



SA NEWS

Newsletter of the Presbytery of South Australia

Issue 57

March 2023

An Appropriate Question

Text: "How can I repay the LORD for all his goodness to me?" (**Ps. 116:12**).

Introduction

Psalms 116 is the beautiful testimony of a grateful heart. It is the testimony of a good steward. This psalm contains the testimony of every sincere believer who lives long enough to experience the rich blessings of God's grace.

After drawing up a list of the many reasons why his heart was filled with love for God, the psalmist asked a question that you and I should ask ourselves: "How can I repay the LORD for all his goodness to me?"

This question was a personal question. For us it should be a present question. It is a proper question for each of us. For some of us it is a pressing question, for we do not have as much time in which to demonstrate our love for the Lord as we might think.

1. We can give to our Lord the faith he deserves.

"And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him." (Hebrews 11:6). For us either to neglect or to refuse to trust the promises of God is both to insult our God and to deprive ourselves of the blessings of God and of the activity of God in our own lives. If we would praise him and demonstrate our love for him, we must trust him implicitly as did Abraham who was known as the father of the faithful. Paul said in Romans 4:20 that...*"he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised."*

2. We can give to our Lord the love he deserves.

The first and greatest commandment requires that we love God supremely and without reservation. Matthew 22:37 "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'" If we were to enumerate the many ways in which God has demonstrated his love for us as the psalmist did, we would find him to be altogether lovely. We would find it impossible not to ask the question, "How can I repay the LORD for all his goodness to me?" Because God is so lovable, we each should find it easy to love him with all of our heart.

3. We can give to our Lord the obedience that is essential.

Jesus said to his disciples and to us, "If you love me, you will obey what I

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

command.” (John 14:15). The heavenly Father much prefers that love be the motive behind our Service rather than fear. The Lord would have us to labor in his vineyard because of love rather than out of fear of the consequences of disobedience.

There is no substitute for obedience. World evangelism both in the home community and to the furthest point on the globe waits upon the obedience of those who consider themselves to be disciples.

4. We can give our Lord a dedicated body (Rom. 12:1).

The body of the believer is the temple of the Holy Spirit. The body is the tool that the inner man is to use in doing the work of God. Paul encourages the believers in Rome to dedicate their physical bodies as an act of worship, as a gift on the altar in Service of Jesus Christ. When he wrote to the Corinthians, he declared that the spirit as well as the body belonged to God and that each believer should magnify and glorify God and make God known in and through his body.

Conclusion

Faithfully, joyfully, and unreservedly we should give ourselves both in praising our God and in seeking to persuade others to trust him and love him. As we do so, we bring the greatest possible glory to God and deliver the greatest possible Service to our fellow humans.

Provided by Alan Clarkson

Naracoorte

Greetings in the name of our LORD Jesus; and may God grant you all a Happy and Healthy 2023.

The elders continue to lead the weekly worship services. We were delighted to welcome retired minister Rev Earl from Port MacDonnell as a guest preacher on 12th February. He was well received and good fellowship was had over morning tea after the Worship Service.

The ladies KYB has resumed and the ladies are all excited about studying the Book of Revelation this term. Some ladies joined a Zoom meeting – an introduction to the study, presented by Marilyn Packer, which was enlightening and as we go through the book we will have more understanding from the “pictures” that were “painted” for us. At the end we listened to the Hallelujah Chorus from Handel’s Messiah. What an uplifting and encouraging evening we had!

Elder Emeritus Doug Bradley and his wife celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on Tuesday 29th November 2022. Most of the congregation joined them for lunch at the Bushman’s Arms Hotel to celebrate with them. At the Sunday worship service on the 27th November, Rev Rudi Schwartz

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

congratulated them and prayed for them, then on the following Sunday after the church service a light lunch was served and a cake was cut by Doug and Fay and shared with the congregation. Rev Rudi Schwartz then began his two day journey home to Bathurst. Doug and Fay's family celebration was held over the Christmas/New Year holiday period.



In December, before Christmas, Sunday school children were presented with books by Sunday school Superintendent, Ms Julie McLean.



Pat Leitch

Mount Gambier

Last year, on 6 December, the Care and Concern committee hosted an afternoon tea for older members of our congregation. A lovely afternoon of chatting and partaking of delicious food was had by all.

Below are some photos of the afternoon.



