occasionally during vacancies in the 1980's. His funeral was conducted by Rev Alan Clarkson in Penola on Thursday 4th July. The church ladies catered for his funeral.

Rev Alan Clarkson also conducted two other funerals in July while Don was on leave or recovering from medical procedures. Val Little's son, Allan, whose funeral was held in the Kalangadoo Church on 22nd and Ron and Marlene Guerin's 43 year old son, Philip, in Penola on 29th July. The church ladies catered for this very large funeral too.

The PWA ladies met in June for a dinner meeting at Val McLean's home which was well attended and a special night of fellowship together. At the July meeting they discussed the Church Fair which was held on 2nd August. When the morning dawned wet and cold, we asked God to bless our day and the sun came out when the stalls opened. Although numbers were down from previous years, a good crowd came to peruse the trading tables and have lunch. \$2881.30 was raised.

Barbara Provis



Hmm!

We don't just belong to God on our own. It's not just about "me and Jesus." The church is about we and us, gathered by God to be His people, together, in community, not in isolation. The teaching of the Bible is that relationship implies responsibility. We are to live in vital relationship and to deny that relationship, to ignore one's responsible involvement among the people of God is not a sign of the strength of one's character or how mature and spiritually independent one has become. It is a sign of a rebellious and foolish heart.

– J. Scott Lindsay

Senior Pastor, South Baton Rouge Presbyterian Church,
Baton Rouge, Louisiana, USA.

Wattle Range

Millicent

Remember: Whoever has a heart full of love, has something to give.

We enjoyed a visit from Robert Wood, a representative of the Gideon Society. I am always pleased to see the Gideon Bibles in the hotel and motel rooms.

Each fortnight Sue and Thelma compile and print a news sheet which began in 2008. We have now reached 116 and this will continue as long as folk pass on any interesting events.

One of our former church members, Miss Phyl Humphries, has celebrated her 103rd birthday. She is a happy, bright lady and recently turned the first spade-full to begin the new Hart Court extensions

We are sad to report that at a recent Congregation meeting it was decided that the Rendelsham Church should be sold. The congregation has dwindled and no services have been held for over two years. This decision has now to go to Presbytery and then to Assembly for approval.

World Day of Prayer was held in the Lutheran Church and was attended by ladies from all churches. Thelma took part for our church.

We had a good display of goods for Harvest Thanksgiving in spite of the lack of rain.

Easter Services were held at Penola and Millicent. Thanks to Gloria Broadwater for the display on the communion table to celebrate Easter.

Our thoughts and prayers go with Derek and Maureen's son Jamie, who has gone to Afghanistan. Thelma's grandson, Kym, has recently returned from there.

A great afternoon of fellowship was held at Don and Gloria's new residence, along with the Penola folk.

Mother's Day was held with a lovely show of white flowers, a wonderful bible reading and an appropriate address. Thankyou Don.

We pray for the health of our friends who are unable to worship with us.

The three Sue's Biggest Morning Tea was held in our hall and the final total raised with donations etc., was \$2087.00. This is a great effort for the Cancer Appeal.

Some of our ladies attended a luncheon in the Lutheran Church in aid of the Bible Society and the fifth Sunday combined service in the Assembly of God hall.

We were saddened by the passing of Mr Ian Tiddy in June. Ian was a fine organist and enjoyed playing our pipe organ occasionally at services.

Greetings to all church members from the Millicent congregation.

Thelma Thomas

Penola

Attendances have been down through the winter months with some members travelling to warmer climes. Coffee and a chat after services have been well supported, providing much needed fellowship with Don and Gloria and each other.

After our Communion Service in June, people enjoyed lunch together 'cafe' style in the hall, to encourage conversation.

When Don was on leave the first two weeks in July, the services were covered

Mount Barker

One of the songs of Ascents in the Psalms states:- 'Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity! For there the LORD has commanded the blessing, life forevermore.' (Ps 133) As we look back on the last three months we have seen the Lord testing our unity and helping us to be thankful for the blessings that He gives. Like many smaller parishes we do really seek the Lord's blessing on us as we worship and work at the tasks given to us.

New Web Site

www.adelaidehillschurch.com.au

In the last few months we have managed to gain a new web site thanks to some assistance of the wider church bodies after the previous one was hacked by some Muslim extremists. We know many seek a church not in the telephone directory but via the web.

