



# SA NEWS

**Newsletter of the Presbytery of South Australia    Issue 48   December 2020**

## **Christmas Is For Freedom**

*Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. (Hebrews 2:14–15)*

Jesus became man because what was needed was the death of a man who was more than man. The incarnation was God's locking himself into death row.

Christ did not risk death. He chose death. He embraced it. That is precisely why he came: "not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45).

No wonder Satan tried to turn Jesus from the cross — in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1–11) and in the mouth of Peter (Matthew 16:21–23)! The cross was Satan's destruction. How did Jesus destroy him?

Hebrews 2:14 says that Satan has "the power of death." That means Satan has the ability to make death fearful. "The power of death" is the power that holds men in bondage through fear of death. It is the power to keep men in sin so that death comes as a dreadful thing.

But Jesus stripped Satan of this power. He disarmed him. He moulded a breastplate of righteousness for us that makes us immune to the devil's condemnation. How did he do this?

By his death, Jesus wiped away all our sins. And a person without sin cannot be condemned by Satan. Forgiven, we are finally indestructible. Satan's plan was to destroy God's rule by condemning God's followers in God's own courtroom. But now, in Christ, there is no condemnation. Satan's treason is aborted. His cosmic treachery is foiled. "His rage we can endure, for, lo, his doom is sure." The cross has run him through. And he will gasp his last before long.

Christmas is for freedom. Freedom from the fear of death.

Jesus took our nature in Bethlehem, to die our death in Jerusalem — all that we might be fearless in our city today. Yes, fearless. Because if the biggest threat to my joy is gone, then why should I fret over the little ones? How can you say (really!), "Well, I'm not afraid to die but I'm afraid to lose my job"? No. No. Think!

*(Continued on page 2)*

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If death (I said, death! — no pulse, cold, gone!) if death is no longer a fear, we're free, really free. Free to take any risk under the sun for Christ and for love. No more enslavement to anxiety.

If the Son has set you free, you shall be free, indeed!

Devotional by John Piper

Devotional excerpted from *"Freed by Christmas and Calvary"*

<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/christmas-is-for-freedom>

## Adelaide

### Seacliff

While the pandemic was in full swing, we were only able to attend services via online video from Norwood church. We all gathered in front of TV's, computers, and phones to listen in. This technology has proved a great boon to us all. The service got us going at 9am in the morning and we then met over Zoom at 4pm for a time of fellowship. Growth groups were also conducted via Zoom.

The congregation has been back to normal with regards to the regular face to face activities, Sunday services at 4pm and Growth Group meeting on Wednesday afternoon, since approximately mid August. It was decided to keep our service always at 4pm rather than change to 5pm at the start of Daylight Saving. This means we meet before the service for afternoon tea throughout the winter months and after the service in the summer period.

Our services are being taken by Davo Gunning, Damien Carson and on occasion by Peter Lim. We are currently exploring the Roman Road, a series of talks focusing on the way of salvation, our need for salvation and the results of the gift of salvation in our lives.

The growth groups are supplied, by Damien Carson, with questions that draw out the truths that have been revealed in the sermon and how they apply to our lives. Up to 10 people come to these gatherings. The discussions are usually lively and in depth and we are all learning a great deal. Up until now we have been bringing our own afternoon tea.

When we resumed face to face meetings the Craft group altered their meeting day and time so that we would avoid a clash with the growth groups and as most of those who attend are retired, we now meet in the afternoon. These meetings have centred around making cards. The opportunity of gathering in a social group with the church ladies is wonderful.

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We have been blessed with the addition of a couple of new people who regularly join us for worship each Sunday and for other activities. While our numbers continue to be small the commitment of all is strong and the support offered to members when they are in need is a continual reminder of our life in Jesus' body.

Prayer requests continue to be made via the WhatsApp venue, another boon of the technology age.

Two of our families travelled to the far West coast in September in order to see the whales at the Head of Bight. The photos they sent to the church family were gratefully received and kept everyone in touch.

Because of the pandemic we have had few large gatherings outside of the church and as the warm weather comes and the situation improves we hope to rectify this and arrange times of food and fellowship as in the past, bbqs and picnics etc.

