



SA NEWS

Newsletter of the Presbytery of South Australia

Issue 61

March 2024

A Donkey in God's Plan

[Matthew 21:1-9](#)

Introduction

Surely the text couldn't have said a donkey. A white stallion, even a camel, I'd take the old gray mare before a donkey.

It's pretty amazing don't you think? The first truly public acknowledgment of Jesus of Nazareth as the Messiah and He comes, as predicted in a way that seems, frankly, a little bit silly.

God had chosen to fulfil his plan riding upon a donkey, on a colt the foal of a donkey. What is the meaning of it? Well for one thing I think it makes the Messianic claim unmistakable. It wasn't everyday, I'm sure, that people rode victoriously through the cheering crowd lined streets of Jerusalem on donkeys. But I'd like to think there's another message for us here:

Proposition: If God can use a stinky little donkey in the triumphant fulfilment of his plan then just maybe he's got a plan for you and me too.

Interrogative: So the question I'd like to consider with you is "how does a donkey become fit for the service of the King of Kings and How can we be made useful for him too?"

Transition: There are three important things that make this donkey fit for royal service, and they are equally important for us. First the donkey is...

Selected

a. By Pre-arrangement

vv. 1-3 As they approached Jerusalem... Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, tell him that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away."

Clearly Jesus has made arrangements to use this donkey ahead of time. The point is this specific donkey had been set aside for a noble purpose. He is also selected...

b. By Prophecy

vv. 4-5 This took place to fulfil what was spoken through the prophet: "Say to the Daughter of Zion, 'See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey,

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on a colt, the foal of a donkey.” 550 years earlier Zechariah had prophesied about this little donkey. God had a plan and this donkey was selected by God to play a part in His plan. And he has selected us too:

John 15:16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit - fruit that will last.

Ephesians 2:10 For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

We have been chosen not only for blessing but for service.

You may not be a king or even a Sunday School teacher but God knows you by name and he has a plan for you to serve him, He has prepared in advance good works for you to do.

Next, notice that this donkey which was selected is...

2. Sanctified

Mark 11:2 you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Such animals in Jewish tradition often had special religious significance, because they had never been used for any worldly purpose.

We must be separated from the world also to be useful to the Lord.

2 Timothy 2:21 If a man cleanses himself from [wickedness], he will be an instrument for noble purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work.

It’s also necessary for us to Preserve our time and energy to use for the Lord’s service. So often we give him the left overs of our life when He desires our first fruits.

Being Sanctified also means being Prepared for the Lord’s use.

v. 7 They brought the donkey and the colt, placed their cloaks on him, and Jesus sat on them.

The donkey was prepared for the Lord’s use and we need to be prepared too.

1 Peter 3:15 Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.

2 Timothy 2:15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.

Spending time getting to know the Lord in Prayer and study of His Word prepares us for his use and allows the Holy Spirit to work in us to sanctify us for Service.

Finally, to be useful to the Lord, like the Donkey, We must be...

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3. Satisfied

a. To Present Himself

Donkeys are not known for a submissive temperament, it is worth noting that this donkey presents himself to the master to be used. Like him we must present ourselves to the Lord...

2 Timothy 2:15 "present yourself to God"

Romans 12:1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God.

Yes, He has chosen us but he will not work against us, he wishes for us to present ourselves to Him, to be submissive to his will in our lives.

The Donkey was also satisfied...

b. To Play a Humble part

In spite of the importance of the donkey's role in the fulfilment of prophecy, he still plays a big part. His job is to lift up Jesus so that Jesus can be seen by the crowds.

We have a similar role in God's plan, not to be exalted but to exalt Christ. To make him be seen by the world. The apostle Paul wrote in Galatians 6:13 May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus warned us in His sermon on the mount not to be like the religious people who did their good deeds to be seen by men, the Good works that the Lord has prepared in advance for us are works that bring glory to his Name and not our own. Like the donkey we must be satisfied with a humble part in God's plan.

