



SA NEWS

Newsletter of the Presbytery of South Australia Issue 60 December 2023

A Heart of Faith

“I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. ‘May it be to me as you have said.’” (Luke 1: 38)

The old King James version translates Mary’s response to the angel Gabriel with the memorable phrase: ‘be it unto me according to thy word’. Advent and Christmas will soon be upon us, but these words embrace a trust in God that deserves to be celebrated all year long. Mary had just received a message regarding God’s will for her life. That which God was going to bring about in her would see His great covenant promises to His people fulfilled. The message which Mary heard would have been one which she longed to hear; yet she never would have dreamed that she would play such an intimate role in God’s purposes.

We understand that in all probability Mary was little more than a girl. She was engaged to a man about whom we know frustratingly little. But Mary would have known him and her mind would have been filled with thoughts of being the wife of a carpenter in Nazareth. A humble expectation to be sure, but enough to provide satisfaction and joy. A settled life. A good husband. A home to live in and to care for. In time, children, even grand-children. The newly engaged play with such thoughts of their future over and over.

With just a few words from this heavenly visitor all of those day-dreams are washed away by the flood of thoughts which accompany a new reality. A baby? Now? Conceived by the Holy Spirit? Thoughts of pride give way to shame. Family, friends, what will they say? Joseph. What will he think of me? Giving birth? I wanted to establish my home first.

When unexpected or unwanted situations interrupt our lives and expectations how easy it is to slip into a way of thinking where we find ourselves saying ‘What did I do wrong?’ or ‘Why me?’ or ‘I don’t deserve this.’ We add up our good and bad deeds and tell God that we deserve better. Usually we tell Him that we deserve what we want and not what He wills for us.

Mary puts us to shame, doesn’t she? A simple question about how God’s purpose is to be achieved and then she utters these profound words of submission: ‘be it unto me according to thy word.’ There is no indication that Gabriel had offered her a choice in the matter, or that if she was unwilling then God would have gone and found another young Jewish girl. Yet her words give

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no hint of fatalism - that she only accepts God's will because she has to. Rather she embraces this situation willingly, it is God's best for her life.

When unexpected or unwanted providences enter our lives do we share the faith of Mary? Our old nature will fear or resent unwanted circumstances at first. But a Christian heart and mind will eventually say to the Lord 'be it unto me according to Your word'. Loneliness, sickness, lack of work, uncertainty, affliction and conflict in relationships may be part of our lives at any given time. We cannot argue that God owes us better. The fact is that we have not earned whatever level of blessing the Lord has already bestowed upon us. We may have done nothing wrong to get us into our present situation. Mary did nothing to become pregnant.

The heart of faith will respond with the words 'be it unto me according to Your word'. This is to accept that the pain of our present circumstance brings no joy to us or to God, but it is God's best for our lives at this point in time. We may or may not see the fruit which our submission will bear. But we know that God has a purpose for all the circumstances of this life, and in time, just as with Mary, His glory will be revealed

Gary Ware.

Preparing to Be an Amazing Old Man or Women

By Jim Elliff

Like it or not, if you continue to live, you'll get old. As you look around at all those ancient people in the grocery store, the golf course, the retirement village and the nursing home, don't be smug—you'll be there soon enough. It will do you well to prepare to make those years the best they can be for the glory of God.

It's not uncommon for God to use older people. Take Caleb who fought giants as an octogenarian. Or Moses, who led a cantankerous people up to the promised land at 120. Remember Anna, the widow, who served God with prayers at the temple in Jerusalem. God delights in doing this, because it makes clear that the power for living and doing the will of God isn't found in mere human capacity, but in God Himself. Is it possible that God could use you even more in your latter years than in the earlier ones? There is nothing to say otherwise, as far as God is concerned.

Here are some suggestions:

1. **Learn the Bible** as well as possible while you can read and think well. When you come to the latter years, you are supposed to be wise. Now, please tell me, how can you be wise without thinking God's thoughts? Impossible. Get them now. And be rigorous about it. Most older believers

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Mount Gambier

Our Growth Groups have continued meeting in Term 4 and have been studying the 2nd book of Peter. The sermons every Sunday have been on a section of this book and then during the week the Growth Groups look at that section in conjunction with study books prepared by Gary Ware.