Just recently we have heard that Mrs Joan Thompson, who was a regular at Seacliff for many years and more recently has been resident in Salisbury Downs, has become less able to care for herself and much more forgetful. She has entered the Resthaven home at Leabrook. Joan's husband, Ray, was part of the small group of ministers of various church affiliations, who preached on a circuit after Union in the 70's, and ministered in the Presbyterian church in Mt Barker for a time.

Mrs Nell Verstegen moved to the Rembrandt Court Aged Care facility at the start of the pandemic and has settled in well.

Mrs Joan Llewellyn, the mother of Heather Gossip, died recently. Joan's husband was an Australian Navy Chaplain and a Presbyterian minister who served in NSW.

Heather Blunt

## **CALLING ALL LADIES PLEASE SAVE THIS DATE**

***Presbyterian Ladies Gathering  
13 & 14 March 2021  
at  
Mount Gambier Presbyterian Church***

***Main Speaker  
Vivienne Peate***

## Presbyterian Inland Mission

### From Andrew

My local mechanic rang me recently to check that I was alright. I usually drive so many kilometres each year that I am one of his frequent customers. But this year my PIM vehicle has largely sat idle, so he has not seen me since Christmas. These days my biggest adventure is a weekly trip to the bank!

Like many people, border closures have played havoc with my plans. They have also impacted those PIM Teams whose work routinely takes them across state borders. But, even as a Victorian, I am optimistic that this current challenging season will end, and so we press on with our long term plans.

Embarking on a big new initiative like New Dunesk in the middle of a pandemic has been a particularly frustrating experience. However, we are very encouraged by the enthusiastic response to our recent call for Founding Partners to join with us in this new journey. These Founding Partners will play a key role in helping to launch this brand new initiative that we hope will yield gospel fruits for decades to come. If you haven't signed up yet, we still have space for a few more Founding Partners. Visit our website to learn more about this unique opportunity to become involved.

We are also putting together plans for 2021, and already fielding enquiries from potential Gap Year participants and enthusiastic Grey Nomads. Lord willing, we will be able to start using New Dunesk in all the ways we intended. In this edition of On Track, you will read about some of the events we have already planned. Keep an eye on our website and Facebook page as we announce other events and dates.

I look forward to seeing you at New Dunesk sometime next year. If it's been a while since you did much travelling within Australia, make it a part of your plans for 2021 by making New Dunesk one of your destinations! It is Worth Driving For.

Andrew Letcher CEO

### Hope of a new beginning

'There is truth, but God wouldn't want us to know it, because us humans are so screwed up!'

This was expressed by a local fellow during one of Alvin's street conversations. Mr R has been living by himself in Mount Magnet since the 1980s. Unemployed and constantly finding himself struggling with alcohol addiction, Mr R conveys one general outlook on life which is held by the majority of the people in our remote town – 'We are almost like the forgotten people – isolated – misconceived – left behind.' For Mr R, and perhaps many others, the giving up on life by resorting to alcohol and substance abuse sadly demonstrates a dire gospel urgency. God wants his people to know and discover His truth!

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In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. – Ephesians 1:7-10

By God's grace, we were able to cross the VIC-WA border in July to begin the work of PIM and re-establish the church. We have been warmly received by the community and have promptly settled into remote living within a short, six-week period. Narelle was even admitted recently to the local 'GeoPark' committee, purposed to improve our town's parks and landscaping! This will provide us with ample opportunities as we seek to build bridges with the Indigenous elders and town residents.

Our first Sunday worship service was launched during the first week of August. Ten adults and five children attended. Since then, the number of attendees has grown slightly with the occasional visits from travellers and grey nomads. Two people are currently undergoing the church's first communicant membership course, with another two more recently signed up for the next course. The weekly Bible Study and monthly prayer meeting are gaining great momentum, also averaging between eight to twelve people each session. In less than two months, God has raised up a small community willing to engage in Christian fellowship. A very encouraging start!

Praise God for a well-attended service during Alvin's commissioning on 13 September. It was pleasing to witness the strong partnership between our small rural church and the wider network of the Presbytery of Western Australia (PWA), Australian Presbyterian World Mission (APWM) and PIM. Many experienced a fresh sense of belonging and hope of a new beginning. Our prayer is that God will continue to raise up faithful disciples who will journey with us in proclaiming the truth about God – the mystery of salvation revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Narelle and Alvin, Mount Magnet Presbyterian Church

**New Dunesk** is for all the Church.

It is one of the ways PIM aims to inspire, equip and send people out into remote and rural parts of our nation, carrying the Good News of Jesus Christ. In 2021, we will be launching our first set of programs for people just like you.

