



SA News

A Step at a Time.



Jesus takes things a step at a time, which demonstrates the fact that He is patient with His people. But how patient are we? The patience of Jesus Christ is really a wonder to behold. In the account in Luke 5: 1 – 11, when Jesus got into Peter's boat, He knew just what He would do. But He had to deal with Peter a step at a time, he had to deal with him patiently, just as He deals with us, patiently.

Look at His first command to Peter.

“Put out a little”. Jesus has taken command of Peter's boat; He is literally asking Peter for his boat. Have you noticed how God sometimes moves us even into trying situations just to get us to listen to His voice? Yes Peter was in his boat, but Jesus had control of it, and Peter was a captive listener; he had nowhere else to go!

Then the second command to Peter,

“Put out into the deep water”. This second command demanded more faith on Peter's part, and it's no wonder that he in essence argued with Jesus, saying, “Lord, we've been out fishing all night!” But I love Peter's final answer, “But because you say so, Lord, I will let down the nets.”

The Lord knew what He was doing. Peter had given Him the boat; now Jesus wanted the fishing nets. And when Peter obeyed, God blessed them with a record catch!

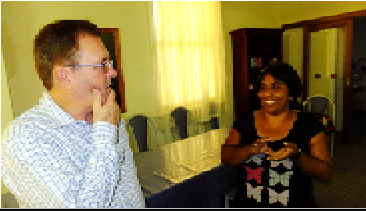
Then we come to the heart of this passage when Jesus says to Peter, **“Follow me!”** This was the supreme command, the one for which the first two were but careful preparation on the part of Jesus. Peter had thrust out a little, then he put out into the deep water; but now the moment of truth, he had to ‘sell out and give all to Christ’. It was not enough to give Him the fishing boat, it was not enough to give Him the fishing nets; Peter had to give Him the fisherman as well!

Jesus deals with us a step at a time, a command at a time, always patiently leading us to a supreme hour of faith and decision. As we obey Him in the little things of life, we will be ready when that “Follow me!” sounds in our souls.

Alan Clarkson

Mount Barker – Learning about Mission

“Where are the men?” “Why are we persecuted for our trust and desire to worship God as revealed in the Scriptures?” “Why do some seek to prevent us from discipling these Christian men and women?” We were learning about Mission in Ecuador!



Chris ten Broeke thinking on Chandra's message.

“Hey Chandra Smith – PCA missionary to Ecuador, we are asking those questions too?” Chandra returned to Mount Barker to share her testimony – how and when she became a Christian, how the Lord led her to the work in Ecuador and what the Lord is doing through her in various ministries such as Craft Club, Kids Club, Diet Club, First Aid Training, Dental Care and Medical Aid Projects.

It was wonderful to hear directly, after four years of newsletters, of how our partnership with Chandra is planting seed, preparing ground and watering while we wait for a crop of kingdom people. Much like in Australia, many people have a distorted view of God, of Christ and the Scriptures. Much like us at Mt. Barker, the Church that Chandra works with is small with few committed to meet regularly together in love and service for the Lord. Sadly, over there the Church is generally seen for women only. The men stay away and there are no Godly role models, particularly for men believers to follow. ‘How can women minister to these men?’ Chandra explained, ‘it is not only Biblically wrong but also culturally unacceptable.’ Then, to make it more



Chandra and ‘The Three Milks Cake’ dessert.

difficult, believers are persecuted through the established local church using its power to swing new believers back to dead traditions and idolatry.



Left to Right - Pastor Moon, Dawie van Vuuren , Alma, Karen, Chandra, Julie and Robert Finster

Chandra gave us several presentations on the work, the ministry needs for men and teenagers, her current ministries and future plans. Along with celebrating Communion with us we also shared lunch. Then Chandra treated us with a traditional desert of Ecuador called 3 MILKS CAKE- Torta de TresLeches.Delicious! We have the recipe too!

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We also managed to introduce Chandra to some other local pastors, Rev. Moon and Karen from the Korean Presbyterian Church Adelaide and Rev. Dawie van Vuuren and Alma from the Christian Reformed Church of Adelaide.

All thanks to the Lord for bringing Chandra back to us and three other S.A. Presbyterian Churches for we were enriched by her visit.

We look forward to sharing further with her in the work in Ecuador and for our prayers to be answered for that wonderful country and for the people to have much joy and blessing from knowing the one true God in and through the Lord Jesus.

Robert Finster.

Mount Gambier



The 2014 Kids Holiday Muster returned in January to Journey With Jonah, reintroducing a favourite theme from eight years ago to a new generation.

Even though the weather was very hot (which meant we needed to vary the program with no outside time at all, and that, as the week went on, people were getting pretty tired and run down generally) everything went well. We had about thirty five registrations with an average attendance of twenty eight or so.

Apart from our talks on Jonah (from Sandy Galea's excellent Kidswise), there were fun games, interesting crafts, engaging songs and yummy morning teas. We are blessed with a team of teenage volunteers working with the kids and a team of slightly older volunteers handling catering. (And others helped with distribution of publicity materials.) Everyone pitches in and does whatever needs to be done. All our attendees were a pleasure to have along and we'd look forward to them all being back next year when we're going to visit the book of Romans and have a farm theme.