Continued from page 4

The start of the new year saw the recommencement of our Growth Groups. This year we have returned to studying The Parables of Jesus in Term 1, with The Parables of Grace.

The Diaconal ministry of our church continues to provide meals and support for those of our congregation who are in need.

Wattle Range

Penola Congregation

Greetings to all the churches from the Penola Church folk.

There are only a few of us each week but we do enjoy the fellowship with a biscuit and a cuppa afterwards. Please pray for one of our regular members who is at present very ill in the Queen Elizabeth hospital.

In November we made a special welcome to our Lutheran friends and their pastor Rev Shaun Manning along with Rev Andrew McConaghy who is a retired Presbyterian minister from Warnambool. Rev Manning led our service with Rev McConaghy giving us a message from Romans 8: 28.

It was lovely having a combined service together.

In December it was the Lutheran ladies turn to host the combined Penola Women's Christmas get together in our hall. An enjoyable afternoon was had with around 20 women taking part in readings and carol singing, reflecting on the birth of Jesus. A lovely afternoon tea was enjoyed by all.

I'd like to finish up with a blessing.....May the feet of God walk with you, and His hand hold you tight. May the eye of God rest on you, and His ear hear you cry. May the smile of God be for you, and His breath give you life. May the child of God grow in you and His love bring you home.

Heather Lambert



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 Koorong Books (www.koorong.com) for \$10.99 plus p+p



PIM's new man with a paddle!

Editor: We have seen your name and photo during the latter part of 2022. Would you like to introduce yourself to readers of SA News?

HC: Haha, sure! My name is Hugh Castleden and I first made introduction of myself in person to the broader church at the 2022 NSW and QLD/SA Assembly's and

— *worth driving for* —

then in writing via PIM's quarterly newsletter On Track back in September 2022 under the title 'Who is this new Rooster?!' Since this I have also enjoyed the ability to attend and address the VIC Assembly (in-person) and the WA Assembly (zoom) in the last months of 2022. I have been in the role of CEO for PIM since July 2022 having taken over the reins from Andrew Letcher who had held the role for the past 7 years.

Editor: Where is your hometown? Where do you live? Are they different questions?

HC: Yes, they are certainly different questions, haha! I grew up at Inverell in northern NSW. Obtained a Bachelor of Business degree in 1993 from the University of QLD, Gatton, and have been employed and been involved in business, agriculture, banking and finance through regional QLD (Richmond, Emerald, and Dalby) and NSW (Trangie, Wee Waa, Narrabri and Tamworth). I currently reside at Bective approx 20km NW of Tamworth.

Editor: What about family?

HC: My parents (David and Trish) farmed country near Inverell and my mother was a Registered Nurse and was employed on roster as senior staff member at McLean Retirement Village and Nursing Home. In 1994, Anna became my wife (Prov 5:18) and together we have three children, Bill (lives and works at Warren NSW and is engaged to be married to Elzeth Erasmus in April this year), Emma (recently moved home from working at Teen Ranch at Cobbitty NSW for the past 4 years to foster other work opportunities) and Toby (completing his final years of secondary education via home-schooling)

Editor: How about your church family?

HC: I grew up attending the Presbyterian Church in Inverell NSW. I became a Christian when I was about 19 and attending the University of Qld, Gatton. In these university days I was encouraged by members of congregations at Forrest Hill near Gatton, and South Toowoomba, where by brother attended.

I came across PIM in Richmond Nth Qld, in 1994 when I worked with QIDC. Bob Whiting and his family and the faithful few who gathered in the Richmond CWA Hall were a great encouragement to my wife Anna and I in our early marriage. After a work transfer to Emerald we were a part of a church plant in Emerald by the Presbyterian congregation in Springsure. During our 3 years in Dalby we fellowshiped with Baptist Church.

In NSW we have been part of the Presbyterian Church in Warren (under Rev Rudi Schwartz prior to he and his family transferring to Naracoorte) and Wee Waa and currently fellowship with the Moonbi Christian Fellowship a charge of the Armidale Presbyterian Church, where I have also recently been appointed as an Elder. Given this history of moving and transferring with work, we have many close Christian friends/family spread across Australia.

Editor: What is your vision for PIM?

HC: MY vision is YOUR vision. To see lives changed and souls saved by the delivery of the message of Good News to even those in the most remote areas of our Nation.

