



SA NEWS



Newsletter of the Presbyterian Church of South Australia

Volume 2 Number 3

June 2009

God's Dream

Having just celebrated Easter the importance of the Cross should be prominent in our thinking. But because the cross of Jesus is so central to our faith, we often have a hard time thinking of it as a preparatory step in fulfilling God's dream. God's dream according to the Bible is to have a multi-national community of voluntary lovers who are engaged in God's mission for this planet. The life of Jesus, and his death, burial, resurrection, and ascension were all preparatory in fulfilling God's dream. And it was Pentecost that launched God's dream in human history. The Biblical story moves from one nation (Israel) to a multi-national (church) community empowered by the Holy Spirit to be God's "new humanity" on earth.

"For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit." Ephesians 2:18-22.

Jesus was promised (Old Testament)

Jesus was born and lived some 33 years.

Jesus died.

Jesus was buried.

Jesus rose from the dead into a new resurrected bodily life.

Jesus appeared for 40 days and ascended to God's right hand.

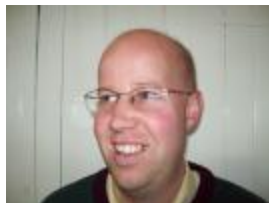
ALL PREPARATORY. For what?

Jesus and the Father poured out the Spirit on all flesh.

The new covenant community is launched, going along slowly at first and then taking off.

God's dream is being realised and is unfolding in history...the dream of all nations being blessed with access to the Father through his Son Jesus Christ.

Pentecost Sunday, May 31st, has just passed. So from this Pentecost continue to celebrate God's Dream! Celebrate the Holy Spirit being poured out upon people from all nations and celebrate the fact that all believers are one in Christ. 'In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.' Eph. 2:22.



Andrew Gall

Meet the Moderator General



Our Moderator General Robert Benn was born into a Christian family on the Darling Downs in Queensland. He describes his home as “the best church he ever belonged to”, with father and mother daily modelling and teaching the Christian faith to their seven children. When he turned 21 he was a student in the Melbourne Bible Institute where he met Laurel Penn of Western Australia. After their marriage they served in Indonesia, seconded by the Overseas Missionary Fellowship to the Reformed Church of West Java, and then again to the Toraja Reformed Church in South Sulawesi, preparing teachers for teaching Scripture in schools. Cathy, Murray and Andrea were all born in Indonesia.

On return to Australia Robert studied for two years in the Queensland Theological Hall, and then served in the pastoral charges of Redcliffe Queensland and Hurstville NSW before directing our church’s world mission programme as National Director of the Australian Presbyterian World Mission. After nearly a decade in this role, and longing to get back to the pastoral charge, he accepted a call to the Springwood (NSW) congregation where he ministered until taking the position of Moderator General which he will hold until September 2010. Robert has served the church as Convener of the National Journal Committee, as member and director of APWM, as Trustee, as NSW State Moderator, and is presently Convener of the NSW Theological Education Committee. He loves to see churches being true to their calling to become the beautiful Bride of Christ, “a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless” whose commitment is to “go into all the world to make disciples.”



Seacliff

April 4th was a very encouraging day in the life of the Seacliff congregation as we welcomed 5 folk, who had been on the Adherents Roll, into full membership: Keith and Kath Blomeley, Kirsten Merrall and Anthony and Sonia Sinfield.

Another new attendee is Joan Dalling who seems very comfortable among us.

In May, I am preaching on the 5 Doctrines of Grace some may know as TULIP and a radio-commercial has been airing on Coastfm with extensive letterbox drops around the area being carried out by members; we look forward to welcoming new members from this outreach.

On May 8th, Berenice Paterson celebrated her 104th birthday and she is looking forward to being a new member of the glorified Church of God in Glory [John 17:24-26].

Stefan Slucki.

Jean Flynn Church—Elizabeth



It has been a very quiet time at Elizabeth over the past months. The Gardening Group and the Calligraphy Group

have been going well and the recent rain has been much appreciated.