Special thanks to Rachel Ware for doing all the organising and a big chunk of running things.

Gary Ware

Naracoorte

The Sunday School Presentation was held on Sunday 15 December. 15 children attended Sunday School at various times throughout the year and their parents were encouraged to attend the service and join with the congregation for a luncheon afterwards. All children were presented with a Christian Book and great fellowship was enjoyed over lunch.

The activities for this year are in full swing with the new Light on the Hill having commenced in February. This is an informal worship service held in the hall on Sunday evenings from 6-7 pm with contemporary music, prayer and a message. Afternoon and evening Bible study groups have commenced and participants are studying "Two ways to live - know and tell the Gospel".

The English Conversation classes resumed in January after a 3 week break and lessons were about Australia. We took the opportunity to teach the students to sing Waltzing Matilda, after of course teaching the language. The students really enjoyed learning the song and singing along with Slim Dusty. On Australia day the teachers prepared typical Aussie food and drinks for refreshments; some of which were lamingtons, mini strawberry pavlovas, Anzac biscuits and fruit cup.

The following week was Chinese New Year (Lunar New Year for Koreans) and the Taiwanese students provided the refreshments and told us how they celebrated in their country. We then compared this with how the Korean students celebrated Lunar New Year in Korea. The students practised their conversation skills and the teachers learned about their country's traditions. It was very interesting for us all.

Pat Leitch



[A Christian's Pocket Guide to Growing in Holiness](#) | J.V. Fesko

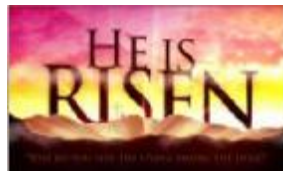
No true Christian wants to keep on sinning. Yet the battle seems unwinnable. For every slain opponent two more emerge from the shadows. And to make matters worse, an endless stream of pundits are on hand with conflicting combat tactics: 'Try harder. Do more.' 'It's a matter of mind over matter'. 'Imitate Christ. Ask, What would Jesus do?' 'Take a break. Even if you yield to every known sin, you're still a winner because Christ has forgiven everything.'

In the Bible we find a more coherent and realistic approach to growing in holiness. Victory over sin does not come to the spiritual sluggard. Effort is essential. Even so, self-transformation is not possible. 'Sanctification is by faith alone in Christ alone.' The gospel is not just for day one of the Christian life; it's for the whole journey. How do we grow in holiness? We grow through the word of God and prayer and sacraments. This book will help us find the benefits of growing in Christ for which there is no substitute.

Available from Reformers' Bookshop (www.reformers.org.au) for \$5.95 plus p+p.

The Easter Gospel | Paul Beasley-Murray

In the first place, the Easter gospel is good news because it proclaims that Jesus is alive. The tomb was empty! The Lord appeared to Peter and the other disciples! Jesus Christ is the same — yesterday, today and for ever!



In the second place, the Easter gospel is good news because it proclaims a risen Saviour. Our sins have been forgiven! God has set his seal of approval on the crucified! Jesus was raised to life for our justification!

In the third place, the Easter gospel is good news because it proclaims a glorious hope. Death has been swallowed up in victory! We shall be with the Lord for ever! Jesus has brought life and immortality to light!

In the fourth place, and of no less importance, the Easter gospel is good news because it proclaims a present power. The risen Lord Jesus is present with his people today! Already in the here and now we may begin to share in the risen life of Jesus! Even in our present moments of weakness we may experience the transforming power of his resurrection! Here is good news indeed. The resurrection is more than a past event and a future prospect; it is a present reality.

— *The Message of the Resurrection*, Intervarsity Press UK, page 17.

Whyalla

As we begin the New Year, the Whyalla Congregation is in good heart and looking forward to the future.



The Watchnight Service was held at the Church on Christmas Eve. Our format has always been congregational carol singing with the members of the congregation - and visitors - choosing the carols. We were blessed this year with a large number of visitors as well as most of the members of the congregation. After communal singing the Service begins and continues through until just after midnight.

With the extended periods of extreme heat we have experienced through much of January and early February, the Session have been conducting Prayer & Praise Services. This is much shorter than the traditional service and allows our older members to get back home before the heat becomes a serious concern. The evaporative air conditioner in the hall does not cope well in temperatures over 40°C so we do not get together for fellowship after the service.

On the last Sunday of February we will celebrate Holy Communion with our Moderator, Rev. Chris ten Broeke. The congregation are looking forward to his visit.

The Whyalla PWA is still in recess until the end of February.

John McVey

Wattle Range

Millicent

To all of our church members greetings from the Millicent Congregation

Our thoughts and prayers go out to all who are affected by the disastrous bush fires. We are so fortunate to live in this area.

Recently our organist Sue and her husband Kevin celebrated their 40th Wedding Anniversary. Congratulations to them from all of their friends.