PIM has a rich history, and with it so does the Presbyterian Church of Australia, but it is not good enough for us to say what we have been, in the past. It would be like saying 'my family once owned a canoe'. The statement has no relevance if you are not talking about the canoe, or maybe the sail or motor boat, or the watery escapades that you now enjoy. That said, PIM and the Presbyterian Church owe a debt of gratitude and thankfulness to the General Assembly of Australia and men like Dr John Flynn OAM, Rev Robert Mitchell and Bruce Plowman and the innumerable other men and women who have served or partnered with the mission organisation over the many decades since 1912 (Australian Inland Mission, then becoming named the Presbyterian Inland Mission as we now know it, in 1977)

The PIM 'boat' in 2023 continues to exist and extend the work of evangelism and discipleship in the remote, regional and inland areas of Australia due to the partnership support of many faithful congregations and individuals. We are a much smaller team today than we have been at times in our past. This is largely because we try to work within our available finances without applying undue pressure on our Patrol Teams or our donors.

As the CEO, I can merely be recognised as one of the new crew with a paddle in hand. PIM and its people are YOUR mission, YOUR extension of words and relationships in the remote and inland areas of Australia, purposed to evangelise and disciple believers (Rom 10: 14-15).

Day to day, my role as CEO is to support and resource our teams. This is only possible with YOUR assistance via Prayer, Financial Support and Physical Involvement.

Editor: And finally, and what can we as a Church be praying for?

HC: Pray without ceasing (1 Thes 5:17) for our Patrol Teams and their families
Colin and Alison MORROW (Mildura/Sunraysia VIC and Mungo region NSW)

Kim and Kathryn JAEGER (Tasmania)

Noah and Neroli VASILIADES (East Gippsland VIC and Snowy Mountains NSW)

Doug and Marcia WALKER (Roma/StGeorge and Southwest QLD)

Paul and Janae DENNESS ('New Dunesk' Ardlethan, Southern Rivers
Presbytery NSW)
Alvin and Narelle CHAI (Mt.Magnet and the Midwest region WA)
Laurie and Gwen PEAKE (Wandoan/Charleville and the Leichhardt district
QLD

Generally there are three things which are 'top of mind' to pray for; 1) For the sustenance of each PIM worker and their family... physically, spiritually and relationally in the places that they live, work and move through, 2) Adequate funds to be available for the viability and sustainability of each Patrol mission, and 3) For the Holy Spirit to go before each one of us and prepare the way for the Good News to be shared in every circumstance before us, giving to us the words to say (Deut 31:8).

If you would like to partner with PIM or receive newsletter updates from our Patrol Teams please log onto <https://pim.org.au/> and log your details into the boxes under the heading 'From the road to your inbox'



Castleden Family September 2022



Castleden Clan July 2022



Moonbi Elders 23 December 2022

Adelaide Seacliff Congregation



A recent congregation celebration

With the new year well underway now, we can reflect on the end of 2022 and the delightful events of that time.

In November we had an outreach event for our local area consisting of a pre Christmas gathering to which over 12 guests came. Rev David Tsai delivered a message and there was plenty of food to share. Christmas carols were sung and a testimony was given by Praveena. Quite a few of her overseas student friends came and heard and saw the gospel.

Though more friends came than local visitors it was a time of blessing and unity, reviving our hearts.

It was joyful for us to receive Christmas greetings on our WhatsApp site from those who have returned to their home nations of Malawi and Indonesia, having been part of our church family in past years. The ties that bind continue to bless us all.

In late January we had birthday celebrations for toddler Taraji at church and Praveena at a restaurant.

We have worked steadily to clear extraneous furniture and clutter from the church hall and had a productive working bee in February prior to a big church luncheon to celebrate the 80th birthday of long serving member and treasurer Nicholas Blunt. Over 50 people gathered to enjoy food and fellowship prior to our 4 pm service.

The church family will again gather on 5th March for the final service of Rev David Tsai as he and Meredith will return to NSW the following week.

(Continued on page 11)

Karnkendi

As Caretakers of Karnkendi we would like to thank the readers of PCSA news for the support and prayers that are showered upon us and the Committee in continuing to provide this wonderful facility.

A brief update on what has happened our way. It was a very quiet lead up to Christmas 2022 which has now seen the busiest start to 2023 with a regular family group from Warrnambool / Koroit staying for Christmas and New year followed by a Thai family fellowship group from Melbourne, lovely indigenous family groups from Portland / Heywood then from the 18th to 29th of January the Seymour Girls College Rowing team with 84 on site and the Unley High Rowing from the 25th with 45 students, all from Adelaide.