In September 145 filled shoeboxes were sent on the start of their journey to children in other countries. This was a great effort by the Care & Concern Committee, Coffee & Craft and congregation members.

During October we had a visit from Jeroen & Diana Zwijnenburg who were in Australia on leave for the graduation of their son Jozua. It was great to hear about their work in Papua New Guinea, Jeroen with MAF and Diana with the hospital.

On Saturday, 4th November a Baby Shower was held at our church for Christina (and Joshua) who are expecting their first child in early December. This was a great afternoon of fun and fellowship. One of the activities was “hanging washing on the line while carrying a baby” and seeing which group could do it the fastest.. Several photos below show a couple of the groups doing this. Thanks must go to Jan for organising this afternoon.



Everyone enjoying afternoon tea at the Baby Shower

Karnkendi Campsite

Winter is always a quiet time of the year at Karnkendi with a few groups, mainly local, braving the elements and enjoying the area and warmth of the big open fire at Karnkendi.

With the better weather of spring my Dad and friends decided to repeat the much enjoyed weekend held back in mid June and had another “Old Time music” event from the 8th-10th September. This was enjoyed by all who attended and stayed and they have rebooked for mid June 2024 again.

The lovely family from Rainbow moved into the Cottage on the 10th September after a big effort on the day with two little ones. They have settled in well now and were proactive with the putting in of a vegie garden almost the next day as they all have “green thumbs”. They are also making the house a home as they look for a property of their own in the area. I make an effort to keep them informed of the groups that use Karnkendi as they are homeschooling, which has been a standard practice now I think about it for the last two families who have lived there with firstly the Langs and then Mansers. With a variety of groups in, the children have had others to play with particularly a large group of families that have just stayed for the week who all homeschooled.

As a committee we finally had a return to Karnkendi with a lovely shared meal and meeting on the 20th September as members inspected the camp. We have planned for another similar meeting for the 6th December at 6 pm when the committee will meet our tenants, the Young family, for the first time.

Late September saw two more groups in, with long time users the Branhholme craft ladies from the 22nd-25th and as promised the “Siblings That Care” local group returned for their second camp in 2023 from the 29th September-1st October for a lovely weekend in Nelson.

October was quiet with only one small group in for the 16-17th being Big Heart Adventures from Adelaide with their elderly group who are taken on guided walks / tours in the area.

November has been fairly full on all month starting with the camp being used as a motel for a gentleman from Adelaide. His Mum and Dad are now deceased but



Nelson from the air

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Spring clean of the 12 flyscreens

were long time residents of Nelson and the family had their combined memorial service and wake at Karnkendi in 2022. Kevin desperately needed to get away for some quiet time staying from the 3rd - 7th. Then Beyond Limits a Uniting Church based outdoors children / young adults with difficulties group came in on the 7th for two nights with around 25 in the group. This saw half tent one night and then swap over with the other half to enjoy the lawned areas of Karnkendi the next night.

The next week following a big clean of all the facility the previously mentioned Homeschooling families rolled in from the 13th-17th as they filled the rooms, cabins and grounds with a lovely week of mild weather in Nelson.

It is here I think of that movie "Field of Dreams" where a farmer played by Kevin Costner cleared a section of his corn crop to put in a baseball pitch. Karnkendi has done the same with a leap of faith by all that donated the land and slowly built the dream.

Heather and I are so humbled to be able, with the committees constant support, to see the wonderful things the Lord has seeded with this facility and now seeing the camp being able to plan upgrades which was very difficult to imagine only 6 years ago.

We have always had issues with the pool table felt and decided that heavy duty outdoor carpet would be the go for most groups we have!

As I type, by accident, the all boys school Brighton Grammar from Melbourne have 170 year 9's based in the National and state forests between Nelson and Portland but with a mix up with accommodation for the Nelson based support staff Heather received a desperate call last week for accommodation / space for food storage and parking for several support vehicles. This meant another big clean on the 17th with one group out at 10 am and Brighton in at 3 pm but we did see dropping off vehicles and equipment early to help manage their day.



Pool table resurface

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This has led to talks for the possibility of the facility being available next year for Brighton Grammar, which has strangely had yet another Outdoors education provider from Adelaide Students Explore Australia call yesterday and quickly tentatively booking in a group of 80-110 students from a Geelong based school for 3 nights in November 2024 as they explore the southern coast line between Geelong and Adelaide. This will again see a percentage of the group swapping over into tents as our maximum capacity is 90.