The Rendelsham Church is now on the market and we hope for an early response for its sale

The combined Church Fete was held recently. Presbyterian & Salvation Army manned the Cake stall and raised over \$400. This is to provide Christmas boxes of goodies to families in need.

The 5th Sunday service was held in the Baptist Church and was attended by some of our people.

The Lutheran ladies held a Coffee Morning recently, and as usual, great entertainment was enjoyed by all present.

A Quiz afternoon was held in the Uniting Church Hall, which raised a few laughs, and \$250 for the Bible society.

It is great to interact with other church members.

Our organist Sue is at present on holiday, and the music has been supplied by Jenny and Pat Becket. Pat also writes a column for the local paper on Religious matters and this is enjoyed by all.

The Salvation Army held a morning coffee which was well attended. Lieutenant Jane Manusa gave a very interesting account of her life

Millicent held a Remembrance Day Ceremony for Crash Victims. Millicent is one of the few places in Australia to remember crash victims with a memorial service.

Twelve of our ladies had a very enjoyable outing to Beachport to celebrate Christmas. We had a very pleasing congregation for the Christmas Eve service with supper to follow. The retiring offering for Pres-Aid raised over \$200.00.

We give thanks for the safe return of some of our troops from Afghanistan including Derek and Maureen Redman's son Jamie.

Remember: If you see someone without a smile, give them one of yours.

Thelma Thomas

Penola

Attendances have been improving steadily over the last three months, with an average of 30, even on the hottest of days.

The Ladies Christmas Social was a lovely evening of carol singing and fellowship with ladies from all Churches. We certainly have a talented number of singers in our area.

Our Church hosted the Community Carol Service on 15th December. Paster Don Broadwater narrated the message of Jesus' Birth, interspersed with Bible readings by men from the Shedmen group and the singing of the Carols. It was wonderful to see so many people from the Community and from other Churches as well as our own congregation, some with family members attending, and the singing was fantastic.

Don also brought the Christmas message to our own members, visiting families and some children even left home in the middle of opening their presents so they could come to Church on Christmas Day and so heard about Jesus and the real reason for Christmas.

Numbers were down a bit in January, with people taking the opportunity for a few days off when the weather was hot by going to the beach.

February saw the meetings starting again with the Board and PWA. The Harvest Thanksgiving Service will be held on 23rd and the auction of goods on Monday 24th February. The Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 4th March.

We have had four young people from South Korea worshipping with us over the last couple of weeks and although none of us speak Korean, we are managing to have some lively conversations with them, while enjoying morning tea after services. They have mobile phones that they can use to look up words to help explain everything. They have been working in the area for five months and are going to be here for another five months.

Barbara Provis



Hmm!

"The Christian gospel is that I am so flawed that Jesus had to die for me, yet I am so loved and valued that Jesus was glad to die for me. This leads to deep humility and deep confidence at the same time. It undermines both swaggering and snivelling. I cannot feel superior to anyone, and yet I have nothing to prove to anyone. I do not think more of myself nor less of myself. Instead, I think of myself less."

Tim Keller, *The Reason For God*

(New York, NY: Dutton, 2008), /8/.

<http://firstimportance.org/gospel-humility-and-confidence>

PRAYER POINTS

- Give thanks and praise to God for Jozua's healing and pray for his continued healing.
- Pray for the Ladies Weekender being held at Karnkendi Campsite on 14-16 March.
- Pray for the upcoming State Election on 15 March.
- Pray for the Norwood church; congregation, elders.
- Pray for all those affected by the recent bushfires.
- Pray that your own, neighbouring and all Presbyterian churches will be focused on mission to a dying world and not just maintenance of our institutions.
- Intercede for the Federal Government; Prime Minister Tony Abbott; Leader of the Opposition Bill Shorten, that they will be guided by Christian principles and stand firm in their belief.
- Pray for the Whyalla church; congregation, elders.
- Pray for Gary Ware South Australian Moderator, Chris ten Broeke Moderator-elect, Brian Johnson Clerk, all conveners and committees as they prepare reports and other work for the upcoming General Assembly of SA.
- Pray for many people to become and grow as Christians through PIM patrols
- 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 the Wattle Range Churches; congregations, elders and Don & Gloria Broadwater.
- Praise God for our new and living hope through the raising of Jesus Christ from the dead and pray that multitudes will discover this as this message is proclaimed over Easter.
- Uphold in prayer your parliamentary representatives, federal and state.
- SA Assembly commencing at North Adelaide on 26th May - Chris ten Broeke Moderator, Brian Johnson Clerk, Conveners - devotions, debates, fellowship and the reaching of wise, godly decisions.
- Pray for Christians to be instruments of truth and grace in the midst of skepticism and increasing opposition to the Christian faith.
- Pray for persecuted Christians throughout the world.
- Pray for hearts to be opened as the Lord Jesus Christ is proclaimed by word and deed by PIM workers.
- Uphold in prayer David & Gai McDonald, Flynn Patrol, PIM.
- Pray for 'M' serving in west Asia.

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 June 2014 issue are to be in my hands **no later than 5.00pm Monday 5th May 2014.**

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