



SA NEWS

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Here I Am, Lord! *Ray Ortlund*

The risen Jesus appeared to a Christian named Ananias and commanded him to go find Saul, now blinded by the glory he had seen on the Damascus Road. Ananias was to lay hands on Saul, so that he could regain his sight. The story is recorded in Acts chapter 9.

Ananias' immediate response to the Lord's approach is simple: "Here I am, Lord." That is, "You are my Lord, and I am your servant. So tell me what you want, and I'm all in." One gets the impression that this fully available "Here I am, Lord" was his daily attitude. It comes across as instinctive, not worked-up, not even premeditated.

When the Lord then tells Ananias what he is to do - go befriend and serve Saul, the notorious enemy of Jesus - Ananias doesn't refuse. But understandably, he does hesitate, as if to say, "Lord, you want me to make myself vulnerable to Saul? Really? Am I hearing you right?" Yes. The Lord has big plans for Saul. So Jesus repeats his command, "Go," and Ananias obeys.

The great thing about the story is this. Ananias was not an influential Christian leader. He was just a simple believer with a simple faith. But he was the one chosen to welcome Saul into the community of the gospel. He was the first one who ever called Saul "brother." He was the first Christian Saul ever perceived as a friend and ally. And Saul really needed what Ananias had for him. His eyes were to be opened not only to the glory of Jesus but also to the community of Jesus. That is what Ananias did for Saul, who, as Paul, went on to serve that community like no one else.

If you are a simple Christian like Ananias, you can say to Jesus, "Here I am, Lord." If you will live in that open availability, he may well call you to take a risk, in order to draw in a persecutor who is destined to become a missionary and church planter and theologian and martyr. Today's radical activist might be tomorrow's world evangelist, and you might play a role in that. Let's all stay open, fully available, day by day, whatever the risk. One of the great things about Jesus is, we just never know what he's about to do.

Ray Ortlund is senior pastor of Immanuel Church in Nashville, Tennessee, and serves as a Council member with The Gospel Coalition. Ray served as professor of Old Testament at Trinity Divinity School, Chicago, for nine years. This article first appeared at: <https://blogs.thegospelcoalition.org/rayortlund/2016/06/13/here-i-am-lord/>

Adelaide Presbyterian Church

Seacliff Congregation

We welcomed Rev. David Tsai and his wife Meredith in March this year and the congregation has enjoyed and benefitted from his ministry. David has a wealth of biblical and historical knowledge and a pastoral heart which has endeared him to the church family at Seacliff. Meredith has entered into the life of the congregation and is a great support to all of us.

There is much blessing in an incumbent minister who is able to attend on Sunday and during the week for our regular growth group gatherings. David and Meredith have also joined us for a working bee and attended the local Rail Care group for one of their monthly working bees, meeting members of the local community. This has resulted in an addition to the congregation.

We have been encouraged by the attendance of several new people and even with the ravages of the Covid pandemic we rejoice in the fact that most of the congregation has been able to attend somewhat regularly.

While our elder, Ian Gossip, has been absent overseas with his family, we have been following the trail of their travels in word and pictures via our WhatsApp page. They will have lots to share with us on their return. Nicholas Blunt has stood in as worship leader and Meredith Tsai has quickly learnt to use the Proclaim programme to bring us the songs, music and notices each week.

The Board of Management decided late last year to begin the process of making improvements to the church and hall and this started, somewhat later than hoped in 2022, with the emptying and sorting of cupboards in the hall. It was a surprise to see the Sunday school items from at least 20 years ago and some much older. There were toys and books, and lots of odds and ends. Fortunately we were able to take items to a local op shop and much paper material to a recyclers. There remains the kitchen and the vestry to sort too.

The craft group has begun for the year with a morning and afternoon session punctuated by lunch at a local eatery. It certainly was a lovely time of card making and chatting.

Heather Blunt

Mount Gambier

Our wonderful Care & Concern and Coffee & Craft groups have been very busy in recent times making and sending off items of clothing, rugs and toys to various places. Seven bags of handmade clothes, rugs and toys were sent to the Women's and Children's Hospital; four bags to Anglicare and four bags to Four Reasons Why. There were also a large number of handmade beanies sent to the APY Lands. All these items are very much needed and appreciated by the various groups who receive them.

Naracoorte

By God's wonderful grace we have had three good months of worship services with a variety of leaders. The elders have led most of the worship services, except for 3rd April when our Interim Moderator Rev Gary Ware conducted the service which included Communion. On Mother's Day the ladies of the church worked together to present a worship service on the theme of "What is a Christian Mother" and the last two services in May were conducted by our dear friend Gordon Stanley and his lovely wife Helen.

