



SA NEWS

Newsletter of the Presbytery of South Australia

Issue 58 June 2023

Saved From... To...

When God's people were suffering oppression from Pharaoh and the Egyptians in the book of Exodus, God saved his people from slavery and delivered them to 40 years of wandering in the desert. Plenty have considered (the Israelites included) whether or not Egypt was better than their newfound "freedom". But in their deliverance from slavery, God was teaching his people about obedience, providence and patience. In feeding His people with manna, God showed them He would provide. In providing the law, God taught them about righteousness. In making them take the scenic route, God taught them about patience. Salvation was not merely **from** slavery, but **to** the wilderness.

Often, we consider what we have been saved **from** but not what we are saved **to**. Keen to celebrate freedom from but not consider what we have been called to do.

Paul reminds us in the book of Romans that those found in Christ have been freed **from** slavery to sin and have become slaves **to** righteousness (6:18). Whilst that might not sound like much of a trade, what is God teaching us through our own spiritual wilderness?

As we serve the risen Lord Jesus, in faith, we are shackled to the one who laid down his life to reconcile us to God the Father. This is immensely more valuable than that which we've been saved **from**.

As a prisoner for the Lord, Paul urges the Ephesian church (slaves to righteousness), to live a life worthy of the calling they had received (4:1). To embrace what God had called them **to**.

God has called you away **from** sin... but consider what has he called you **to**.

Davo Gunning

Adelaide Presbyterian Church

Seacliff Congregation

In the last few months since David Tsai finished his 12 month appointment our growth group has been studying the first chapter of Mark using YouTube screening from Norwood. Davo has been preaching, highlighting Mark reporting the things Jesus did that declared he was God and the focus Jesus put on telling the good news.

We have been encouraged that several visitors have attended recent services.

In between services and growth group, we have been getting rid of the clutter inside the buildings and pruning the garden. Heather Blunt has a great skill in selling old furniture.

The awning in the fellowship room has been removed with a view to replacing it with a clear sheet.

Recently we celebrated the life of Keith Bowkett in a memorial service after his recent passing.

We are all looking forward to Josiah Wilson's visit with a view to taking a 3 year appointment to be our next pastor. Pray that it will be so. He will be preaching at Seacliff for two Sundays, 21st and 28th of May. He will be accompanied by wife Elizabeth (Bloss) and daughter.

Elder, Ian Gossip

Mount Gambier

During May our Care and Concern Committee held a wonderful afternoon tea for the Seniors in our congregation. This was a lovely afternoon enjoyed by all. Below is a photo of everyone enjoying the afternoon.

On 14th May, we welcomed five new members to our congregation who have been worshipping with us for some time.

We celebrated Gary Ware's 60th Birthday on Sunday 5th June, with a cake and the singing of Happy Birthday during morning tea fellowship, after our morning worship service.



Naracoorte

Greetings in the name of our Lord,

A presentation was made to our organist, Mrs Jean Bunnik on 26th March by our Interim Moderator, Rev Gary Ware, Session Clerk Stuart McLean and his wife Julie. A Certificate of Appreciation and a small gift were presented to Jean.

Jean has been a faithful contributor to the church music for many years, and has been the sole organist since 2004.



From Left: Julie McLean, Rev Gary Ware, Jean Bunnik and Stuart McLean

Recently we celebrated special milestone birthdays during our fellowship morning teas. In March we celebrated Ms Vivian Reschke's 80th birthday and on 23rd April we celebrated Elder Malcolm McLean's



Elder Malcolm McLean with his 80th birthday cake.

80th birthday, then 2 weeks later we celebrated Tracey William's 60th birthday.

On the 31st March eleven ladies from the church shared a fellowship lunch at the Apsley Café. Apsley is a small town just over the border in Victoria. It is a town where many services have been closed down, but late last year the café reopened, so it was a natural choice for the ladies, to be a witness and in the interest of supporting local businesses, especially in small towns.

"I will give them a heart to know me, that I am the Lord. They will be my people and I will be their God, for they will return to me with all their heart."
Jeremiah 24:7

Pat Leitch

ANZAC Day Service

In April, Colin and Alison Morrow from PIM's Mungo Patrol had the privilege of travelling to Beltana, South Australia, to conduct their ANZAC Day dawn service.