**Gap Year** 1 Feb - 26 Nov 2021

Our Gap Year program has two places available for 18-20 year olds who are eager to develop vocational and ministry skills, to help obtain employment in the rural sector and make an effective contribution to the life of a small church in that community. AUSTUDY help is available. Our Gappies will: • Live on site at New Dunesk • Grow in their love for and knowledge of the Lord • Develop a useful

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range of workplace skills to help secure future employment • Undertake introductory theological studies through the Timothy Partnership • Learn to be an effective contributor in the life of a local church • Develop and practise skills in evangelism and discipling • Learn to work with people from a wide variety of backgrounds.

### **Nomads Network Begins 14 - 19 April 2021**

The PIM Nomads Network is a community of people in a similar life stage, that provides training, community and useful opportunities to serve. The Nomads Network will begin with a training event in April 2021, and then continue throughout the year with opportunities to stay connected as you travel.

### **Country Elders Preaching Workshop 26 - 29 August 2021**

Many remote and rural churches don't have the benefit of a full time trained preacher to teach them regularly. In many cases, elders are required to step up and preach much more regularly than their city cousins. In response, we have joined with Langham Partnership to offer this practical preaching workshop for elders.

### **Camper Trailer Muster October School Holidays 2021**

This family-orientated long weekend is a great way to experience New Dunesk and be inspired by what God is doing around our country. Make some new friends, hear from God's Word and learn more about the mission in our own backyard. Kids and adults alike will enjoy campfires, fishing in the dam and some of New Dunesk's wonderful sunsets. If you don't have a camper trailer, there is plenty of space to pitch a tent or roll out your swags. Visit [pim.org.au](http://pim.org.au) for updates and other events.

### **Founding Partner**

You are invited to become a Founding Partner of New Dunesk. If you would like to join with PIM on this momentous journey, we invite you to consider becoming a Founding Partner of New Dunesk. Through regular, monthly donations, you can help us bring Christ to inland Australia in a way never seen before. Founding Partners receive ongoing benefits and exclusive access to New Dunesk facilities. For more information, visit: [pim.org.au/foundingpartners](http://pim.org.au/foundingpartners)

### **Two Morrows**

Colin and Alison Morrow have now been serving with PIM in the Mungo Patrol for over 6 years. In that time, they have visited many stations and farms to share the hope that is found in Jesus Christ.

As the years have gone by, they have made a number of long-term acquaintances among the people whom they visit regularly. These people have become like an outback parish. Before COVID-19 hit, Colin and Alison were trying to see them roughly once each month.

Some of the folk are older and alone, some are middle-age, while others are

*(Continued on page 7)*

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young families with children — a wide variety of people with many and various needs.

The COVID-19 crisis has drastically affected the Mungo patrol. With travel restrictions and border closures, Colin and Alison haven't been able to see people as they normally would. They are thankful for the age of technology which means they have been able to continue their patrol work via phone, email and social media. Whilst a phone call or an email is not the same as a face-to-face visit, Colin and Alison are certainly thankful for the Lord's provision in having a means to stay in contact with people during this crisis.

As with many other churches, they have been holding their church services and Bible studies online. This is a real blessing for many that has come out of the COVID-19 pandemic, as many of these people on remote properties would not normally be able to attend church or Bible study.

So, the work continues, although in a very different way to anything Colin and Alison could have imagined when they began their work with PIM. The Gospel continues to go out to those in remote and isolated places. Whilst things may be different for a time, we pray that Colin and Alison will be able to get back to face-to-face meetings with all of their patrol community very soon.

## **Mount Gambier**

Since August we have said goodbye to four dear members of our congregation, Laleen Clarkson, Don Hamilton, Nancy Bonney and Ian Ferguson. They are now home with Jesus.

On 25 September, 142 filled shoeboxes were sent on the start of their journey to children in other countries. Considering the circumstances of this year, this was a great effort.

Our Growth Groups continued meeting in Term 4 and have been studying Hebrews.

We would also encourage everyone to commit our year 12 students to prayer as they face their final exams.

Our university and tertiary students would also appreciate your prayers and we look forward to seeing those who'll be back in the Mount over summer.