CONCLUSION

You know donkeys really aren't all that great. They're stubborn, they're smelly, they're small, not really able to do that much. But Jesus used a donkey in his most triumphant public moment here on earth. He could have chosen a white stallion outfitted for battle as he's portrayed in the book of revelation. He could have chosen a camel decked out in sumptuous velvets. But he chose a donkey.

You may not be a white stallion, or even an old grey mare. You may have never really thought of yourself as a part of God's grand plan, but the Bible says that's exactly what you are.

You have been Selected by Him to fulfil a part of His plan prepared in advance for you.

To fulfil that role you need to be Sanctified, prepared for his service by separation from the world's evil and commitment to Him.

And you must be Satisfied to take the role of a servant, fulfilling God's plan for God's glory and not.

Provided by Alan Clarkson

Mount Gambier

Last year, on 5th 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.



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 Judgement. Each Growth Group studies the reading from the sermon preached the Sunday before using a study guide prepared by Gary.

Also, in December, the long awaited arrival of Christina & Joshua's baby occurred. It is a delight to see him in church with his parents.

Sunday School resumed at the start of the school year and continues each Sunday of the school terms.

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

Christ hath conquered all our spiritual enemies; and his resurrection is an evidence of his conquest. For if he had not conquered he could not have risen; and therefore when he rose again he bade his disciples not to fear (Mat. 28:10). Fear not death, for I have overcome death; and witnessed the same by my resurrection. Fear not sin, for I have satisfied for it. Fear not the devil: I by my resurrection have bruised his head; nor the world, for I have overcome it. He hath trode upon the necks of all our spiritual enemies, and conquered them all. Fear not, for if once you be risen with Christ, you are begotten to a lively hope.

- Richard Sibbes

The Power of Christ's Resurrection

<http://firstimportance.org/victory-through-resurrection/>

Naracoorte

During November/ December we were blessed to have Rev Rudi Schwartz in the pulpit for 4 Sundays to encourage & challenge the congregation. We are so thankful for his supportive ministry.

In November the PWA ladies hosted a Combined Churches Social involving most churches in the community. There were about 40 ladies present. We focussed on those traditions of Christmas with connections to Christianity. Our theme was 'Keeping Christ in Christmas'.

While Rudi was with us we organised a congregational lunch at the Caves Café. We arranged 2 groups to enhance fellowship – there were 9 men and 15 ladies. Our devotion was 'Is There Room for Jesus?' A handout was issued – 'Keeping Christ in Christmas'.

At the end of the year it was decided to change the Sunday School presentations – instead of books being given to individual children, a Contemporary English Version Bible was presented as a family gift – this version is easier for children to read and understand. We also hope to encourage family time with the Bible.

Near the end of the year we celebrated 2 significant birthdays – Fay Bradley turned 94 and Doug Bradley 95! It was worthy of a cake!!

Just a few weeks ago in January Gaius and Verily Goh arrived to minister to our members. As well as preaching they did much visiting and Gaius and Stuart took communion to those members unable to attend church for health reasons.

At the end of January our KYB group hosted a Morning Tea. One CWCI Board member came from Adelaide to



The group during the talk

share news about the larger work of the Christian Women Communicating International group. We also welcomed a Guest Speaker from Warrnambool who gave an 'Introduction to Luke', our study for Term 1.

We were delighted to welcome some members of the other KYB group in town and also 2 members of KYB from Mundulla and Kaniva. There were 19 ladies present and 3 children who performed the song 'Jesus



Speaker Barbara Gellert introduces the KYB study on Luke

Strong and Kind'. It was a most encouraging time and an opportunity to network with other KYB women.

We are truly thankful for the blessings we are receiving in the Naracoorte parish.

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; His love endures forever." Psalm 118:1

Julie McLean



— worth driving for —

Any congregation would be very glad to have Ron and Lyn Hicks within its fold. Humble, friendly, 'can-do' kind of people who are also mission-minded, committed Christians. The Hicks' commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ is seen in their many years of local church service at Mittagong (NSW) but also in their keen involvement as PIM Nomads.