On Friday 6th May the PWA ladies held a morning tea, to which ladies of the other churches in Naracoorte were invited and also the residents of Dunbar Homes Naracoorte. The theme was Mothers' Day and funds raised \$560.00.

We also had a delayed celebration for Fay Schinckel's 80th birthday due to services being in recess for several weeks because of a Covid 19 outbreak in Naracoorte.

May God bless you all and keep you well this winter season.

Pat Leitch



Fay Schinckel with her birthday cake at morning tea.

Wattle Range

Penola Congregation

Greetings to you all from Penola.

We are still struggling along to keep our church doors open. Brendan Provis is doing the services most weeks with the help of Neil and Malcolm.

We enjoyed a bbq lunch at Provis's after church a while back. Everyone brought along meat and salads and enjoyed fellowship together. The day was also perfect weather wise.

We were very grateful to Rev Murray Earl for helping out one week taking the service and Rev Gary Ware for taking the communion service.

We have had two funeral services in the last couple of weeks in the church. Miss Kath Malcolm, who was a member of Penola Presbyterian church, passed away on 1st May. She had been in care in Pinchunga nursing home and later years in the Jarvis Wing at the Penola hospital. Kath was involved in the church most of her life and a life member of the P.W.A.

We are also saddened to hear of the passing of Thelma Thomas from Millicent Church who was a great contributor to this PCSA news sheet.

Heather Lambert

Karnkendi Campsite

Feb – May 2022

Once again it gives us great pleasure to be able to finally share some of the “goings on” at Karnkendi after what we have all been through.

After a good start to 2022 with a family group in over Christmas/New year it wasn't until 9th April that we saw a return of groups. This was largely due to the slow opening up of SA and the wait and see approach of many to what would be even possible for group accommodation.

Unfortunately, a decision from the Catholic Education department in SA saw Tenison Woods Catholic College from Mount Gambier cancel their Senior Music Camp planned for the 23rd-25th March but we are hoping the Junior Music Camp planned for 30th June -1st July will still go ahead.

More disappointing for the whole region was the cancellation of the Generations in Jazz (GIJ) event planned for 6th-8th of May which was a surprise but probably inevitable with the uncertainty of what impact the Virus would have in the school settings.

The 9th April booking was the return of the Glenelg Hopkins Management Catchment Authority (GHMCA) for a week, with nearly 20 bird researchers basing themselves at the camp. We then had a day to get everything ready for a Thai Family fellowship group of 50+ who stayed for 2 nights over Easter and have already rebooked for 2023.

As you read this report Beaconhills Christian College from Melbourne have started their “Outdoors Explorer Programme”, as they struggled in 2021 and finally cancelled with the Victorian lockdowns. It is just overwhelming to see them back bigger than ever this time round. The first of 3 programmes started on the 26th April and saw their Year 9 students coach in and tent on the grounds before stocking up for a 9 day walking, bike riding and canoeing experience in the Lower Glenelg National Park and on the Great South West walk.

The Main hall of the camp looks like a food warehouse as the Teachers and Aids prepare gear, firewood and supplies for daily drop offs to the 40-50+ students.

The second group arrived early at 10 pm on the 12th of May with a late call so it was lucky we were not too far away to get the pumps turned on, gas hot water services turned up and boost the kitchen hot water service so they could make an early start the next day with more students arriving.



Karnkendi food warehouse

They will be making Karnkendi home for almost a month as the Teachers and Aids stay through for the next two programmes leaving on the 12th of June. We will then have less than a day to get things ready for a Family group staying for the long weekend, it is good to be busy once more though!

A big thankyou to John and Carolyn Lambert for a supply of redgum firewood which we on sell to keep both Beaconhills students and Camp groups warm for what is looking like a cold winter.

We are getting several inquiries for future groups so hopefully these turn into groups booking and using the camp in the Lord's glory.

We have many "little projects" that we would like to peck away at just to keep the facility and grounds presentable as winter does set in.

Thank you to our committee members and all that pray for and connect with Karnkendi as we move forward once more.

If you have connections with groups or just a family group "getaway" please give Heather a call on 0448 871 225.



More food!



Stacking wood for supply to Beaconhills camping groups

God bless,
Harvey and Heather McBain
Karnkendi
Nelson

Ukraine: Partnership in Action

At the time of writing \$492,000 has been donated for assistance arising from the Ukraine crisis. The Appeal has now been closed. Our Moderator General, the Rev Dr Peter Barnes writes: "This is a most encouraging result indeed. God has moved in the minds and hearts of His people. The God of all grace has inspired acts of grace. With many thanks to everyone for their generosity." The refrain that we hear from our partners is "The impact of this war and its after-effects will be felt for quite some time. Please help us by sending funds over the medium term so that we can meet emerging needs." Our partners on the ground are best-placed to know what is needed amid a somewhat fluid situation and so we are listening to their advice. This money will take some months to disburse in a sustainable and responsible manner. We are now distributing the funds through four partners.

