



# SA News

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Newsletter of the Presbyterian Church of South Australia



## YOU WILL TELL EVERYONE!

What can God do through a bunch of freezing believers on a foggy morning in the middle of nowhere in a foreign land? This was the kind of question some of the team members asked in the first week of January this year. They included a bunch of Presbyterians from four different States, come together on the **Proshikkhon** short term mission. Like Australia, over there more than 9 of 10 people don't believe in Jesus as their Lord.

Some asked: "Is God really at work in this?" Others queried: "Can God use me in this situation?" Now you may also be asking, "How can I be a good witness here?"

If you take Jesus' final words seriously (Acts 1:8), then He promises you all the power you need. But will that power flow through you? Some say, "In Acts 1:8 Jesus is only referring to those with a gift for witnessing." Is that how you read that verse? One (unauthorised) paraphrase says, "When God gives you His Spirit, you'll tell everyone about me. You'll be unstoppable." Is that translation accurate? Some say, "Jesus is only speaking to His 12 apostles in that verse." Is that your take on it? Of what use is the Holy Spirit to ordinary believers?

Jesus said, "You will be my witnesses, beginning here in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, in Samaria and to the ends of the earth." Some say, "Exactly. Our Jerusalem is right here." But did Jesus say, "Stay in your Jerusalem?" No there is 'all Judea'! Don't forget Samaria and don't stop there as the gospel must go to the ends of the earth.

Some say, "I don't know enough to be an effective witness." The blind man in John 9 could teach us a lesson or two. He didn't know much, but said to the religious leaders, "**One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!**"

Jesus said, "You'll tell everyone about me." One way to do that is by telling a Bible story. Do that and you tell people about Jesus! As you tell, joy comes with God's power working in a community. Once we tell people what more can we do? Not much as God's Spirit does the work through His Word to convict and convince. It's not rocket science.

Are you willing to tell people about God working in you, through you? Share your story? If you know only one thing, it must be this: what Jesus did for you! And then tell an easy to remember Bible story or two.

We learned on **Proshikkhon** that even on cold foggy mornings we can, and must tell everyone. And as we prayerfully do that we can trust the rest to God.

*Robert Finster*

## Ladies Weekender 2011

A group of 20+ ladies from various Presbyterian churches in Victoria and south-east South Australia gathered on Friday, 18th March to start a weekend of teaching and fellowship at Karnkendi campsite, Nelson.



The main speaker, Dr Mairi Harman gave three talks from Philippians chapter 3 titled "Walking with the Lord", "Pressing on" and "Towards the Goal". As the theme this year was "Walking with the Lord" the theme song was "When we walk with the Lord..."

Mrs Pat Leitch from Naracoorte Presbyterian church, spoke on the Saturday afternoon about her trip to the Missionary Training Institute in South Korea where she helped prospective missionary students acquire and improve their English language skills. She is intending to return to help further in this work.

Extra ladies came on Saturday to hear Mairi's second talk, enjoy a Glenelg river cruise and hear Pat's talk, so it was lovely to be joined by all the extra ladies from South East South Australia and South West Victoria. A Devonshire afternoon tea was served by the crew of the Endeavour as part of our cruise.

On Saturday evening, after a time of singing, Heather Touzel shared her walk with breast cancer last year and then Pat Leitch showed some extra photos and stories from South Korea.

The Committee have had a meeting since the camp, as a sort of debrief, to discuss and book a date for 2012 and who to contact as a prospective guest speaker.



*Heather Touzel and Barbara Provis*



## Largs North

Following a busy and blessed Easter, we commenced our latest evangelistic outreach.

This we call 'Share a lunch together' (SALT). We have distributed leaflets, knocked on doors and invited our friends and neighbours.

SALT meetings are designed to attract lonely and needy people. Our purpose is to initially befriend them, then invite them to join our church life.

The format of SALT includes presentations from local social agencies and authorities, speaking on social and domestic issues. Our first presentation was from a Police Officer who spoke on Crime prevention and Neighbourhood Watch. This encouraged many questions and helpful answers were given. Our future presentations will be speakers on: - Coping with diabetes, Health and safety at home, Centre-link pensions and rights, the realities of Cancer, St. Johns Ambulance on First aid. After the presentation, there is a time of singing old well loved songs. This is followed by a free lunch together. The meeting takes place on the last Friday of the month 11am – 1.30 pm.

Our first SALT meeting went well, and our new friends all agreed this was a worthwhile and enjoyable time, and wished to come next time.