Community Connections -



Mayor's Prayer Breakfast

The Church maintains several connections through the local Mount Barker Ministers Fellowship (mbmf.org.au) and our pastor was involved in organising the annual Mayor's Prayer Breakfast. This event attracted many people. Mayors, Councillors, prominent people from Adelaide with some locals heard local Adelaide lawyer Mark Mudri speaking

about God's grace and mercy in his life. This year the focus of the Breakfast was community support for the local Christian Pastoral Care Workers (CPSW - Chaplains) in the State Schools associated with the Schools Ministry Group (S.M.G.).



Kitchen - Hall Use

Our facilities - Kitchen, Hall and toilets now with a significant upgrade continues to attract interest from various community groups. The A.A. group, Hills Community Options and Community Living and Support Services (CLASS) are three groups who continue to use the facilities happily on a weekly basis. Other groups are also expressing interest on a regular basis. One group of ladies called the Adelaide Hills Women's Network is a group of like-minded women who meet bi-monthly for socialising and a meal. (Perhaps something like the P.W.A. of past days.)

A.H.W.N. are a not-for-profit group who discuss matters of importance and interest to women and, when funds allow, donate any surplus funds to worthy women's causes, such as Alarm Monitors for Women in Crisis, Birthing Kits to women in Africa, support to disabled athletes etc. The group used our kitchen in July having a cooking

demonstration with about 20 in attendance. The chefs were delighted with the well set out workspace, cooking amenities and warm feel of the venue and enjoying the warmth of the open fire. The network were also thrilled to use the hall and intend to use it again for an event later in the year.

Please pray for Mount Barker and for the Lord's provision in the days ahead. We know how good and pleasant it is when we stay focussed on God and His plans. We know that it is in Him we find and dwell in unity. May the Lord bless every corner of His field in Presbyterian circles.

Robert Finster.



Photos in order -

1/ Former premier and CEO of Anglicare SA - Dr Lynn Arnold AO with Mayor of Unley Council - Lachlan Clyne.

2/ L to R:- Angela Jolly (Executive Director of S.M.G.), Mount Barker Mayor - Ann Ferguson, Matt Baird - Chaplain, Mount Barker H.S., Kate Oglanby, Chaplain at Littlehampton P.S. and Jade Brook, Chaplain at Echunga P.S.

3/ & 4/ AHWN group using kitchen facilities.



The Gospel's Power & Message

One of the greatest crimes of this generation of Christians is its neglect of the gospel, and it is from this neglect that all our other maladies spring forth. Absent from too many pulpits are the essential themes which make up the very core of the gospel — the justice of God, the radical depravity of man, the blood atonement.

In *The Gospel's Power and Message*, Paul Washer addresses these essential elements of Christ's good news and provides a guide to help us rediscover the gospel in all its beauty, scandal, and saving power. May such a rediscovery transform your life, strengthen your proclamation, and bring the greatest glory to God.

"The word gospel is on the lips of many these days, but few truly understand its essential content, depth and nature. In this outstanding volume Paul Washer masterfully opens up from the Bible the heart of the gospel, giving us an invaluable resource for our lives".

Rob Ventura.

Paul Washer ministered as a missionary in Peru for 10 years, He now serves as one of the laborers with the HeartCry Missionary Society. He and his wife Charo have three children.

Available from Reformers' Bookshop (www.reformers.org.au) for \$19.95 plus p+p

From Middle Eastern Reformed Fellowship (MERF)

Dear Christian Brothers and Sisters,

Security concerns have kept MERF's ministry center in Cairo, Egypt closed for three days. So far, no staff or ministry partners have been physically hurt. Christians are especially targeted by Islamists because they are unarmed and cannot fight back. Yet, the international media has given little attention to the dangers facing Christian communities in Egypt.

About 38 people of Christian background lost their lives (including two police officers) and over 200 were injured by the Islamists attacks on police centers, homes, businesses and churches. At least 64 churches were attacked, including 8 evangelical buildings. This was mostly in Upper Egypt, where there are significant numbers of Christians. Some were completely burned down. Over 400 hundred businesses and shops and many more Christian homes have been attacked, burglarized and/or burned. In the city of Malawi (central Egypt), Christian families have been forced from their homes taken over by Islamists from other cities.