Back to the Field of Dreams movie....“if you build it they will come” and that was without the internet!

Things do go a little quiet for what is left of 2023 with a regular family group from Warrnambool and Koroit in from 29th December to 1st January 2024 followed by a family group from Mount Gambier Presbyterian Church in from the 12th-14th January, which is great to have local members utilizing what is just down the road.

We do have great plans to refurbish the wet areas in the kitchen so this will give us time to launch into this and the re roofing of the outer cabins with drier weather.

Heather and I thank you all for your prayers for Karnkendi which, as you can read, are certainly working but we also wish you all a safe and blessed Christmas and a healthy 2024.

Harvey and Heather McBain
Karnkendi Caretakers
Nelson

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will tell you that it is those passages of Scripture that they memorized or studied deeply that have stuck with them in the hard times. You should have as much in your mental pouch for difficult days as possible. Do it now.

2. **Clear your conscience.** Don't harbor unresolved issues that will create worrisome trouble for you both now and later. You can tell the people who have done that, whether they are young or old. Cain is an illustration. His hidden sin caused his countenance to fall and led to awful consequences. If you are a believer, carrying unresolved sin is a burden unfit for you. Call the family in and admit your failures, repay what was stolen, ask forgiveness for your attitudes and actions, settle accounts with your associates, your family, your church. Christ has forgiven you of your sins if you are His, now you must forgive, make restitution if appropriate, and ask for the forgiveness of others. If you don't do so, you will need to examine if you are a believer at all. Jesus said, “If you do not forgive others, neither will the Father forgive your trespasses” (Matthew 6:15).

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PresAID: Lifting the work of our Partner Churches

2023 Christmas Appeal

Imagine going to church on Sunday and the sun is beating down and so everyone has to sit in whatever shade is available — and then keep moving as the sun shifts. Or, it's raining — and the ground is wet and everyone has to keep dodging the rain while they listen to the sermon. How long would you put up with this before asking the Board of Management to do something about a roof?

That's a common scenario for the congregations who belong to our Partner Church, CCAP Zambia. Building church walls from local materials is the easy part, finding the funds to put up a roof is the hard part.

Through the PresAID 2023 Christmas Appeal we'd like to lift the spirits of Presbyterian congregations in Zambia who meet in buildings without a roof by putting roofs on three buildings that have been identified by CCAP Zambia Synod as the three most needy congregations for assistance and also:

- fund a sewing training scheme for women in Ethiopia so that they can earn an income, through our Partner Church, the Presbyterian Church of Ethiopia. This will raise the hopes of women in Ethiopia that they might be able to live sustainably because of the Sobat congregation's training programme in sewing, home management and small business skills.
- provide further training for pastors in Timor Leste, who have little training, and improve the level of biblical / theological understanding of these by sponsoring a series of six week training courses co-ordinated by PCA ministers through our Partner Church, the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Timor Leste.

PresAID invites you and your congregation to participate by donating your congregation's Christmas Day offering that will be directed to the above projects.

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3. **Put love first.** Believers are loving people on their way to an inheritance of love. Show it. Jesus and the authors of the New Testament all testify to the supreme place of love in the life of true believers. It is the mark of maturity, the royal law, the perfect bond of unity. It is above all, and is the law of Christ. The older I get the more I realize that everything can be summarized in the word "love." Loving God and loving others is the will of God for you. You should be better at it as you get older. It's your full time occupation, and it might be all you can do later. But you must begin demonstrating more of that love now. Aren't you glad God didn't only love in His thoughts. No, He "demonstrated his love toward us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). Love is to be lived. You wear it as well as feel it. Be the most loving person you could possibly be, beginning right now.

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Talua Accreditation: A 'Ho-Hum' Headline?



Talua Staff with the Accreditation Team

Sometimes headlines fail to tell the real story.

When we read something like 'Talua Accreditation' we might be tempted to think 'So what? That sounds fairly routine.' But it's far from routine!