*Raymond Brewer*

## Mount Gambier

The Allendale congregation met for its 145th anniversary and final service at 2.00pm on Sunday 6th March. The congregation, which comfortably filled the church building for the occasion, gave thanks to the Lord for 145 years of worship and gospel witness and heard Gary Ware preach a gospel centred message from John chapter 4. Afterwards a time of fellowship over afternoon tea was held at the Allendale East Hall.

Five of our young people: Anesu and Vimbiso Choidze, Francis and Roland Touzel and Robert Ware attended the youth camp at "Karnkendi", Nelson on 18th-20th April and hosted by the Presbytery of Kilnoorat (this presbytery is the regional governing council for our sister churches in South West Victoria). Luke McSeveny from Geelong gave four Bible talks on the life of Joseph. Activities included games and a boat trip up the Glenelg River to visit the Princess Margaret Rose Cave.

Scripture Union again held an Easter camp at "Tarooki", Robe for youth from the South East. A number of our young people took part in the camp: Grace and Daniel Mattila, Francis and Roland Touzel, Robert and Rachel Ware and Anne Zwijnenburg. Andrew Klynsmith, the Director of Ministry at New Creation Teaching Ministry, Adelaide, gave talks on the gospel and evangelism.

*Ian Touzel*

## Mount Barker

What has happened in the last three months with St. Andrews folk in Mount Barker? Recently we adopted a motto seeking to keep us focused on what is important for now and the future. **‘Learn’, ‘Teach’ and ‘Reach’**.

**Do we learn?** We can because Jesus invites everyone to put aside getting burnt out on religious rules or from heavy hearts and learn from Him. At the conclusion of our Wednesday morning and evening Studies of Revelation or Ruth the learners are refreshed and encouraged through studies. Every Lord’s Day worshippers learn through the preaching more about the power of God and the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Some men at a recent monthly ‘Breakfast for Blokes’ learnt from Juli Bednall who is Chairperson for the Genesis Pregnancy Support Inc. She said, ‘This is the first men’s’ group she had ever addressed!’ We learned there are ways to help young girls and other women who face the decision and pressure to have an abortion.

**What about teaching?** St. Andrews congregation recently said ‘yes, we need teachers!’ A new Elder, Ray McGroarty will take on the task of teaching others everything Jesus commanded in the tradition of Jesus first disciples. Rev. Stefan Slucki officiated and gladly acknowledged on the 8<sup>th</sup> of May the congregations desire for Ray to be ordained and inducted to that office alongside the Pastor. Ray has been keen to encourage prayer and Bible Studies and a regular prayer meeting has commenced at 6 am on Fridays.



Abraham (left) sold out of the Borwors (South African) sausage in a roll.



May 7<sup>th</sup> was a fine day for a Garage Sale to support the building of toilets.

**Reaching others for the Lord, some say, is hard. Is it too hard for everyone?** On Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> May in the church grounds we held our regular garage sale. People come for a bargain or a Waterless Car Wash or even some produce from the ladies table. One man thought there was no future for him after being disgusted



Kris and Chloe finishing a car with Eco friendly Waterless Car Wash.

previously by five other churches. He said later, *“those people were the friendliest bunch I have met.”* Talking to others in the community is one step to reaching others. As we worked together, some did show interest to learn from Jesus and about Jesus. We hope to report more in three months time!

*Robert Finster*

## Nero In Beijing — The Communist Party Declares War On Christians

The news out of China grows worse as reports of the arrest, detention, harassment, and beatings of Christians come from across China. The most publicized case thus far is the repeated oppression against a Beijing congregation that has led to numerous arrests and a crackdown within China's capital.

In a very important editorial statement, The Wall Street Journal's editorial board set the record straight. "Religious persecution is always abhorrent, but in this case it's also a political blunder," the paper stated.

Further:

*The incident is a microcosm of the wider problems caused by China's crackdown. Beijing insists it wants to promote a harmonious and stable society. Yet by arresting prominent activists for no apparent reason, the security forces are doing the opposite: Those who were once content to live quietly with the Party's restrictions on free expression are now compelled to speak out.*

Observers warn that China is sending the signal that it will not allow the eruption of protests like those that have spread throughout the Middle East and North Africa.

There is more to it, of course. Central to this crackdown is the paranoia of the Communist Party. One of the hallmarks of democratic societies is the existence of thriving "mediating institutions" between the individual and the brute power of the state. In the United States, these mediating institutions include everything from the PTA to your local church and the neighbourhood reading club.

One dimension of the Communist Party's idolatry is that it allows no mediating institutions between its power and the individual. It greatly fears these organizations, especially the church.