The interim government pledged to rebuild all destroyed churches. Egyptian Church leaders made public statements calling Christians to be forgiving and to trust only in the Lord's protection and not seek or expect any help from Western or other nations. Prayer chains have been established throughout the country.

There is special concern over the well-being of Muslim converts, pastors and others discipling secret seekers. Under Morsi's one year presidency, information was gathered on some that might have come into the hands of Islamic militias.

A famous Egyptian TV journalist, Youssif Al_Housainy, a nominal Muslim, has been quoting regularly from the Sermon on the Mount on his weekly show. This week, in the light of the attacks on Christians and churches, he quoted Matthew 5:11-12, commenting: "Islamists are told that they are blessed if they die killing their enemies and fighting for their cause, yet the heavenly message of Christ is that the oppressed and persecuted are the ones who receive abiding eternal rewards!"

MERF's Arabic gospel broadcast and literature production continues in both Egypt and Lebanon. Several Egyptian staff are able to work from home. We thank the Lord for these and other MERF ministries in His plan to call out His people from among Muslims in Egypt and elsewhere. He seems to be preparing many hearts for the Gospel of God's grace and peace in Christ.

Join us in earnest prayer for the safety of God's people in Egypt and Syria and for continued fruitful Gospel ministry.

Please share this message with churches, families and friends.

With gratitude for your partnership in missions to Arab and Muslim peoples,

"Declaring the Whole Counsel of God"

Middle East Reformed Fellowship

Witnessing through Living What We Believe

What we can offer our generation is to believe what we claim to believe about God. It may be the greatest witness for them to see us trusting God through the valleys as well as the mountain tops of living. It is one thing to say that you believe in the sovereignty of God and quite another to believe this when faced with things that will change your life forever. How different our lives would be if we really believed God's promises no matter what happened to us. It would change our perspective to realize that either mercy would be given to overcome what had happened in our lives or grace would be given to endure (Hebrews 4:16). The reason is because if you belong to Christ...His death has secured your forgiveness...His life now empowers your living...His good purposes for His people are now channelling the direction of your life...and His victories over all that has caused brokenness and pain in your life are yours as well (2 Corinthians 1:20). So tell me...what is keeping you from believing God for what is happening in your life? What is holding you back from living in the freedom of His calling of you? And what could you possibly fear not happening in your life when God has promised to care for you until you are in His presence? Don't let anything rob you of the joy in knowing that God is at work in all the circumstances of your life. And don't let others be robbed of the witness your life can offer if you simply live out of what we claim to believe. Letting others see your honest life-faith struggles may be the greatest witness they have ever heard (Psalm 138:8; Jeremiah 29:10-14; Romans 8:33-9:1; Psalm 18; 1 Peter 5:7)!

Don Broadwater



Hmm!

"It was a common thing, as soon as the Bible was opened, after the preliminary services, and just as the reader began' — here, you will observe, it was the simple reading of the word without preaching; yet such was the power upon the minds of the people that 'it was a common thing, as soon as the Bible was opened, after the preliminary services, and just as the reader began, for great meltings to come upon the hearers* The deepest attention was paid to every word as the sacred verses were slowly and solemnly enunciated* Then the silent tear might be seen stealing down the rugged but expressive countenances turned upon the reader* '* * * The word of the Lord was precious in those days**"

Charles J* Brown,

The Revival of Religion: Addresses by Scottish Evangelical Leaders delivered in Glasgow in 1840 (Edinburgh, 1984), pages 316-317* - <http://thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/rayortlund/2012/08/31/great-meltings/>

Mount Gambier

Brian Harvey, Youth Ministry Director of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria met with our youth ministry leaders for a training evening on Thursday 20th June. Brian started by picturing the church and our youth in an environment like the church faced in 1 Corinthians 5, and that we have to prepare our youth for this world they live in, as otherwise the world will do this for us.

He then guided us through a discussion about the 'health' of the youth group to enable us to build on our God-given strengths and work on the challenges that we are faced with.

We identified some very encouraging matters, including the fact that we have a clear Purpose Statement, people in the church are praying for the youth and the leaders, the youth is coming and enjoying the fellowship together, there is a healthy balance between activities vs teaching, including between Win and Build nights, and there is a family feel to the youth group (and not of a closed family). Some of the challenges are to meet together as leaders, the focus in discipleship training for both junior and senior youth at the same time and how to prepare so that we get the gospel clear to all age and interest groups.