Rev Kev took study leave and annual leave during March when he and Sandra visited family and friends in Victoria and Queensland. Kevin, who is an aeroplane freak, also attended the International Air Show at Avalon. It was an especially enjoyable time for Sandra and Kevin catching up with the grandchildren. During his absence the Elders provided Pulpit Supply for the 4 weeks he was away.

Our Annual General Meeting was held on 6th April followed by a congregation meeting. It was well attended.

Both Good Friday and Easter Sunday services were well attended and regular attendances at Sunday worship are maintaining a good level.

Since the last edition Kevin has visited the Whyalla congregation and preached, as well as celebrating Holy Communion. These visits have been enjoyable and will continue over the coming months. This arrangement is in concert with Rev. Raymond Brewer who is the PCA worker at Largs North. Raymond and Kevin alternate their visits month about, with Communion celebrated every three months. Raymond is scheduled to visit in May.

We find it interesting that in our congregation of about 30 we have quite a few with the same names, not necessarily spelt the same way. We have 2 Flo's, 2 Isabel's, 2 May's, 2

Moira's and just recently we had 2 Pearl's. Also, we have 2 families with the same surnames, Murray and Smith.

Our greetings to all of our sister churches in the state.

Texas Sandi

Largs North

We are praising the Lord that out of His goodness He has added to our Church additional souls. Our Sunday evening services, which commenced some three months ago, have been well attended, often out-numbering the morning service. We seek to make these more evangelistic than the morning, with members giving 'testimonies' of their conversions and the subsequent blessing of Jesus Christ in their lives. During the winter months, we serve soup after the service, a good opportunity for friendly discussions.

We have continued to practice what we consider to be healthy 'church family activity' of going on outings together. We have had BBQ's, boat trips and a lovely visit to Mount Lofty Gardens. We even had a visit to the trout farm at Mount Compass, returning home with our fish tea ready for the grill. These times have been well appreciated by both the young and the elderly, having relaxed times to get to know each other more and enjoying each others company in an atmosphere of fun. We normally take lots of photos to display in the church. We now have a church family photo album on display in the church, which helps to show visitors and potential

new attendees something of our church family life.

Our mid week bible study and prayer meeting continues to be mightily blessed by our Lord. Most of our regular church members attend. We are studying the book of Joshua, which provides us with a wide range of topics to discuss, learn from and apply to our own every day Christian lives. It really is a great blessing to experience all attendees fully participating both in the discussions and prayer.

On Sundays, we are considering the miracles of our Lord in the mornings and in the evenings we are looking at the life of Samson. From God's word, we endeavour to gain a greater knowledge of God and ourselves, seeking to edify our souls and to discover the application of the bible passage to correct and encourage our own situations so as to promote holy living. We are blessed with the skills of our organist, Paul, who encourages us to make a 'cheerful noise' in our songs of worship. We endeavour to encourage our congregation to take part in the services by bible reading, offering prayers and other such duties. Once again, this gives the whole church family a sense of being participants in worship rather than spectators.

Our fellowship is very aware and appreciative of the prayers and support of other Presbyterian churches in South Australia.

Raymond Brewer

Mount Gambier

The Mount Gambier church continues to rejoice in the blessings our Lord Christ is giving us.

During April a significant blessing was the opportunity to send our pastor, Gary Ware, as part of a



three man delegation to Timor Leste (East Timor). Robert Benn (Moderator General, General Assembly Presbyterian Church of Australia), Rob Duncanson (pastor, Darwin Presbyterian Church) and Gary were responding to an invitation to visit the congregations of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Timor Leste. As an introduction and background brief here are some words from Robert Benn: "Beginning in 2000 the Australian Presbyterian World Mission began to form relationships with the Protestant Church of East Timor. This church commenced at a local level in the 60s, but it was hard going until the Portuguese departed, and amidst considerable bloodshed, Indonesia became the colonial authority. The Indonesians gave a confession, a structure and credence to the young church. It grew rapidly.