One reason — Christians in China now outnumber members of the Communist Party.

China's strategy was detailed by the paper's editorial:

*This may come as a surprise to some in the West. Until recently, Beijing had played a skillful game of applying the screws just enough to keep everybody in line while easing state control over most aspects of people's lives, including employment, choice of a spouse, housing, religion and even the ability to criticize the government in limited terms. International human rights advocates had to admit that most Chinese enjoyed greater freedom than ever before, and many foreigners downplayed arrests of dissidents as aberrations against a general trend of liberalization.*

In other words, "those who doubted the Communist Party's sincerity were right all along."

Albert Mohler — [www.albertmohler.com](http://www.albertmohler.com)

## Seacliff

### A New Generation



With mum, Kirsten, dad, Bart, grandma Sue and brother Jack Merrall, the Seacliff church family welcomed

news of baby Thomas Dylan's birth into the world on 1<sup>st</sup> March.

Shortly afterwards, we farewelled the Campbell family, all six of them, as they moved to New Zealand to begin the next phase of their lives over there.

### Regenerating the Congregation's Life

In February Stefan took *study leave* and attended the "Trellis and Vine" workshop, in Melbourne, addressed by the book's author, Colin Marshall. He gained insights well worth learning for himself and to pass on to others!

The book is easy to read and its lessons well worth implementing.

It reminded him of the question the psychiatrist asked his counsellor: how many counselees does it take to change a light bulb? Answer, only one but the light bulb has got to want to be changed.

**Think about that.**

*Stefan Slucki*

The New Testament preaches a Christ who was dead and is alive, not a Christ who was alive and is dead.

*James Denney*

## Whyalla

Greetings in the name of the Lord. It is always excellent when we get to hear news from the grandchildren of our congregation – what they are doing and how their lives have progressed. We shared this recently with Lachlan and Claire Robertson when they returned for a visit. More recently we have been receiving news from the Granddaughter of one of our very long serving members of our congregation, Tom McSeveney. Jayde McSeveney,



Tom's granddaughter, has been working with the orphans in one of the provinces in Tanzania. Apart from her own donations, she helped to raise



money for equipment, chickens, a goat and a pregnant cow. Jayde is home on leave at the moment but hopes to go back in July for a while before returning to Australia then going off for a longer spell in September. Reading her writing and seeing the photographs brings home just how fortunate we are here in Australia.

In mid-March we held a games night in the James Harris hall. This was attended by over 30 members, family and friends. We are currently organizing a Quiz Night for later on in May, which promises to be a good night of fellowship.

Also in March, the Congregation held the Annual General Meeting. Of the four positions available three were re-elected and one was elected for the first time. Illness has continued to be a concern to some members of the congregation and we continually uphold them in our prayers. Our services over Easter were well attended, which was very pleasing and in early May the Rev. John Watson conducted a Communion Service. Mr. Watson has been in Whyalla several times and it was good to see him again. After the service the Rev. and Mrs. Watson joined the congregation for lunch and fellowship in the James Harris Hall. Also in May we received notification that one of our former members had passed away in a Nursing Home in Queensland. Mrs. Vivian Hyland had served the Whyalla Church for many years before the onset of Alzheimer's disease curtailed her movements and prompted her family to take her to be with them in Queensland. She was 92. On the

good news front we heard that one of our former Sunday School "Children" was about to get married.

The elders continue to take responsibility, under the guidance of the Moderator, for the week to week running of the church and the regular meetings. The congregation are in good heart and excellent spirits as they continue to work as a family of God's people to accomplish all that we believe God wants us to do in this place.

*John McVey*

## **Wattle Range Charge Millicent**

To all the churches, the congregation of St Andrews Millicent send their greetings.

Our minister Rev Don Broadwater and his wife Gloria have finally arrived to minister to the Wattle Range Charge. With the Penola folk, we have been busy preparing a home for them. A big "Thankyou" to all who willingly helped and donated. Rev Broadwater also gave the address at the service on Good Friday.

Previously our Elders conducted an excellent Harvest Thanksgiving Service with fellowship following, and the sale of fruit, flowers, vegies, cakes, jams & preserves and home made bread.

Some of our ladies attended and took part in World Day of Prayer which was held in the Anglican Church this year.

A Bible Society Morning Coffee

was held in our hall in March, which raised a good sum for the purchase of Bibles.

Now and again we have travellers dropping in for worship and recently we welcomed a young family of Father, Mother and 4 children, who were travelling around Australia. We had lovely fellowship with them over morning tea. Actually they were Baptist, but couldn't find the Baptist Church.