A few years ago the Government of Vanuatu established a new body to audit and then register educational institutions in Vanuatu. As a result of this, some significant institutions had their registration withdrawn. Over the last few years, the Talua staff and friends in Australia have been working very hard in an attempt to meet the new standards. The Talua registration audit was completed just last week.

The result? The audit team has recommended that Talua be awarded a rating of 'Good', which given the challenges that Talua has faced, is a brilliant outcome for which we praise God. (Many institutions facing challenges similar to Talua have been rated as 'Poor'.)

Rob Falls writes:

"Acting Principal Pastor Philip was tearing up as he closed the audit in prayer, and when he asked us all to sing the Chorus 'We Give All the Glory to Jesus', it was the most spectacular four part rendition, sung from the depths of all our hearts.

Photo on the right is of the Talua Women's Programme Participants

The result was based on the mammoth efforts the audit team observed in our work over the last 12 months."

Some of the factors contributing to the result were:

The work of Dr Graham Pratt (father of Christ College lecturer, Dr Jon Pratt) in helping Talua with Strategic Planning and Governance.

Strong partnerships with overseas partners.

Strong adherence to all of the requirements regarding course accreditation - Tom Richards from the Westminster Presbyterian Church, played a significant part in this.

The quality of Talua's infrastructure, the vast majority of which is due to the donations from the Presbyterian Church of Australia, in rebuilding after cyclone Harold in 2020, as well as the many PresAID appeals directed towards Talua over the last several years.

The significant internet and wireless upgrade which was completed a week prior to the audit by James Turnbull from Hornsby Presbyterian Church.

The work done on redeveloping Talua's policies over the last 6 months, by Jess Priest from Gateway Presbyterian Church, Anna Bay.

The plan to install solar power in mid-November this year with the PresAID 'Light Up Talua' Appeal.

And of course, the hard work by all the Talua staff!

As you read through the list, you can see how God used the gifts of many people to contribute to this result. Some of our readers will recognise the part that they have played in this positive outcome, even in a small way, through donations over the last few years. Thank you for your partnership in what God is doing through Talua to honour His name!



Giving Thanks and Praising God Matt & Kate Vinicombe



In September, Wei-Han Kuan from CMS Victoria issued the following update on Matt and Kate Vinicombe.

"We have been praying for and supporting the Vinicombe family since their motor vehicle accident on Christmas Day 2022. Theirs has been a long and complex journey filled with many challenges and griefs, but also thanksgivings and answered prayer.

Matt and Kate's various insurances have finally been approved. This means that with sadness they have resigned as missionaries of CMS. Kate expects to be discharged from hospital and join the family in their new home shortly. She will continue to receive rehabilitation care.

Please continue to pray for Matt and Kate, Bethany, Chloe and Amos; their extended family; and their church family at Bundoora Presbyterian. Their journey of healing continues, as does the story of God's powerful work of grace in and through the faithful witness of their lives.

The Scriptures insist that when 'bad things' happen, God often uses them for his own good purposes. We have seen this in the tremendous response to our calls to prayer. We have seen this in the \$1.1M raised for the special assistance fund. We continue to see this in Kate and Matt's steadfast public testimony of faith in Christ amidst their circumstances. For each of these, we give thanks and praise to God.

Our gospel work among our indigenous sisters and brothers on Groote Eylandt and across North Australia continues. Thank you and thank God for the Vinicombes' part in this. None of their work or love is in vain. We keep praying for a North Australia That Knows Jesus."

1.5 kilometres of ethernet cable! Upgrading the Talua WiFi



In Australia we take access to the internet for granted. It's always 'there'. But until recently that was not the case at Talua. When students, and most staff, wanted to use the internet they had to go to the Talua library. Only a few of Talua's 35-odd buildings had access to the internet via WiFi.

In the last few months that has changed.

In early September James and Angela Turnbull, from Rob & El Falls' home church, Hornsby Presbyterian, travelled to Talua to upgrade the campus' WiFi capacity. This meant far more than plugging in a few new routers. The project saw the installation of approximately \$18,000+ of equipment and cables to enable the WiFi signal to reach the whole campus. This involved digging extensive trenches and rolling out 1.5 kilometres of cable and installing 20 WiFi access points.

We praise God for James and Angela's ministry, Hornsby's partnership, the Talua community and the significant contribution and expertise of the team at Real World Technology Solutions [Andrew Yager (Cherrybrook Presbyterian Church), David Furey, and Tom Harkness], in supporting this very significant project.