Granville & Ibolya Pillar



Granville & Ibolya live 50km from the Hungarian-Ukrainian border and have been working with local churches. This has involved things such as the purchase of a van to send medical supplies into Ukraine, and aid for children in three orphanages. We have also played a part in the purchase of the ambulance in this picture to care for wounded people in Ukraine. Our partners

have expressed their deep gratitude for the Presbyterian Church of Australia's generous support

European Christian Mission

APWM has a long-standing partnership with European Christian Mission (ECM), who have people on the ground across Europe who are working directly with Ukrainian refugees. ECM has been transporting and tending to the needs of refugees in various locations

SIM's 'For Freedom' Ministry

It's a sad fact of life that when a crisis such as this arises, all sorts of people seek to inflict pain on others by ensnaring them into a life of slavery. SIM is another long-standing APWM partner and it's 'For Freedom' ministry, co-led by APWM missionary Karine Woldhuis, works with Anti-Trafficking ministries in Europe which attempt to lead people to safe accommodation and security.

Reformed Presbyterian Church of Central and Eastern Europe

Laszlo & Eva Milhalyi from Victoria, serve near Budapest and belong to the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Eastern Europe. Through this denomination people are being cared for either in Ukraine through the denomination's Ukrainian congregations or the congregations in other European countries.



Bible Distribution: How hard can it be?



A few years ago, through APWM, you sent 9,000 Bibles to the Nuer people among the 400,000 South Sudanese refugees in the refugee camps in Gambella, in western Ethiopia. There are 100,000 members of our partner church,

the Presbyterian Church of South Sudan, in these camps. Thank you to the many people who over the last few years gave additional donations to make it possible for us to send just under 5,000 more Bibles. Such Bibles are not as readily available as our English Bibles and it can take some time to find the right supplier. It turns out that ordering the Bible is the easy part! APWM missionary, Motor Yat, serves in these refugee camps. Distributing the Bibles presents some challenges that we don't face in Australia. First, permission to distribute the Bibles must be granted from the Ethiopian official who oversees all the camps. Second, the official overseeing each camp must grant permission for the Bibles to be distributed, and that depends on whether there has been recent unrest in that particular camp. Third, a vehicle must be hired to carry the Bibles over unsealed roads over long distances.

Fourth, the paperwork must all be in order before the gatekeeper at each camp will permit the vehicle to enter — and such permission sometimes needs to be negotiated at the gate! In some of the camps, the distribution was a very smooth process. In others, people from one tribal group were not permitted to enter the camps so people from other tribal groups had to be used. This whole process was carried out in conjunction with the Presbyterian ministers in the camps in partnership with our partner, The Presbyterian Church of Ethiopia. An added complication was the presence of groups of political rebels meaning that sometimes a police escort was needed! Please join with us in praising God, that in His mercy these Bibles are now in the hands of our brothers and sisters. Please pray that as the Word of God is read, it will make a tremendous impact on both individuals and communities.

Contact Australian Presbyterian World Mission 1 Clarence Street Burwood NSW 2134 national@apwm.org.au Phone: (02) 8073 7490 www.apwm.org.au facebook.com/AustralianPresbyterianWorldMission



Camping at New Dunesk



**Looking for somewhere to spend your winter holiday?
Why not come and visit New Dunesk!**

The property will be open for free camping during select dates this winter:

Free camp weekend: 24 to 26 June

Free camp week: 5 to 12 August

All campsite facilities will be available, including toilets, camp kitchen and an undercover communal space in the Piggery. Bring your own caravan, camper trailer, tent or swag.

To secure your campsite for these select free camping dates,

email Paul: newdunesk@pim.org.au

There's plenty to do at New Dunesk:



Explore the expansive bush and farmland around the homestead:

Take a hike up to the ridge to see the sunrise



Or relax in the campground with other visitors



— *worth driving for* —

10 Ways To Resist the Devil

Tim Challies.

It is one of the Bible's many sweet and powerful promises: "Resist the devil and he will flee from you" (James 4:7). The question is, though, how do we do this? In very practical ways, how do we resist the devil? Thomas Brooks (1608 -1680) in his classic work, *Precious Remedies Against Satan's Devices*, offers a list of ten ways the Christian can resist Satan's temptations.