Our Assistant Pastor, Rev Mark Lewis, his wife Rachel and son Emerson will be moving in early December, as Mark has accepted an appointment to the CityHeart Presbyterian Church in Caboolture Qld. We will miss him and his family and thank them for their ministry amongst us. We pray God's blessing on them in this new chapter of their ministry.



Shoeboxes packed up and ready to go

## Karnkendi Campsite

On behalf of Heather and myself I would like to thank the readers of Pressy news for your interest and concern in regards to what has been a very difficult year. Karnkendi serves solely as a meeting place to bring people together and in a time where we are all staying apart has had us playing our role to hopefully navigate through a world event only surpassed by the Great flood.

It is very humbling that our stories in SA News regarding Karnkendi have been directly responsible for an amazing \$611 donation being collected from the St Andrews Church Naracoorte which has been deposited in the Camps Cabin Roof donation account that is now at \$2721! This should soon see the outer cabin roof iron replaced. A heart felt thankyou from the Karnkendi Committee to the Naracoorte folk for your contribution/investment to the future of Karnkendi and all it can do to serve His people.

A big thank you also to Brian and Lucinda Johnson who a month back have retired their faithful (and comfy) arm chairs to the camp.

Late September/October in a "normal" year would see the start of folk heading to Karnkendi for fellowship and strengthening community bonds but as indicated this is going to take some time to see a recovery of groups visiting, particularly from SA, so we must be patient for things to happen in 20-21. We feel that many folk are not prepared to commit to what is unsure but there is also the great excitement to get out and enjoy what the Camp and Nelson have to offer.

With the restrictions and issues that come with the pandemic we have had long time users of the camp, the Branhholme Craft group, defer their booking to late September 2021 and also the Limestone Coast Home Schoolers who, unfortunately, had their 2019 camp cut short with a tummy bug but God willing they will return in 2021 as they have for many years.

The October long weekend has always seen the Mount Gambier Revival Fellowship use Karnkendi as a family camp but this and a small group of children and carers from Child Welfare, also from Mount Gambier that normally follow, were all cancelled. Sadly a lot of our bookings are not cancelled by the folk who booked as we all just knew from daily advice that these type of activities are on hold and if folk did cancel they did as late as possible just in case, by a miracle, things may go ahead.

A large family group from Melbourne/Adelaide had targeted Karnkendi for a family reunion being conveniently in the middle, after personally inspecting the camp and paying the required deposit for Easter. As is the norm this was to slip finally back to Melbourne cup weekend in early November only to have the second Melbourne lockdown and SA border restrictions come into force, this faded any hope of what they had all planned for Nelson.

On a brighter note things are starting to free up for people within the 70 km SA/ Vic border bubble as travel permits are now being issued for SA based residents

*(Continued on page 9)*



*(Continued from page 8)*

to travel within the bubble without the sometimes painful ordeal of a COVID test (Heather and I having had close to 10 of these each) so hopefully this may see the Open Door Baptist Church in Mount Gambier venture our way for their late December/January Family camp and then it will be interesting if Scotch College from Adelaide have their rowing camp in the week prior to Australia day, as this is a major boost to the town's summer income with Adelaide based families filling the area which is centred around the week at Karnkendi.

We are starting to see small groups of families looking for Victoria based holidays so this may be our future in the short term and with this we are looking to do a website/facebook make over to capture a new market which could possibly add to our occupancy once larger groups are possible. I am sure the Lord will direct and guide us as always.

Should family groups feel they would like to make the journey to Nelson, as restrictions ease, for a weekend etc Please call Heather on 0448 871 225 or email [nelson.aero@bigpond.com](mailto:nelson.aero@bigpond.com)

After "dipping our toe in the water" and committing to make the Camp Cottage a retreat for Presbyterian Clergy which did see a possible booking last Christmas for Rev Rod and Sandra Waterhouse we have been blessed to rent the house out for approximately 6 months to a very lovely couple from Halls Gap that are on contract working for Parks Victoria with the summer crew. They have only been in residence for two days and are already putting in a veggie patch!

It has been a timely event as the house was starting to need a few jobs to be done being officially dedicated to the service of Karnkendi by Rev, Don Brookes on 19<sup>th</sup> November 1995 so, after 25 years of growing two lovely Christian families in the shape of the Langs and Mansers, it was due for a little birthday.