In 1999 the East Timorese folk



were given the opportunity of a referendum - integration with Indonesia or Independence. Independence was chosen, and again, amidst much bloodshed the world's newest independent state was born. As a result, the church rapidly grew smaller as many members of the church were in fact Indonesian. Now the leadership is in the hands of young and inexperienced East Timorese folk. There was much tension.

APWM found cooperation and partnership with them very difficult, and that partnership was discontinued several years ago. But it was difficult also for the East Timor Protestant Church. Ultimately in August last year the decision was made that the old church would continue to minister in the 'Eastern Kingdom' and that a new church would minister to the 'Southern and Western Kingdoms'. The new church is called The Evangelical Presbyterian Church. The Moderator of the EPC is Rev Arlindo Marcal, who is also Rector of the Dili University and has been Ambassador from East Timor to Indonesia. As soon as the new church was born in August 2008, the Moderator sent me the Macedonian Call, 'Come over and help us.'



The three brothers traveled widely, visiting congregations in the capital Dili and in the rural areas. While there was great variation in geography - from the coast to the mountains - and size of the congregations varied greatly, there was one common theme: a warm welcome.

The delegation is now in the process of preparing a report for mission partners/APWM, which report will make recommendations for any ongoing contact and ministry with the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Timor Leste.



As a church we have been blessed to be able to support the visit with prayer and a financial contribution. Please pray with us that the trip might open a door of opportunity to advance the gospel of Christ amongst the nations.

You can read Gary Ware's account of the visit at: www.mgpcpastor.wordpress.com.

Ian Touzel

St Andrews Naracoorte

Our Church has continued to enjoy God's blessing over the last few months.

Our Ladies Fellowship and PWA groups have continued to meet.

ESL (English as a Second Language) classes have continued. The classes are held on a Saturday morning and have been faithfully attended by many Asian students.

The Bible study held on Thursday nights at the Manse has finished their survey of the Old Testament. We are now beginning a new series of studies on Baptism, and how it is a model for our life as Christians.

A number of our Ladies attended the Ladies Weekender at Karnkendi Campsite in Nelson, they enjoyed the camp and the Christian fellowship.

On the third Sunday in March a representative of the Gideons spoke to the congregation during our worship service about their work in distributing Bibles, we took up an offering which we gave to the Gideons.

Our Easter services were well attended and we give thanks to God for the opportunity to proclaim Christ as our crucified and risen Lord.

On Saturday 18th April we held our annual Trash to Treasure. Once again we sold fire wood, plants, cakes, and other donated goods. A large number of people from the local community were in attendance and purchased items. We had a BBQ and a substantial amount of money was raised. A special thanks to Tom and Frasier Loechel who donated the



wood and also put in a lot of work cutting the wood making it easier for the members of the board to split.

On Sunday 19th April the ladies prepared the Harvest Festival display at the front of the church, and during the service we gave thanks to God for his abundant provision and faithfulness to provide us and our communities with everything that we need.

On Thursday 30th April at 7.30pm people from the various churches in Naracoorte gathered together in our Church Hall and we watched a Film called 'A Cry from Iran': The untold story of Iranian Christian Martyrs. The film was very moving. After the film a representative of Open Doors explained the work they do amongst persecuted Christians and we enjoyed a cuppa and supper together. Over 40 people were in attendance.

Two couples associated with our congregation have had children. Congratulations to parents Mark & Karen Hennessy and grandmother Ilse Williams on the safe arrival of Juliette Marie Hennessy born 27th March. Also congratulations to

(Continued on page 7)

Millicent

We commenced the year with a visit from the Youth Dimension Solid Rock Ministry Team, who used our hall as accommodation and provided a Youth Ministry to the young people of the town.

During February, the Harvest Thanksgiving Service was held. The proceeds from the sale of harvest goods were given to the Presbyterian Church of Victoria Bush Fire Appeal.