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Dunbar Homes

To honour and commemorate the many, many years of dedication, love, loyalty and commitment by both Ann and the Late Mr Ian Robbie to Dunbar Homes, we have re-named our Cinema/Multi-Purpose Room 'The Robbie Room'.

The day was celebrated with a delicious cake and other goodies, enjoyed by our residents, board, staff and volunteers.

Ann continues to attend as a volunteer at Dunbar each week, bringing her love and care to all.

Kind Regards,

Angela Cobb - Lifestyle Coordinator

On behalf of -

Cathy Power

Chief Executive Officer

Dunbar Homes Inc
Residential Aged Care Services
11 Mawson Road
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Opening



Cake and other goodies



Mrs Ann Robbie
with her pet dog.



Mrs Ann Robbie
with
photographs of
her late husband
Ian and herself.

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4. **Be a giver.** There is little so joyful and helpful as giving. It is just like God who “so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son” (John 3:16). Here is a little clue: giving is satisfying in ways that hoarders never will experience. I once knew a woman who could not let you leave her house without giving you something. Once, looking all around for something to put in our hands, she was only able to find a can opener. But we prized it because it came from a heart of love. Who would not want to be around people like her. But she was the real recipient, enjoying God’s favor. Be open-handed with your time, money, and things. You will never get rid of all that junk you own unless you get started giving now.
5. **Don’t quit serving.** One of the most often heard phrases in the church is “I feel I ought to let the younger people do it.” Though I sympathize with the need to employ all of our people in the ministries of the church, the idea of marginalizing older people just when they get more time to serve Christ and His church is poorly thought through. It is true that older people might find it wise to shift their focus or to take a different role in their service to the people of God, but that is a very different thing than quitting. Be gracious when the leaders suggest that you step down from a ministry, but don’t take it personally. They are doing the best they can to figure out how to use people the right way. Don’t become bitter about it. Do something else that is fitting your stage in life and do it with all your heart. Be an example of gracious service to God. God’s people don’t retire, but they do take different assignments.
6. **Be an example of faithfulness.** Loyalty to church and to friends is in short supply these days. You can rectify that. Be as faithful to the gatherings and activities of the church as is physically possible. If you cannot drive, don’t feel badly about asking someone to pick you up. You can help cover their gasoline, or you can take them out to eat at times to show your gratefulness. Be there even in the evening when most old folks sink into their easy chairs. What better place is there to be than in the fellowship of other believers? It will cheer your spirits, when slouching in the recliner will depress you. Teach the younger ones that they should pay any price to be with other believers.

Well, there is a start at being a great old person. I hope you will do this and more. If you’ve been grinding to a standstill in your love for others and your service for God, it’s not too late to repent and to get with it.

Jim Elliff is founder and president of Christian Communicators Worldwide (CCW). Jim has pastored or served on the pastoral team of churches in Florida, Arkansas, Texas, Oklahoma, and Missouri.

<https://www.ccwtoday.org>



Seacliff

Seacliff church delights to praise God and give thanks that Rev Jordan Brown will commence ministry at our church in February 2024.

Jordan, his wife SongAi and their children Josiah, Abel and Anneliese will arrive in Adelaide from Victoria in January. We are eagerly awaiting his ministry at Seacliff having been without a minister specifically appointed for a three year period since the departure of Rev Stefan Slucki many years ago.

In the interim we have had the blessing of part time ministry from Revs. John Langbridge (wife Jan), John Gilmour (Dee), Peter Lim (Misun), and David Tsai (Meredith). Rev Tsai returned to his home state of NSW in April.

Prior to these ministries we were blessed that Rev Dr Reg Mathews (Elaine) ministered to us a couple of times a month for several years.

Now we are able to support a minister for a three year appointment.

Jordan visited and preached on a Sunday in October and suitably impressed the congregation with his enthusiasm for the gospel and desire to reach out to the community, with a particular emphasis on seeking out international students.

Jordan studied Chinese during a year in China after finishing high school and is fluent in the language. His wife has a Chinese Malaysian heritage. Jordan and his family visited Adelaide in early November.