1. **Be Ruled by the Word.** Make the Word of God your rule and authority and live in obedience to all it says. It will keep you walking straight and guard you from all manner of temptation. "When men throw off the Word, then God throws off them, and then Satan takes them by the hand, and leads them into snares at his pleasure."
2. **Beware of Grieving the Holy Spirit.** It is the Holy Spirit that gives the Christian the ability to discern Satan's temptations and to see his hand in and behind life's circumstances. If you grieve the Spirit, you drive off the one whose ministry involves guarding you against Satan's attacks.
3. **Labour for Wisdom.** There is a great difference between knowledge and wisdom, between accumulating facts and applying Scripture to those facts so they become wisdom. It is not the Christian with the most knowledge, but the Christian with the most wisdom, who is equipped to battle Satan's temptations.
4. **Resist the First Stirring of Temptation.** It is safe to resist temptation and dangerous to dabble in it. "He that will play with Satan's bait, will quickly be taken with Satan's hook." God promises that we can resist temptation, not that we can resist sin once we have begun to dabble in that temptation.
5. **Labour to Be Filled With the Spirit.** The Spirit is a Spirit of light and power. The Spirit's light shines bright against the darkness of sin and his power is sufficient to overcome all evil and temptation. When it comes to fighting Satan's temptations, it is better to have a heart filled with the Spirit than a head filled with facts.
6. **Keep Humble.** A humble heart would rather lie in the dust than rise to prominence by sinful means; it would prefer to lose everything than to sin and be left with a guilty conscience. The humble person is neither drawn in by what Satan offers, nor terrified by his threats.
7. **Be Constantly on Guard.** A secure soul is a soul in a position to be led astray and ensnared. "That soul that will not watch against temptations, will certainly fall before the power of temptations." Satan strengthens his assaults when the soul grows drowsy and careless. So be constantly on guard. "Watchfulness is nothing else but the soul running up and down, to and fro, busy everywhere; it is the heart busied and employed with diligent observation of what comes from within us, and of what comes from without us and into us."



8. **Continue Communing With God.** It is as you join in communion with God that he gives you strength to resist Satan's attacks. "A soul high in communion with God may be tempted, but will not easily be conquered. Such a soul will fight it out to the death." Take full advantage of God's means of grace.
9. **Do Not Engage Satan In Your Own Strength.** You need to draw the power, and even the desire, to resist sin from Jesus Christ and you need to do this every day. "Certainly that soul that engages against any old or new temptation without new strength, new influences from on high, will fall before the power of new temptation." Commune with God, be on guard, be humble— do all of these things! But do not rely on them in the battle; instead, rely on Christ.
10. **Pray Constantly.** "Prayer is a shelter to the soul, a sacrifice to God and a scourge to the devil." So pray and pray constantly. Tell God of your own inability to detect and respond to temptation; tell him that you are utterly dependent upon his grace; tell God that Christ's blood has been applied to you; tell God that you are his child; ask God to deliver you from temptation for the glory of his name.

Tim Challies is a pastor of Grace Fellowship Church, Toronto Canada and a well known author, blogger and conference speaker. He is married to Aileen and they have three children.

He blogs at: www.challies.com.



PRAYER POINTS

- 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 the Presbytery of South Australia, Davo Gunning Moderator, Gary Ware Clerk.
- Pray for the Adelaide Church; Davo Gunning, David Tsai; elders and congregations.
- Pray for persecuted Christians throughout the world.
- 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.
- Praise God, that in His mercy 5,000 additional Nuer Bibles are now in the hands of our brothers and sisters in the refugee camps in Ethiopia. Please pray that as the Word of God is read it will make a tremendous impact on both individuals and communities
- Pray for goodwill, hope and compassion of all who bear responsibilities in government - Commonwealth, State, Territory - together with local authorities to address the issues we have as a nation.
- Pray for the Whyalla Charge; elders and congregation.
- 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 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 wisdom for APWM as it works with various partners in assisting Ukrainians who are suffering in Ukraine and Ukrainian refugees throughout Europe.
- Praise God for the large number of partnerships that the Presbyterian Church of Australia has with various evangelical mission agencies. Please pray the God will raise up people to serve in Europe to assist with Gospel outreach.
- Pray for people living in remote and rural parts of South Australia with little access to the gospel. Pray for PIM and the churches in SA to find effective ways to make disciples amongst these people.
- Intercede for the Defence and Police forces and all emergency services.

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 September 2022 issue are to be in my hands **no later than 5.00pm Monday, 15th August 2022.**

Editor: Lucinda Johnson

Email: pcsanews@bigpond.com

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