In March, the Guild Ladies, combined with other Churches, visited Laughton Park for a day of fellowship.

Also, during March, a Garden Afternoon was held with everyone enjoying a garden and produce stall, competitions, singing, the viewing of a DVD on six English Gardens, followed by afternoon tea.

There was a combined Wattle Range service in Penola on the 29th March; twelve of our members attended and enjoyed fellowship with the Penola folk.



We had good attendances at both of the Easter services – Nestor Buck's Hot Cross Buns were much appreciated afterwards.

Our minister and his wife Alan and Laleen Clarkson celebrated their 37th Wedding Anniversary in April – Congratulations from us all.

The Ladies Guild are holding a morning coffee in May and the guest speaker is Brian Foster speaking on his recent trip to the base camp of Mt. Everest. Proceeds of the coffee morning

will aid missions.

Rev. Clarkson will be taking a short break this month, and then on 31st May we have a special visit from the Moderator General, when the Penola folk will combine with us for this very important service at 2.30 pm.

We still have service every fourth Sunday at Rendelsham. Their numbers are few, but several people from Millicent attend, and this is appreciated by the local folk.

Millicent has appointed two new Board members, Mrs Madeline Schapel and Mr Geoffrey Burdon.

Alayne Pettingill and Thelma Thomas

(Continued from page 6)

parents Lachy & Skylea McLean and Grandparents Malcolm and Angela on the safe arrival of Maggie Anne McLean born 16th April.

We pray for God's continued grace and steadfast love to be poured out on his people as we follow Jesus Christ our Lord in the power of his Spirit.

Andrew Gall

Mount Barker

Over the last three months many have been encouraged through our times of worship and opportunities to serve and demonstrate God's love within the Mount Barker community.

February was a month following the devastating bush fires in Victoria that caused such an outpouring of concern that we gave generously, including all the normal giving for one week, to the appeal through the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.



We have been privileged to facilitate hosting a Creation Ministries speaker on March 27 at the local High School hall. Over 100 people, both young and old, attended to hear Dr. Mark Harwood speak on 'Darwin vs. the First Eleven'. Dr. Harwood spoke of his work for the last 30 years as an internationally recognized scientist in the commercial communication satellite field. He was a high profile executive and design engineer. He spoke of the exhaustive demands of the verifiable and repeatable proof required to ensure mission success in both the design and test phases before launching a satellite worth millions of dollars. He went on to explain that sort of science is for the here and now. A different field of science is the forensic or historical science. That looks at the evidence of past events and the truth cannot be established in the same way by repeatable and verifiable experiments. Mark went on to say that many who work to explain rocks and bones already have a belief based on erroneous assumptions of the origins of the world and men. The audience had opportunity to ask questions and a number of our people came away rejoicing in learning and being encouraged in the truth and in participation of a local outreach event.

As reflected upon in Ecclesiastes 3 there is a right time for everything. The Lord has directed us to see at this time both minister and the church need to be more connected and involved in the community. We now support the local Mount Barker Ministers Fraternal who are very much in touch with the local council in events such as 'Carols', 'JAZZfest' and 'Spring Sacred Hymns Festival'. The Fraternal are involved in employing 4 part time chaplains working in local schools and seek to expand this work. As we seek to connect more, we hope there is more opportunity to speak and tell of the gospel to others and to use our personal and physical resources more effectively for kingdom purposes. Pastor Robert will be speaking to over 200 people attending the JAZZfest worship service on Sunday May 17 with such celebrities as Don Burrows and Bob Barnard. Plans are in progress to establish a church library and also the Ladies are working at developing their outreach and fellowship.

We are so blessed as we study prayer and see the Lord answer prayers. We see our prayers answered in the recent rains and know that God is waiting to bless us in many other and various ways.