During our time without a minister the church has continued to be active in meeting for Growth Group every week where the passage of the preceding sermon is explored with the help of booklets supplied by Norwood church. The sermons at Norwood most Sundays are recorded and watched by us some weeks later. We are thankful to the Norwood elders and minister, Davo Gunning, who permit us to broadcast their sermons during our services.

It has also been a joy to welcome on a couple of occasions, the members of the young music group from Norwood who come with guitars, beatbox and a pianist. They enrich our worship.

Especial thanks to our technology team Heather and daughter Naomi Gossip who, along with elder Ian Gossip, prepare the service each week. Heather Blunt prepares the pastoral prayer. During an extended break for Heather and Ian on an overseas trip Nicholas Blunt added to his portfolio of responsibilities that of leading the service. He also prepares a pewsheets for each service. Naomi had full responsibility for the technology during the 2 months absence of her parents and has now fully taken on the role.

Other members of the congregation are involved in service, several providing soup for our weekly soup suppers, men and women. At least half the congregation remain after the Sunday service (4pm) for a shared meal of soup and bread. Lively conversation ensues with discussion of the sermon and personal issues. It is great time of fellowship.

Our congregation has grown slightly in number over the past few years and we recognise the hand of God in this.

Rev. Bryce Weigandt is our interim moderator and was instrumental in introducing us to Jordan and him to us.

Though Bryce is an Airforce chaplain based in the northern suburbs and a congregational member of Norwood, we have come to appreciate his involvement at Seacliff leading the Lord's Supper service. His gentle yet enthusiastic and faith filled personality has endeared us to him. His generosity in serving us is noted with thanks. He comes also bearing gifts of food to supplement our suppers.

As Christmas falls this year on a Monday the session has determined that we will have a special 7pm Carols and Lessons service on Sunday in lieu of the 4pm service. Some of the younger members of the congregation are taking responsibility for this service, preparing the songs, reading, and selecting a speaker. How blessed we are to have them take up the mantle of involvement.

Heather Blunt

Naracoorte

We have been blessed with the presence of Rev Rudi Schwartz amongst us from the end of August for 4 Sunday services. He chose Psalm 1 with the focus on 'Two ways to Live: Two Ways to Die.' It is great to be encouraged by his preaching and by his support to members of the congregation.

Pat Leitch headed to South Korea again to undertake her support for people training to become missionaries through MTI – Missionary Training Institute. She is always inspired by her contact and experiences with so many people from around the world.

We celebrated another birthday milestone of a parishioner – Margaret Neale turned 90. Margaret has been our singing leader in Church since Covid when we were directed not to sing but we were allowed to have a person out the front to sing! Since that time she has continued to be out the front leading our singing. It has been uplifting.

In October we welcomed Gordon & Helen Stanley back to Naracoorte. They are retired missionaries who have helped us out in the past. Gordon always has much to offer us from the pulpit. While they were here they attended the Inter Church Council's lunch for our local Pastoral Care Workers. Each year this event is a fund raiser to enable PCWs to work additional hours in the schools.

This week we are looking forward to Rev Rudi Schwartz returning yet again to assist us in ministry for 4 more Sunday services plus numerous meetings Stuart has arranged while Rudi is able to oversee. God continues to bless us by providing this form of ministry to enable us to keep functioning.

Julie McLean



A God moment at Nimmitabel

Recently on our holidays to NSW whilst visiting our son on the Monaro, or Snowy Mountain Plains, we happened to call in at Nimmitabel for morning tea.

Nimmitabel is an old historic township of just 320 people and about 52 kilometres from Bombala.

Whilst enjoying a cuppa in one of the old historic buildings, we couldn't help but overhear two women on the table next to us discussing the pros and cons of Christianity. By the way they spoke it was clear they were not Christians themselves.



The Snowy Mountains

I took the opportunity to lean over and say, "I can't help overhearing your conversation about Christianity. We're Christians, and it's encouraging to hear people discussing matters of faith and religion." We ended up joining together in a very pleasant and I hope fruitful conversation. The two ladies had just moved into town. After they left, the owner of the café came over to us and said, "I couldn't help overhearing your conversation with those two ladies." He then said, "I'm an Anglican and help run the local youth group here."