Seymour Girls Rowing

It was a busy month and we needed the help of locals to get things prepared and cleaned between stays.

We have inquiries for February from local schools at this time and the Mount Gambier Jubilee Christian Centre have booked with a Young Adults camp organised for 17th -19th of March. The Jubilee Christian Centre usually have at least one camp per year at Karnkendi.



New Picnic Tables

A new Table Tennis table was long overdue and Intersport Mount Gambier had what we needed. We also now have two lovely outdoor picnic tables, which were onsite for the large Rowing groups, from Whitehead Timber sales Mount Gambier.

The renting of the house is going well with a couple (not partners), a young lad from the Warrnambool area and young lady from Canada. Both are employed by Parks Victoria with the summer crew which should see them stay until early May.

We have confirmed bookings once more from Beacons Hills Anglican College Melbourne with their Outdoors Explorer programme which starts in late April and runs through to early June with 4 groups. Tenison Woods College have inquired to use the facility for the Junior and Senior Music camps in March / June and we

have just registered as accommodation providers for the Generations in Jazz weekend planned for the 5-7th May.

I had a lovely catch up call from an Elder from Mount Gambier Presbyterian Church early in February to confirm our continued support of Karnkendi but I was very encouraged to hear that there is a possibility of new members to the Mount Gambier Church who may possibly use Karnkendi to further the Lord's work in our area, which is very exciting news for us.

It is a great blessing to have the facility and tools just waiting for an opportunity to see this become a reality and move on to become a regular place of witness within the Mount Gambier Presbyterian Church and beyond!

The Lord's blessings to you all,

Harvey and Heather McBain
Karnkendi Caretakers.
Nelson

(Continued from page 9)

The same day we will remember that on 4th March 1923, a communion roll of 18 communicant members was drawn up with Mr S Blackney being the home missionary given charge of the group. Rev A E Page was appointed in June.

Until the church building, now a hall, was opened in October on the present site, the congregation met in the Kiosk Hall in Wheatland St.

One hundred years of Presbyterian worship in the Seacliff area. Certainly something to rejoice in, remembering all that the Lord has done in this place.

Our congregation has been greatly blessed by the presence, teaching, fellowship and friendship of the Tsais who have worked tirelessly to encourage us in faith through their words and actions in the 12 months they have been with us.

We all are sad to see them go but we look forward in expectation to what the Lord has for us this coming year.

Nick & Heather Blunt

Good Friday celebrates the day our Lord died for our sins on the cross. I have often sat by the hour and tried to imagine the agony and suffering He went through because of our sins. At one point He said from the cross, "It is finished" (John 19:30). He meant that God had accepted His work on the cross as the penalty for our sins.

Christ's death on our behalf is the reason God can forgive us and still be just. And His death teaches us the depth and breadth that there should be in our forgiveness of one another.

While that holy Friday was tremendous, it was only a prelude to Sunday morning when He was raised from the dead. Godly women had come to see His tomb, but angels made the glorious announcement, "He has risen!" (Luke 24:6). His resurrection guaranteed that we, too, will be raised, if we are believers and obeyers of His Word.

<https://billygraham.org/story/celebrating-resurrection-sunday/>

Ukraine: The story of my small, unknown family even reaches Australia!



APWM missionary Granville Pillar, serves in Hungary, and until the outbreak of war, taught at a university in Ukraine. He and his wife, Ibolya, continue to channel relief from the PCA's Ukraine Appeal. This relief takes two forms:

Generators

Granville writes: "You will have heard of the destruction of infrastructure

in Ukraine, particularly electricity. The winter has begun and the cold weather is already making life extremely difficult for Ukrainians, not just at the battlefield in the east, but right across the country.

Through our Ukraine networks, we have learned that one of the most pressing needs is generators — particularly for hospitals and other essential services. We are now working with the same organisation which supplied the two ambulances to purchase generators for some smaller hospitals.

The University where I teach runs a number of smaller educational centres for children. In the high school 323 students and 89 teachers are sometimes left without electricity, water and functioning toilets or internet services for 15-17 hours a day. They also cannot run the dormitory where 161 students live. The funds from the Ukraine Appeal we will provide six generators to meet the needs for these schools."