We regularly remember in our prayers all those who have suffered and lost loved ones in the many recent disasters. We pray that they have the courage to cope with their losses. We find it hard to imagine what it must be like, while we are here in our corner of "God's country".

There was a Choral Festival in Millicent recently which was a great success. We were privileged to have a guest soloist, Mr Ralph Hatcher, at our service. He sang "Thanks Be To God" and "Bless This House" which were enjoyed by all.

Our organist, Sue Pappin, is back again, with good reports about her health for which we are all thankful.

*Thelma Thomas*

## **Penola**

The Ladies Presbytery Social Day was held at Provis' place on 10<sup>th</sup> March. Eighteen members attended from Naracoorte, Mount Gambier and Penola. Although it was quite cool and windy, the ladies ventured a trip around the garden and joined in with a couple of competitions before partaking of a delicious pooled lunch. Elspeth Norman from Naracoorte and Heather Touzel from Mount Gambier were the recipients of a lovely pot plant kindly donated by Kath Malcolm, as winners of the competitions.

'Shedmen' was held at Provis' on 17<sup>th</sup> March.

We were saddened by the passing of Peggy Thorn's husband Jim, on 21<sup>st</sup> March. The Church ladies catered for the funeral on the 25<sup>th</sup> at her daughter's home.

We held our Harvest Thanksgiving Service on 27<sup>th</sup> March and auctioned the goods the next night. Although only about 22 people attended, we managed to raise almost \$800, this included several donations too.

PWA met at Peggy Thorn's home in April for an Easter Bible Study.

We went to Melbourne to pick up Don and Gloria Broadwater from the plane on the 18<sup>th</sup> April and delivered them to their new home in Millicent. Don volunteered to present the sermon in Millicent on Good Friday and in Penola on Easter Sunday despite 'jetlag'. Elder Neil McLean conducted the rest of the

service. Elder Brendan Provis conducted the service on Good Friday in Penola.

The Service of Worship for the Induction of Rev Donald Andrew Broadwater to the Pastorate of the Wattle Range Presbyterian Charge was held in St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Penola on Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> May 2011 at 7.00 pm. The service was conducted by the Moderator, Rev Ian Touzel and Don



presented the sermon about Paul's Mission Statement from 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8. Approximately 75 people attended the service. After the service, supper was held in the hall where several people welcomed Don and Gloria on behalf of organisations and other churches.

Photo L to R: Alan Thompson, Millicent; Brendan Provis, Penola; Rev Don & Gloria Broadwater; Rev Ian Touzel.

*Barbara Provis*

## **Book Review**

### **Tempted and Tried by Russell Moore**

Some people are incredible writers but have little to say. Others have great substance but are boring as all get out to read. Russell Moore is that rare author whose skills as a writer are matched by his theological and biblical substance. He both engages your imagination and stretches you intellectually. This man knows the Bible and he teaches it in a way that pierces the heart. Russell will not only make you think, he will make you think more biblically—an activity that is more dangerous and subversive than you would imagine. If you're struggling with sin in some form, you might assume that reading a book called *Tempted and Tried* would be a depressing reminder of all your failings. But that is not what this book is. It is realistic and honest about sin and evil, but more than anything it gloriously sets forth Jesus as the devil-smashing Victor that he is. It will give you hope. It will give you courage to press on. It will stir your heart to keep battling temptation in the confidence of Christ's victory. I highly recommend it.

Joshua Harris

[http://www.joshharris.com/2011/03/tempted\\_tried\\_by\\_russell\\_d\\_moo.php](http://www.joshharris.com/2011/03/tempted_tried_by_russell_d_moo.php)

Available from:  
[www.koorongbooks.com](http://www.koorongbooks.com) for \$14.95

## Britain Is No Longer A Free Society

Bishop Michael Nazir-Ali has warned that Britain is no longer a free society where conscience is respected.

Speaking at the Christian Broadcasting Council's annual conference, the former Bishop of Rochester said that, instead, a secular ideology was "seeking to impose its views on us".

Bishop Nazir-Ali said that without the recovery of the Judaeo-Christian discourse and the recognition of the Bible's value, the Big Society would not work:

*"There will be no Big Society unless there is a big story that unifies people and gives them a sense of the past and of destiny."*

Bishop Nazir-Ali said it would be "tragic" if Britain were to abandon the Judaeo-Christian story of the Bible and fall into a moral and spiritual vacuum, or become prey to an Islamic political and religious system:

*"We must recover the Judeo-Christian story as a way of recovering the nation's past and story but also as a way of making legislative decisions. There is hardly any piece of legislation that comes to Parliament which does not have a moral or spiritual aspect."*

Bishop Nazir-Ali also warned that a secular worldview was undermining absolute respect for human life and amounted to an attack on the unborn child, the ill, the disabled, the elderly and the family.