We will have both the General Assembly of Australia Moderator General Rt Rev Robert Benn (May 28) and his brother Rev Keith Benn (May 24) speaking to us in May. Mark 4:28 speaks of the Kingdom of God advancing and so as we keep our focus on Jesus we know God is working all around and through us on what is yet to be seen.

Robert Finster



Norwood

Rev. Dr. Reg Mathews has officially tendered his resignation from the Parish of Norwood/Para Hills as from his 65th birthday on March 27th 2010. He will be taking 22 weeks of long service leave from the 1st December 2009 to March 27th 2010. The morning services will be shared by Rev Graham Lyman and Rev Damien Carson.

Rev. Mathews was inducted into the Parish on December 1st 2000 and since then has ministered to both churches weekly plus initiating and running the Prezra School of Theology.

There is much activity at Norwood with several Bible Study sessions, early morning readings of the Bible every Saturday, plus a young peoples' group which combines with Para Hills.

One of the Highlights for the church is the monthly prayer and coffee nights held at various residences of the congregation with the added pleasure of a speaker from various walks of Christian life.

Mary McGregor

Presbytery of Torrens

Damien Carson's Ordination and Induction was on Sunday, 10 May at the Para Hills Church.

There were 70 in the congregation with 7 children together with several members of Damien's family including his parents. Eleven Members of the Presbytery were present. The church was almost full.

After Damien had signed the formula he was presented with the Articles of Office. A Bible, which is the Word of God, a jug and bowl as a reminder that as a Minister of the Word of God he has been called to Baptise disciples in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and finally a book of Common Prayer as a reminder that as a Pastor he has been called to serve the Lord Jesus Christ by promoting His glory and seeking the good of His people in the Norwood/Para Hills Parish.

The readings were read by Elder Murray Paton from Largs North Church, Rev. Kevin Stow from Elizabeth Church and Elder Margaret Minney from North Adelaide Church. The prayers were offered by Rev. Stefan Slucki from the Seacliff Parish and Elder Robert Finster from Mt. Barker Church.

The Charge and occasional sermon was given by Rev. Dr. Reg Mathews.

Rev. Chris ten Broeke gave the narration of steps.

Damien Scott Carson is now officially the second Minister to the Parish of Norwood/ Para Hills.

Mary McGregor

Para Hills

After a very successful year in 2008 we have continued to flourish in 2009. Early in the year we held a "Where are We, Where are We Going" seminar and got a lot of good thoughts and ideas. These will be discussed by Session and acted upon in the near future.

Elders "Housegroups" are continuing with 5 groups meeting every two weeks and 8 to 10 attending each group. We are currently studying the Beatitudes and the Sermon on the Mount. The Elders meet on the first Wednesday of each month with Damien Carson and go through the month's studies.

Damien continues to do most of the Preaching at Para Hills with Reg Mathews doing Norwood.

At the last Board of Management we discussed plans for the alterations to the main entrance of the church. We plan for this to happen by the end of the year.

Para Hills continues to be the home base for our P I M Flynn Patrol and we are very supportive of Cameron, Carmel and their daughter Jacinta. Cameron often goes on patrol by himself or sometimes takes a member of the congregation on the trip. From the 8-10 May about twenty members of our congregation spent Friday, Saturday and Sunday morning at the Yunta Races and Gymkhana to support the Mackenzies in Mission outreach.



They returned on Sunday in time for the Ordination and Induction of Damien Carson as Colleague & Successor to Rev Dr Reg Mathews in the parish. The service was led by the Moderator of the Presbytery of Torrens, Miss Mary McGregor. The Charge and Occasional Sermon was given by Rev Mathews.

Damien with his wife Kelly and family Jarrod & Ethan were greeted by the congregation as they moved into the hall where afternoon tea was served. This was followed with welcome speeches from members and from representatives of other congregations in the presbytery. We look forward to a very fruitful ministry under Damien's leadership and ask God to bless him as he continues to do His work in the community and to the people he has been allotted.