Aid for Suffering Families

"Ibolya is working closely with university personnel to provide relief to the most vulnerable students who need urgent help. The money is given personally in Ukraine to the university students, together with a letter from us written on behalf of the Presbyterian Church of Australia and a relevant Bible verse. These gifts don't just help the students alone. Many of the students have lost their fathers or brothers through injury and death. Others are prisoners in Russia. Such gifts are also helping the students' families

One student writes: “I am grateful that you have found me worthy of your support. I will try to use your help appropriately for my studies. It means a lot to me that your church wants to care for those who suffer the consequences of this unwanted war. It is a heartwarming feeling to think that the situation and story of such small, unknown people as my family's can even reach people in Australia. The Lord truly always helps there where we least expect it! May the Lord continue to help your work!”

Granville Pillar was recently in Australia and we took the opportunity to ask him to provide an update on the situation in Ukraine. You can watch that video on APWM's Vimeo page. www.vimeo.com/778393849



Granville & Ibolya Pillar



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](https://facebook.com/AustralianPresbyterianWorldMission)

Wanted: An Administrative Servant



Do you have gifts in policy writing and the detail that goes with it? APWM is seeking someone to serve for two years at the Talua Theological Training Institute in Vanuatu as an Academic Registrar.

That may not sound like a very strategic role, but nothing could be further from the truth! In recent years the government of Vanuatu

has issued new educational standards and Talua needs someone to assist them meet these standards in drafting and implementing policies so that Talua can continue to serve the church and the nation.

APWM is looking for someone who:

- Loves the Lord Jesus and desires to serve Him
- Has a passion for Talua and its ministry
- Has a proven high level of administrative competence
- Has a proven high level of technological literacy
- Can adapt to living in another culture without the relative comforts we have in Australia.

Please note that it would involve raising team support from your church, friends etc. This role would be ideal for someone who has retired from paid employment and is seeking a useful Kingdom ministry in the next season of their life.

For a more detailed job description or for further enquires,

please contact Kevin Murray

kevinmurray@apwm.org.au

APWM & Tax Deductibility



From time to time the APWM National Office receives enquiries regarding the tax deductibility of donations made in response to an Appeal following a disaster, or toward a ministry overseas.

Donations to APWM are not tax deductible.

APWM has not sought tax-deductible status for two reasons:

- a) The criteria for obtaining such a status from the Australian Taxation Office are quite narrow and restrict the use of donations to the provision of aid and relief. Religious activity such as evangelism and support for churches is excluded. That is why some mission agencies have established a separate aid organisation that is strictly 'aid work only'. APWM doesn't have the resources to establish and maintain a separate organisation.
- b) APWM wants to be able to conduct 'gospel work' and 'aid work' hand-in-hand without having to quarantine one from the other. We want the freedom to be able to give someone a mosquito net along with an explanation of God's offer of forgiveness through Christ. We want to be able to help with the rebuilding of churches damaged in a disaster. Thank you to the many brothers and sisters who so generously support APWM's ministry.



PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for all those who have been affected by the recent floods throughout our State and country.
- Praise God for our new and living hope through the raising of Jesus Christ from the dead and pray that multitudes will discover this hope as this message is proclaimed over Easter.
- Intercede for the Federal Government; Prime Minister Anthony Albanese; that he will lead with integrity, and will be guided by Christian principles and come to know Jesus as his Lord and Saviour.
- Pray for the Leader of the Opposition Peter Dutton; that he will be guided by Christian principles and come to know Jesus as his Lord and Saviour.
- Pray for the Presbytery of South Australia, Davo Gunning Moderator, Gary Ware Clerk.
- Pray for the Adelaide Church; Davo & Megan Gunning; congregations and elders.
- Pray for the Port Augusta Church; Barry & Cheryl Rossiter; congregation and elders.
- Please join us in praying that God would raise up someone to serve at Talua as an Academic Registrar.
- Pray for the Mount Gambier Church; Gary & Margaret Ware; congregation and elders.
- Pray for the situation in Ukraine and pray for a peaceful solution and outcome.
- 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 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 'M' serving in West Asia.
- Intercede for the Defence and Police forces and all emergency services.
- Pray for the Karnkendi campsite. Harvey & Heather McBain; all those who stay there.
- Pray for all those affected by the recent earthquakes in Turkey and Syria.
- 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 find effective ways to make disciples amongst these people.

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 2023 issue are to be in my hands **no later than 5.00pm Monday, 15th May 2023.**

Editor: Lucinda Johnson

Email: pcsanews@bigpond.com

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