He added that Britain has also abandoned the public doctrine of marriage and will go further and further away from any normative position on marriage.

[www.barnabasfund.org](http://www.barnabasfund.org)



### *Hmm!*

Christian exultation in God begins with the shamefaced recognition that we have no claim on him at all, continues with wondering worship that while we were still sinners and enemies Christ died for us, and ends with the humble confidence that he will complete the work he has begun. So to exult in God is to rejoice not in our privileges but in his mercies, not in our possession of him but in his of us.

*John Stott, The Message of Romans (InterVarsity Press, 1994),  
pages 147-48*

Let us not seek any other ground of assurance than God's own testimony. *John Calvin*

Assurance is our reaction to the gift of salvation and our reflection on our trust in Christ.

*Sinclair Ferguson*

## Naracoorte

The annual Trash2Treasure was held on 16<sup>th</sup> April where various stalls were held in the Hall, the most popular being the Cake and Produce stall. Many visitors come for the home baked goodies which are always popular. Many ute and trailer loads of wood were auctioned as part of the general auction and participants enjoyed the morning tea and BBQ.

Congratulations to Mark and Andrea Bucket on the birth of James Angus on 30<sup>th</sup> April weighing in at 7 lb 8 oz. It was lovely to see Andrea and James at church on 8<sup>th</sup> May, Andrea's first Mothers' Day.

The Naracoorte Parish is once again 'vacant' so we ask you to pray for our parish:

### Prayer Points:

Please pray for St Andrews congregation, Elders and Interim Moderator, Rev Gary Ware.

Pray that God would raise up a man to come to Naracoorte to preach and teach His Holy word.

Pray that our congregation would remain faithful during this time and that we would faithfully pray for God's man to come to St Andrews.

We thank you in the precious name of Jesus.

*Pat Leitch*



## Oxygen programme full of Piper



The program for Oxygen 11, The National Pastors' and Leaders' Conference has been released, revealing John Piper will speak five times during the three day conference.

John Piper will open the Scriptures and inspire and refresh pastors from across Australia at the morning and evening sessions of Oxygen 11.

Fellow speaker, John Lennox will speak once each morning and then take the microphone for an optional question and answer session each afternoon.

For Australia's Christian leaders - paid and volunteer, full-time and part-time. Bible study group leaders, youth group leaders, children's ministry leaders, service leaders, lay leaders, elders, wardens, those studying and training for full-time gospel work, and of course pastors.

Speakers: John Piper and John Lennox  
Monday 29 – Wednesday 31 August 2011  
Australian Technology Park, Sydney  
Interstate discounts and free billeting provided.  
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## PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for the Naracoorte congregation, elders and Interim Moderator Rev Gary Ware, that God would raise up a man to come to Naracoorte.
- Just relations between the original, newer and the most recently arrived Australians.
- Federal Government: Prime Minister Julia Gillard; Leader of the Opposition Tony Abbott.
- Pray for the Interim Moderator, elders, congregation and filling of the vacancy in the Elizabeth charge.
- Your parliamentary representatives, federal and state.
- For the planning already underway for next year's Ladies Weekender.
- Praise and thank God for the safe arrival of Don & Gloria Broadwater to the Wattle Range Charge.
- Pray for the towns and cities of South Australia, for the people in them who do not know Christ. Pray that the light of Christ will shine through us.
- Pray for specific people to be converted.
- Pray for restoration to full health for Don Broadwater.
- John & Lynette Ellis, missionaries in Dehra Dun, India. Give thanks to God and pray for :
  - Their health and energy day by day.
  - Their understanding of staff and students of various cultures.
  - For unity among teachers, staff and students from varied backgrounds and culture.
  - The development of qualified Indian teachers.
  - That teaching and training will truly equip students for life and work as Christian leaders both men and women.
  - Good Shepherd Sunday Services: for God's blessing on his people.
  - Their visa application in June.
- Pray for Pat Leitch as she prepares for another visit to South Korea.
- Pray for Ian Touzel South Australian Moderator, Brian Johnson clerk, all convenors and committees as they implement the decisions of the state Assembly held during May at Mount Gambier and thank God for the ministry of the Moderator General, David Jones in the state.

### 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 2011 issue are to be in my hands **no later** than

**Monday 1st August 2011.**

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