Ian Robbie

Whyalla

The congregation is in good heart as it continues to serve the Lord in this city. The elders continue to take the services on a weekly basis with a visitation on alternate months by Rev. Kevin Stow of



Elizabeth and Rev. Raymond Brewer of Largs. We have now had several visits from each minister and it has been a great joy for the congregation to welcome them and their wives to Whyalla.

There has been on-going illness within the congregation, but this is understandable with any aging congregation, which is the case with so many of our Presbyterian Congregations. Fred Mashford, Helen's husband was very ill and was taken to Adelaide where he underwent a triple by-pass operation. This meant that we were without the services of Helen for a few weeks. Both are back home now and we continue to uphold Fred and Helen in our prayers.

The renovation work in the kitchen was started and even before it was finished it started to throw up more problems that will have to be attended to before it can be put back into use. This means that both the hall and the kitchen are out of use

for the time being since everything from the kitchen is stacked up in the hall. The interior and the exterior of the buildings are starting to show signs of wear and tear and are in need of some serious attention. The cladding on the outside of the church is starting to deteriorate badly. Since these were last attended to some 20 odd years ago, this is hardly surprising. We did hope that much of the work would be completed by the time the next visit from Mr. Stow or Mr. Brewer comes around, but sadly this may not be the case.

The visitation of the Presbytery of Torrens will take place in a week or so. This should have taken place last year but due to illness of the members of Session and the availability of ministers, it was postponed. This will now take place on the 9th of May, when the Commissioners fly up in the morning and leave in the mid afternoon. The timetable is fairly tight.

Easter Services saw a number of visitors and we believe that both services, Good Friday and Sunday were a blessing to all who attended.



Due to on-going illness the Annual General Meeting has not been held. However, this will be attended to at the earliest possible moment.

John McVey

St. Andrew's Penola

As we were about to start the Annual Meeting of the Congregation on 3rd March, the power went off. Consequently, the meeting was held by torch-light. This meeting was followed by the shortest board meeting in history, also by torch-light. Joking comments like 'keeping people in the dark' were heard from the gloom!

Ladies attended and took part in the World Day of Prayer. The Presbytery social day this year was held at Laughton Park and hosted by Mount Gambier. Members of the PWA viewed the gardens and shared a pooled lunch. I took several photos of this day and forwarded some to the Mount Gambier PWA.

We celebrated our Harvest Thanksgiving in mid March. An auction of the goods donated was held on the Monday night and raised \$930 for the local Pastoral Support Worker.

Carolyn Lambert, Lal Clarkson and I attended the Ladies Camp at Karnkendi on 20-22 March, where Elspeth Slater led the study titled 'A Step Further – continuing in the faith'. It was a wonderful weekend of fellowship, friendship and fun with other ladies. A truly stimulating and thought-provoking weekend and I encourage all ladies to set aside the time to attend next year.

The Presbytery of Penola commenced a Visitation of the Wattle Range Combined Charge in March, when the Minister, Session and Board were able to respond to



questions from the Presbytery Visitation Committee. The findings of the Committee will be delivered later this year, and we pray that the outcome will see spiritual and numerical

growth in our churches.

The Good Friday service was held at 8.30 am and it was pleasing to see some of the Uniting Church congregation joining us.

April's 'Shed Men' was held at our place with nine men attending. Pastor Ken Jaworski from the Lutheran Church led the discussion.

Robert Wood from the Gideon's was guest speaker at our service on Sunday, 3 May. Who says God does not work in mysterious ways when he allows His people to go into dangerous places and countries and deliver Bibles safely? Can YOU give a donation to the Gideon's today so that more Bibles can be provided?

Romans 8 v 28 says "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose".

Barbara Provis

Editor's Note

I would like to say a big thank you to all who have contributed items for this issue of SA News. Your contributions are much appreciated. You have all made it possible for another quarterly issue to be produced. Contributions for the September issue of SA News are to be in my hands **no later than 10th August 2009**.

Email: sanews@icisp.net.au