The outback town of Beltana is where John Flynn was ministering at the Smith of Dunesk Mission in 1911-1912 when he wrote his report to the Presbyterian Church of Australia regarding the need for outback ministry. His report was presented to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in 1912 and resulted in the formation of Australian Inland Mission, now continuing as Presbyterian Inland Mission.

Colin and Alison were able to organise the service with the invaluable aid of Jan Ferguson, OAM, from the Beltana Progress Association. Jan put in a huge effort in the lead up to ANZAC Day and the small Beltana community rallied to the cause to make the day a success.

The service began as the sun was making an appearance over the horizon at 6:30 am. There were around 50 people in attendance (not bad for a town with a population of 26!). People had travelled from many places to attend. We were able to read from Scripture, sing hymns, pray and the Gospel was presented. Members of the community laid a wreath and raised the flags from half-mast. The traditional Last Post and Reveille were played and the Ode of Remembrance recited. The service finished as all present joined in singing the Australian National Anthem.

Although the music used during the ANZAC service was pre-recorded, following the service John O'Dea entertained those present with live music and song.



Colin and Alison outside original Smith of Dunesk Mission



Colin and Leon, who travelled from Adelaide for the service



Enjoying breakfast following the service

Following the service, the Beltana Progress Association had organised a breakfast in Beltana's Assembly Hall. We were able to share with people from the local area, from Adelaide, from interstate and from overseas. There were many stories to be shared and PIM were made welcome.

Although it is a long time since John Flynn was in Beltana, it is a joy to know that there are still opportunities to share the Gospel. Let us pray that the Lord will work in the hearts of those present on ANZAC Day and with the people with whom we shared.



Timor Leste: Christ is building His church



Members of the Samaria congregation with Chris & Julie Dean

Christ continues to build his Church, and that is certainly the case with our partner in Timor Leste—the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. Over the last 10 years it has been a joy to see this church grow in its vision and capacity.

Ninety percent of East Timorese are Roman Catholic and so many do not often welcome the work of the Presbyterian Church, and yet the church continues to bear witness to Christ — often in far-flung places.

Kevin Murray and Robert Duncanson (Grace Presbyterian Church, Ballarat) recently travelled to Timor Leste for discussions with the church leadership about the resources they need to carry out their ministry.

Working with the church are Chris & Julie Dean, who have made great progress in language and relationships. Chris and Julie were previously in parish ministry in Warragul, Victoria.

The trip was also an opportunity to visit outlying congregations that can take anywhere from two to ten hours to reach in a four-wheel drive vehicle on unsealed roads. The fact that we are interested in this church encourages its members to be faithful in a culture where the gospel and local culture easily collide.

Please keep praying that the gospel might take a firm hold in Timor Leste. If you would like to support this ministry so that it can expand, then please contact our office.

From the Rising of the Son



Jenny Kelly interviewing Kayleen Manton



Condobolin Church, Sunday Morning

'From the Rising of the Son' — that was theme for a recent teaching weekend at Condobolin Presbyterian Church. The speakers for the weekend were APWM missionaries Rick and Kayleen Manton. Neville & Kathie Naden from the Bush Church Aid Society and the Aboriginal Evangelical Fellowship were also present. (Rick and Neville are both on the National board of the Aboriginal Evangelical Fellowship.) Kayleen spoke at an all-day ladies meeting, teaching from Philippians 1 and 2. In the afternoon Neville led a bible discussion for men on Philippians 1.

Over 60 ladies came from Gilgandra, Dubbo, Narromine, Eugowra, Parkes,

Trundle, Lake Cargelligo, along with ladies from most of the local churches. The response? People simply loved it!

On Sunday Rick preached from 2 Timothy 4:1- 8 using the theme 'Faithful to the End'. This drew even more local visitors! It was a good opportunity to hear about Indigenous ministry and some of the opportunities and challenges in a totally mixed gathering of indigenous and non-indigenous people.

Rick and Kayleen's ministry is currently underfunded. If you'd like to join their support team then please email finance@apwm.org.au or phone (02) 8073 7490.