The evening concluded with pointing towards God's purpose for our youth, strengthening them in their walk with God as disciples of Jesus.

We all walked away from this night encouraged about what God has blessed, about the youth in our congregation and from around town that come together for fellowship and to know their God and Father better and about the prayerful support that exists. We are thankful to Brian for his wisdom and wit in facilitating this night.

Jeroen Zwijnenburg

Naracoorte

"Session resolved that the congregation participate in the National Day of Thanksgiving [www.thanksgiving.org.au] this year." Accordingly, representatives of the Emergency Services - CFS, Ambulance and Police were invited to receive Certificates of Appreciation both for their individual and organisational service to the community.

Most were able to attend the Worship Service prior to the presentation of Certificates' during morning tea. Our Minister, Stefan Slucki, pictured here with recipients, introduced the recipients and Session Clerk Stuart McLean carried out the presentation on behalf of the congregation.

The recipients were very appreciative of the event.



On Saturday the 20th July Session were privileged to host members of St Andrews and members of the other Naracoorte church congregations over breakfast to meet Bishop Michael Musale from the Christ Victory Gospel Ministries based in Turbo, Kenya.

Bishop Musale spoke on "Nation Building – a mission to be rediscovered". In his talk he spoke

about "the strong Christian foundation on which 'Australia' (the southland of the Holy Spirit) has been founded and her task to carry the Gospel to the surrounding nations. An important part of that task being the educating of children in distinctively Christian ways."

Bishop Musale told of his life at Prince of Wales School where class sizes were 25 children and his mission to start a Christian School to give the children a good education like he had. It was surprising to hear that the government schools have classes of 80 children. In the Victory Christian School at Eldoret in Kenya, the first class of 20 students began on 1st July 2013.



Jill Bowden, Bishop Michael Musale and Rev. Stefan Slucki.

Conversation English classes are progressing well. Up to 18 students attend each week and are from Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Vanuatu. It is wonderful to see the students gain in confidence and participate in the conversation part of the classes. The students are very appreciative of these 'free' classes and it's not only the students who learn something each week but so do the teachers.

Pat Leitch

Seacliff

Life at Seacliff continues to bring times of worship and fellowship for all. We have had the blessing of continued ministry, especially from Rev. Dr. Reg Mathews who has travelled Sunday by Sunday from his home in the northern suburbs to encourage and inform us in his messages. We are working through the Gospel of John and each week we prepare by reading the relevant chapter, choose a notable verse and make a brief note of its relevance to us. These are then shared in the service. It is challenging to choose a single verse when there are so many that strike a chord but we have all benefitted from it and it has been greatly encouraging to hear the insights of others.

Last Sunday we were blessed by having our interim moderator, Rev Chris ten Broeke lead the service and join us for morning tea.

In early July we had lunch following the service with Reg and Elaine Mathews who brought Joan Thompson with them and it was delightful for us share a meal and fellowship with them all.

Around that time we also had a movie and pizza night at which our newest congregational member, John Wacheke from Kenya, showed us pictures of his family, home and significant parts of Kenya.

Our regular activities, bible study and craft nights enable us to develop relationships as well as grow in faith and understanding.

We meet for bible study at the home of Ari and Nell Verstegen but of late Ari has been missing as he has had to relocate to a nearby nursing home due deteriorating health.

With the current political situation in the Middle East, the closure of embassies in that area and the increasing lack of security in his country of service, it is good for us all to remember M and to pray regularly for him. He is, we understand, visiting in and around the capital during the hot, dry and windy season.

Heather Blunt



Hmm!

Mercy is a command of God, yet it cannot simply be a response to a demand. It must arise out of hearts made generous and gracious by an understanding and experience of God's mercy. It is the hearts of the congregation that must be melted until they ask, "Where is my neighbor?"...

Those of us without the spirit of a deacon are too proud to do little things and too lazy to do big things. Our service is mediocre; it transforms no one. But a deacon will do it all."...

The ministry of mercy, then, is the best advertising a church can have. It convinces a community that this church provides people with actions for their problems, not only talk. It shows the community that this church is compassionate.

— Timothy Keller, *Ministries of Mercy*, (P&R Publishing, /997) pp /35, /39, 2/2