What followed next was a great encouragement to us. As we chatted, he told us about a young couple who had come up from Gippsland to do ministry at Bombala. He told us that they had visited Nimmitabel, and while in the town the young man had helped him cut down a large tree. His practical help apparently made quite an impression. The owner of the café seemed to be amazed that a young couple were coming up onto the Monaro to do ministry in this day and age. We said to him, "I think we know who you are talking about – are their names Noah and Nerroli Vasiliades?" He responded with surprise, "Yes, that's them!"



Noah & Nerroli Vasiliades

Noah and Nerroli, don't think you're not making an impression for the Gospel! People are taking note. There are fields white and ready for harvest up there, including the café owner, and the two ladies who have just moved into town!

By David and Isabel Schulz

Noah and Nerroli Vasiliades began their work on the Snowy Mountains Patrol for the Presbyterian Inland Mission in January 2023. Since then, they have been working hard to engage in evangelism and discipling work in their home town of Bombala and

the surrounding area, running outreach events and building relationships through one-on-one bible reading. If you would like to stay updated on the work of the Vasiliades, visit pim.org.au/give/snowymountains and sign up to their mailing list.

Church camp in the outback

Over a weekend in early September over 60 people attended the Griffith and Leeton Presbyterian churches camp at New Dunesk. We shared dinner together on Friday as other campers gradually arrived and were warmly greeted by the onsite manager who gave us a brief orientation. Then, over a campfire and some toasted marshmallows, we spent time together enjoying the peaceful surroundings and one another's company. We got ready for bed and made use of the warm showers on an otherwise cold night!

Over the next two days we focused on the theme of church unity as we heard God's word taught and attended Bible studies. We were challenged to keep Jesus as the source of our unity since his death and resurrection is the sole reason why we are Christians! Our kids attended their own program too, which included making Father's Day craft for the dads. During our free time some of us explored the area on a bushwalk while others sat back at camp and read a book or talked amongst themselves. There was something for all interests at New Dunesk.

We didn't just hear about church unity, we also got to put it into practice as we all served each other through cooking, cleaning and competing in family fun games. We had a great weekend together and have already booked our camp for next year. If your church is considering a camp or weekend away I recommend you consider New Dunesk.

Rev. David Hawken
Griffith Presbyterian Church

Is your church, youth group or conference looking for a location to hold your 2024 camp? The Presbyterian Inland Mission's New Dunesk may be the perfect fit! Located 1 hour north of Wagga Wagga in NSW, New Dunesk hosts a self-catering campsite set in a beautiful outback landscape, complete with powered camp kitchen, amenity blocks and air conditioned conference centre. For more information about booking your camp at New Dunesk, email newdunesk@pim.org.au, call 0493 294 798 or visit pim.org.au/new-dunesk



Griffith Presbyterian Church using the camp kitchen



Inside the conference centre

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 2023 PresAID Christmas Appeal that people will give generously for the various causes this year.
- Intercede for the Federal Government; Prime Minister Anthony Albanese; Leader of the Opposition Peter Dutton; that they will be guided by Christian principles and come to know Jesus as their Lord and Saviour.
- Pray for a Godly vision for your parish for 2024.
- Intercede for the Defence Force, Police, Ambulance, Fire and State Emergency Services.
- Pray for all those who have been affected by the floods & fires throughout our country.
- Pray for the APWM office, Kevin Murray (Director)
- Uphold M serving in West Asia.
- Praise God for the privilege of being able to support our brothers and sisters overseas. Please pray that the response to the PresAID Appeal will be generous and that the assistance that it will provide would be effective.
- 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.
- Praise God that even while we rest He is at work throughout the world as He sends out His people, so that the whole earth might hear about Christ.
- Pray that God might use ordinary people such as yourself to reach family, friends and neighbours for Christ.
- Pray for teachers and students as they finish the school year that they will finish well and enjoy a well deserved break in the holidays.
- Pray for the people of Ukraine that through their suffering they will look to Jesus.
- Pray for the war in Gaza that there will be a peaceful resolution to this and hostages will be set free.
- Uphold SAPOL officers at this time, that they will be comforted and strengthened to continue their duties and will be kept safe.
- Pray for all our emergency services (Police, Ambulance, Fire & SES) that they will be preserved and kept safe during the summer period of bushfires.

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 2024 issue are to be in my hands **no later than 5.00pm Monday 21st February 2024.**

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

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