Contact

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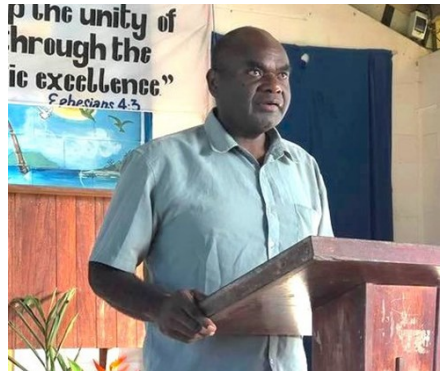
www.apwm.org.au facebook.com/AustralianPresbyterianWorldMission/

Talua Principal lawak now with Christ

It is with profound sadness that APWM reports the sudden death on 21st April, of Pastor Christopher lawak, Principal of the Talua Theological Training Institute in Vanuatu.

He was a husband to Napip, a father, and friend to many. We mourn the loss of this godly leader who loved the Lord Jesus and the gospel. In recent days he was excited at the project to install solar power at Talua because of the way in which that would help Talua grow in its mission.

While we mourn and struggle with this development, we remain confident that God is at work even through this. Please uphold his family and the Talua community in prayer.



Supporting Matt & Kate Vinicombe



We praise God for the many people who have donated toward the purchase of a house for Matt & Kate Vinicombe following their serious car accident on Christmas Day. Our goal is to raise \$800,000.

If you would still like to make a donation there are two ways to do so:

Card

Online via their mission agency, the Church Missionary Society

<https://donate.cms.org.au/vinicombemk>

Direct Deposit

Bank: Westpac

Account name: CMS Victoria BSB: 033-112

Account number: 280677

Reference: Your first name initial and surname (e.g., J Citizen); missionary surname (Vinicombes)

And please send an email to CMS so a receipt can be sent to you.

vic@cms.org.au



Camping at New Dunesk



What's on at New Dunesk in 2023

Just 2km south of the New South Wales Riverina town of Ardlethan sits New Dunesk - a place to inspire, equip and send out God's people for Gospel work across Australia. As well as being the home of the Presbyterian Inland Mission, New Dunesk is also a place for the whole church, with a variety of events being run throughout the year that you can be involved in.

Take a look at our calendar of events for 2023, and consider getting involved:

Father Son Weekend 14-16 July 2023

Fathers and sons* are invited to attend this adventure filled camping weekend at New Dunesk. The event includes spectating the Australian Can Shooting Championships in Ardlethan, plus further talks on firearm safety, bonfire devotions and Sunday worship. *Mothers and daughters are also welcome to attend!

Ministers Preaching Workshop 22-24 August 2023

This four day workshop intended for ministers and regularly preaching elders focuses on developing preaching skills. Presented by David Cook from the Expository Preaching Trust.

Nomads Network training August 2023 – Dates to follow

The PIM Nomads Network encourages and equips participants to use their Nomad travels for God's glory. Planning is underway for an evangelism training and networking weekend in August 2023. Register your interest to receive further details as they become available.

Discipleship Training Workshop September 2023 - Dates to follow

A four day workshop for anyone who is eager to learn how to disciple others while also growing in your own faith as a disciple of Jesus.

Camper Trailer Muster October School Holidays 2023

An opportunity for travelling families to come together, meet other people and be encouraged by the Gospel. Includes a number of evangelism focused talks, with sessions for both adults and children.

For further details on each of these events, please visit pim.org.au/new-dunesk.

To register your interest for a particular event, and to ensure you receive further information as it becomes available, please email ceo@pim.org.au or call 0438 868 964.

New Dunesk has something for everyone. Take a walk up the ridgeline track to see the sunrise, choose a book from the O'Brien library to read under the gumtrees, test your driving skills on the 4wd track, or relax by the fire with your fellow campers. The 600 acre property is also fully equipped with a powered conference centre, campground, camp kitchen and toilets.

Is your church, youth group or conference looking for a location to hold your 2023 camp? New Dunesk may be the perfect fit. To discuss this opportunity further, please contact the New Dunesk Manager Paul on 0493294798 or email newdunesk@pim.org.au.