We had started the internal painting to return the walls to more traditional and neutral colours, the outer timberwork has received a good lick

of rivergum green, blinds and curtains fixed, log burner repairs, new hoses to under sinks, new switches as required, second hand washer (from camp) and dryer installed (donated by Kim and Chrissy Yoannidis who have recently rented the house), flywire screens for doors found and rewired with new rollers, door locks fixed, gutters cleaned, outer gates fixed and one shed cleaned out and finally sets of keys cut (thanks to Bannister & sons).

Thanks must also go to our retired Treasurer, Cheryl Carson, for making initial enquiries for us to be able to rent out the cottage.



Please find photos of Heather doing practically everything (well it's my Ipad) in regards to the outside of the cottage but this did extend to many jobs inside also. I feel the image with Heather painting is a bit of a "forced smile" but I may be wrong - note there are two paint brushes – one for the other hand!

A big thankyou to the Nelson community who have always been behind the spirit of Karnkendi in

particular our neighbour Bruce MacKereth who without hesitation did a lovely job to rewiring the screen doors (and one of our own) and then went on to give a push mower a birthday, which is now in use at the Cottage. What goes around comes around as only a week after getting our lovely screens back the



MackKereth's freezer packed it in and they were lucky enough to notice the red light so the empty Camp freezer came to the rescue!

Peter Sargeant, our ever reliable handy man, also was allowed over the border from Mount Gambier to tackle house tidy jobs with the exclusion of other committee members. My Dad Donald was also only too happy to help with a series of jobs, which was a nice time of "bonding", as they say in this day and age.

The 7<sup>th</sup> October 2018 saw the last

Church service in Nelson and as both caretakers and committee members we are continuing to keep an eye on the property, which saw the removal of the Bell on the 29<sup>th</sup> July. This will be added to the "MGPC Bell collection".

Once again border restrictions have made life difficult for any SA based folk in regards to the future of the church property, which will get another mow soon as the fire season descends again on our town once more.

In closing when we look back at 2020 for the camp we can certainly see the Lord's hand very much in control and know we will be able to make the best of what he has provided.

Harvey & Heather McBain

Caretakers

Karnkendi



## Naracoorte

St Andrew's Naracoorte recommenced face-to-face services on the 11<sup>th</sup> October with the Covid Safe Plan in place and 3 Covid Marshalls trained. God has greatly blessed us, because Rev Rudi Schwartz and his wife Heila were heading to the South East on holidays (grey nomads maybe ☺) and Rudi very kindly preached for three Sundays. It was like 'old times' having them here and sharing with them over morning tea and lunch as well. They are heading for Bathurst to spend Christmas with their children. Willie, Ansia, Marli and their families live at Bathurst and Heidi and her family are at Maroochydore in Qld.

KYB Studies have continued throughout this year and Term 4 study was on the Letters of Peter. This study concluded at the end of November and we look forward to Acts 13-28 in Term 1 of 2021.

The Ladies Fellowship resumed in October with a small meeting, the theme being "Reflections and Mirrors - do we see Christ in us when we look into a mirror?" prepared by Julie McLean. The November meeting was a lunch for all church ladies, which was held at the Caves Cafe and enjoyed by all who attended. Once again, Julie McLean shared a devotion, this time on "Finding Your Fragrance".

We pray for Peace and Goodwill for you all as we approach the time of celebration of the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests." Luke 2:14

## Whyalla

Greetings to all throughout South Australia from each of us at Whyalla.

This of course has been, to say the least, an unusual period of time for all of us, considering in particular the COVID problem. We have all made changes to keep ourselves safe which makes a lot of our traditional activities so changed that many have been dropped at the moment. This of course has left our activities Calendar quite empty, leaving nothing other than our regular Sunday Services to attend. So unfortunately, at the moment, there is very little to report. We have had several of our members and loved ones pass away in this period and some others quite unwell or frail, so we have all been upholding each other in prayer.

We all now look forward to the celebration of Christ's coming in the approaching Christmas Season.

We welcome the fact that as a group of common minded Christians throughout South Australia we can all support each other through prayer. We believe that we can look forward to a brighter year ahead as we seek God's direction in all we do.

We in Whyalla wish all of you a blessed Christmas Season.

Barry Williams

## APWM CHRISTMAS CATALOGUE 2020



This Christmas why not give gifts to your family and friends and at the same time help someone who doesn't have the basics that we take for granted? The items below can provide for the needs of Christians and others in our Overseas Partner Churches.

**EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE (ETHIOPIA)** A gift of \$10 will assist the Presbyterian Church of Ethiopia in the education of children from disadvantaged communities.

**TRAINING CONFERENCE EXPENSES (TIMOR LESTE)** A gift of \$20 will assist in sending a team from Australia to run a training conference for pastors and other leaders in Timor Leste.

**TRAINING for Vijai Tagore (INDIA)** A gift of \$25 will assist in training Vijai Tagore, a theological lecturer from India, as he studies for his PhD at Christ College from 2019 onwards.

**APWM ABORIGINAL MINISTRY (AUSTRALIA)** A gift of \$30 will assist in supporting Rick and Kayleen Manton in training and supporting Aboriginal ministry workers in Australia.

**PRISON MINISTRY (MALAWI)** A gift of \$30 will purchase much-needed blankets and other living essentials for prisoners in Malawi who live in very difficult conditions.

**BIBLE TRANSLATION (TIMOR LESTE)** A gift of \$40 will assist in the ongoing translation of the Bible into Tetun, the national language of Timor Leste.

**TRAINING FOR REFUGEE PASTORS (ETHIOPIA)** A gift of \$50 will assist in providing a short training program for South Sudanese pastors in a refugee camp in Ethiopia.

### HOW IT WORKS

Choose the item(s) on our list that you would like to purchase for your friends/family.

Send us your order, including payment. Please note that these gifts are **NOT tax deductible**.

We will send you the cards you have ordered. You are then free to give these cards to your friends/family for Christmas. The cards state which gift(s) you have purchased, on their behalf, for someone in one of our Partner Churches or for APWM Aboriginal ministry. There is no monetary value printed on the card.

APWM then sends the money to our overseas partners to purchase items locally, or uses it for APWM ministry as specified in Australia.

### FORM/PAYMENTSORDER

Complete the order form and send it with your payment (cheque or money order made out to 'APWM'). Please DO NOT send cash. Payment can also be made via Direct Deposit (details below) ([www.apwm.org.au/supporting/finance](http://www.apwm.org.au/supporting/finance)).

Bank: Westpac

Account Name: Australian Presbyterian World Mission

BSB: 032 260      Account #: 151207

For Direct Deposits, please write your name in the description box and send an email informing us of your deposit ([finance@apwm.org.au](mailto:finance@apwm.org.au)).

All order forms should be mailed to:

**APWM Christmas Catalogue** 1 Clarence Street, Burwood NSW 2134

**APWM CHRISTMAS GIFT CATALOGUE 2020 ORDER FORM**

Item	Qty	Cost
Educational Assistance (ETHIOPIA) \$10		
Training Conference Expenses (Timor Leste) \$20		
Training for Vijai Tagore (INDIA) \$25		
Aboriginal Ministry (Rick & Kayleen Manton) \$30		
Prison Ministry (Malawi) \$30		
Bible Translation (Timor Leste) \$40		
Refugee Pastor Training (Ethiopia) \$50		
<b>Total</b>		

- ☐ I enclose a cheque / money order for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ or
- ☐ I have made a Direct Deposit of \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Please tick here if you do not wish to receive cards and simply want to make a donation for these items

Please note that if any item is over-subscribed then the money will be allocated to a similar need.

Name.....

Address.....

Suburb .....Postcode

Phone ..... Email

## Wattle Range

### Millicent

At last all of our prayers have been answered and we back at church with our usual fellowship and a “cuppa” afterwards.

We have recently had a congregational meeting and Committee of Management meeting where several items were discussed and resolved.

Holy Communion was celebrated in October by Rev Gary Ware, accompanied by his wife Margaret.

We are appreciative of the services given by Jenny, Pat, Alayne and Derek, who conduct each Sunday service with Pat supplying the music.

We are few in number but are all very determined that we keep attending each week.

Unfortunately, two of our senior ladies have left town to be cared for by families elsewhere. We will miss Mrs Nancy Morrison and Mrs Shirley Stanley from services each Sunday. Another of our senior ladies who is no longer able to attend services is Mrs Heather Skeer, who unfortunately broke her hip recently, but is now recovering.