— *worth driving for* —

Karnkendi Campsite

Goings on at the “Camp” are almost back to normal! There have been some reductions in group sizes due to the virus doing a few laps of the community but it is lovely for the facility to provide a place of fellowship and worship for those who are able to come to Nelson.

After what turned out to be the busiest January I can remember, we had a quiet February with local Allendale East Area School coming in for a night and following day to enjoy a combined classes outing.

Early March had a rapidly growing Church group from Nhill heading our way but this was cancelled a week prior but is going ahead at a later date. The 17th -19th saw the “Young Adults” from the Jubilee Christian centre organize their long weekend at Karnkendi with 16 of their youth group enjoying a great time in the Lord’s grace inspired with guest speakers.

Tenison Woods Catholic College from Mount Gambier finally broke free of the pandemics restraints after a two year break and held a very successful Senior Music Camp with approximately 40 students and staff, for the last time the Nelson Church was a hive of activity with band practice over two days prior to the approaching sale.

Easter in April saw our regular large Thai Family fellowship group from Melbourne return to enjoy Nelson and the local “pipi’s (cockles).

Late April saw a new user group from Millicent come with a small group of teenagers for a Well Being camp which went so well they have inquired about a 4 day stay in mid July.

The end of April had the start of the Melbourne based Beacons Hills Christian College Year 9 running their outdoors “Explorer” programme in the Lower Glenelg National park and on the Great South West walk. This kicked off in a big way with tents going up and staff bringing in what seemed like tonnes of food for their time with us that ends on the 8th of June.

We had to evict them briefly for the fantastic return of “Generations in Jazz” as they left at 9 am on the 5th of May with the 75+ Ringwood Secondary College fast approaching at 3.30pm. This saw all hands on deck with good friend Tanya roped in to clean and do the 5.30 am starts to help with breakfast. An overflow of that food from Beacons Hills saw us use this to feed Ringwood Secondary, the Lord never stops providing!

We just received the news that two of Ringwood Secondary students have been selected to join and tour with GIJ Superband which is great news for them.

It is just a tremendous event that truly enriches the lives of so many young adults not to mention the boost to the local economy!

Following the month long stay by Beacons Hills the 10-12th June long weekend sees the long time users of the camp the Richardson family from Koroit and Warrnambool area in, followed by my Dad’s “Old Time Music” weekend from the

16-18th which is gaining some momentum with lots of folk ringing to book rooms and ask about the event. Finally the 29-30th of June has Tenison Woods Catholic College bring in their Juniors for the 2023 music camp which will see a new Portland based catering company help out.

Around the camp we have put the finishing touches on our 5000 GI tank base with a load of red river pebbles, another lovely load of firewood thanks to John and Carolyn Lambert and tidy up of bordering trees.

We have made a small start on plans to completely revamp the kitchen sink area and cupboards which will be well received by those that cater.

As always if you would like to head Nelson way, even in winter, please give Heather a call on 0448 871 225 to book a group or family getaway in.

God bless,

Harvey and Heather McBain
Karnkendi Caretakers



Generations In Jazz breakfast



Final tank base work

Words to think about

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

— J. Scott Lindsay
Senior Pastor, South Baton Rouge Presbyterian Church,
Baton Rouge, Louisiana, USA.

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 & Megan Gunning; 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.
- 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 Wattle Range Charge; elders and congregations.
- Pray for the situation in Ukraine and pray for a peaceful solution and outcome.
- Pray for 'M' serving in West Asia.
- 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.
- Praise God for the large number of partnerships that the Presbyterian Church of Australia has with various evangelical mission agencies. Please pray that 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.
- Pray for the Karnkendi campsite. Harvey & Heather McBain; all those who stay there.
- Please uphold Pastor Christopher lawak's family and the Talua Community in prayer at this time.

Editor's Note

Thank you to all who have contributed items for this issue of SA News they are all very much appreciated. It would be lovely if there were articles from more of our churches in the State. **Please consider** being the representative for your church to send in an article for SA News. Articles can be sent to the email address below by the due date every quarter (months to send in articles are by the 15th of February, May, August, November). Contributions for the September 2023 issue are to be in my hands **no later than 5.00pm Monday, 21st August 2023.**

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