We also note with sadness the passing of Mr Ian Ferguson who recently passed away. Ian was a long-time member of the Millicent Congregation. He served the Lord as a member of the Board and Session and was Session Clerk here at Millicent before retiring.

We wish all who are unwell or incapacitated a swift recovery back to health – we remember you all in our prayers.

“Whatever you do, do it all for the Glory of God.” 1Corinthians 10:31

Thelma Thomas

### Penola

Greetings to you all from Penola.

As we are still vacant our elders are doing a great job in the pulpit each week. We have just started again to enjoy a cuppa and fellowship together after the service keeping covid rules in mind. A special congregation meeting was held after our service to discuss a time change which will be now 10am instead of 11am. We do miss our church folk who live over the border in Victoria, hopefully this will change in the near future.

Some of our men continue to meet with other men folk from other churches and have "shed men" barbeque tea keeping to covid restrictions.

It is lovely to welcome a new family with three children who have moved to the area into the congregation.

We would like to wish you all a very blessed and safe Christmas from our church to your church.

“And the angel said unto them, fear not, for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people.” Luke 2:10

Heather Lambert



## PresAID: Presbyterians Assisting in Development 2020 Christmas Appeal

The Christmas Appeal has been launched and is focussed on education. Completing the funding for sending Aussie lecturers to our connected Bible Colleges in Zambia and Zimbabwe will be a great blessing to them when travel is allowed again. SEWAH in northern India has been given charge of a fifth primary school by the government and need financial assistance to complete two classrooms, build a toilet and install water tanks.

**Looking back ...** The 2020 PresAID Easter Appeal was impacted by Covid, but your generosity enabled us to send \$20,000 to Vanuatu for much needed repairs at the Talua Ministry Training Institute after Cyclone Harold hit in April. Thank you for blessing Talua!

**Looking forward ...** We want to complete the other two Easter projects: funding theological lecturers from Australia to visit (1) Chasefu Theological College in eastern Zambia, and (2) Rock Haven Theological College in neighbouring Zimbabwe. To refresh your memory, we want to fund 4 visits to Chasefu over 4 years, and 3 visits to Rock Haven over 3 years, once international travel resumes. Please pray that this would be able to happen soon.



The Society for Education and Welfare Activities in the Himalayas (SEWAH) provides education for about 450 children who would otherwise receive no formal education. Commenced in 1998 SEWAH also assists families living in poverty with their health and general needs. In 2019 SEWAH was asked by the government to take charge of a fifth school. There are only 3 teachers and 2 classrooms for the 121

students. PresAID wants to send funds to complete two more classrooms, build a toilet block, and install plastic rainwater tanks to provide water that currently has to be carried for four kilometres.

In Australia we expect sufficient classrooms, toilets and taps, as well as high quality trained teachers. Many people in our world cannot have the same high expectations. We want to change that for people with whom we are connected. Please give generously this Christmas to these crucial educational needs. Thank you.

## PRAYER POINTS

- Praise God that the Word became flesh; pray that this message will come home to many during the preaching of the word in December.
- Pray for the 2020 PresAID Christmas Appeal that people will give generously for the various causes this year.
- Pray that your own, neighbouring and all Presbyterian churches will be focussed on mission to a dying world and not just maintenance of our buildings and institutions.
- Intercede for the Federal Government; Prime Minister Scott Morrison; Leader of the Opposition Anthony Albanese, that they will be guided by Christian principles and stand firm in their belief.
- 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 Adelaide Church; Davo Gunning, Damien Carson, Ben Harvey; congregations and elders.
- Pray for a Godly vision for your parish for 2021.
- Pray for the PIM and that someone will be found for the John Flynn Patrol.
- Intercede for the Defence and Police forces.
- Pray for the Port Augusta Church; Barry & Cheryl Rossiter; congregation and elders.
- 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 South Australia, Phil Strong Moderator, Gary Ware Clerk.
- 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 people not to be fooled by the false advertising of the spirit of Christmas and that they will come to know the Saviour who was born to die for them.
- Pray for safety and wisdom for all going on holidays.
- Give thanks for the rain that has fallen over various parts of our nation and pray that God will send rain to those areas that are still in drought.
- Uphold all those who have been affected by COVID 19 throughout this year.
- Intercede for Paramedics, SES and all first responders.

### 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 2021 issue are to be in my hands **no later than 5.00pm Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2021.**

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

SA News is a publication of the Presbytery of South Australia.