When Ron and Lyn first heard about the establishment of the PIM Nomads Network back in 2020, they immediately felt that it might be a ministry they could be involved in. The idea resonated with them - they enjoyed caravanning and travelling around outback and inland Australia, and with training supplied by PIM they could be further equipped to evangelise and disciple those who they encountered when 'on track'. They loved the initial four-day training event held at New Dunesk and being part of the foundation cohort of PIM Nomads. Ron and Lyn love the vision of New Dunesk to 'inspire, equip and send out' gospel workers into remote and isolated areas of Australia.

When on a recent trip through WA, Ron and Lyn took time to visit the Mount Magnet Presbyterian Church congregation to encourage and share in the ministry there. The further north and west they have travelled, the less visible signs of Christianity they have encountered. By word and literature, however, they have sought to sow the seed. For as Jesus said, the harvest is nevertheless plentiful, even though the workers remain few. On the homeward leg of their journey back to Mittagong, they visited the Fremantle Presbyterian Church congregation. There they met the PIM Superintendent Stuart Bonnington and shared what has happened for them so far as PIM Nomads, being like the Sower going forth to sow the seed of the Word of God. Good work has been done but much remains to be done.

Ron and Lyn warmly encourage readers to consider becoming PIM Nomads. The 2024 Nomads Network will kick off with an Orientation Week from 19-24 March at New Dunesk (NSW), providing practical apologetics and evangelism training that can be applied during the coming year of travels. For more information on the Nomads Network, visit pim.org.au/nomads-network, email Stuart at superintendent@pim.org.au or call 0438 868 964.

Networking Nomads

'A sower went out to sow...' (Matthew 13:3)



Networking Nomads Ron and Lyn Hicks

What's on at New Dunesk

Why not plan ahead for 2024 and add one of New Dunesk's events to your calendar.

Whether you're looking to improve your preaching or leadership skills, connect with other Nomads out on the road, or enjoy a weekend of fun and music, there's something for everyone at New Dunesk.

Registrations for our 2024 events are now open. For further details on each of these events and to register, visit pim.org.au/events. To find out more, email events@pim.org.au or call 0438 868 964.

MARCH

19-24 March 2024

Nomads Network Training and Orientation Week

This first event for the 2024 Network provides practical apologetics and evangelism training that can be applied on your Nomad travels. It is also a great opportunity to connect with other Nomads and encourage each other in Gospel work.

APRIL

12-14 April 2024

Dads and Descendants

Dads and their kids are invited to attend this adventure filled camping weekend at New Dunesk, filled with bonfire devotions, survival skill activities, 4WDing and so much more!

JUNE

7-10 June 2024

Country Preachers Workshop

PIM is once again partnering with Langham Partnership to offer the Country Preachers Workshop. This course is very practical in its presentation, catering to both the first-time preacher and those who are seeking to develop their preaching abilities further.

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AUGUST

1- 4 August 2024

Country Believers Leadership Workshop

This new workshop will provide practical training and biblical guidance on how to be a church leader in the areas that God has placed you. Whether you are an elder, bible study leader, youth group leader, Sunday School teacher or are preparing to take on a leadership role in the future, this workshop is applicable to everyone.

OCTOBER

1-6 October 2023

Nomads Network Reconnect Week

An informal week of fellowship, encouragement and reflection with other Nomads in the Network.

5 October 2024

TRACKS:

An Outback Gospel Concert

A family friendly weekend of camping and live music at New Dunesk. Be sure not to miss this inaugural event! Camp out under the stars, sit around a warm campfire and enjoy live music from an exciting lineup of Gospel country music singers.

We are adopted into God's family through the resurrection of Christ from the dead in which he paid all our obligations to sin, the law, and the devil, in whose family we once lived. Our old status lies in his tomb. A new status is ours through his resurrection.

— Sinclair Ferguson

International Women's Day

an article from Dignity Freedom Network

*Satya was just 11 years old when tragically, her baby brother died. Although devastated at losing the little boy she adored, Satya had no idea that this loss would change her life forever. Thinking the gods were angry with them, her parents decided to dedicate Satya to the temple goddess to appease them.

A marriage-like ceremony took place, and Satya became the property of the village, to be used and abused sexually by any man, anytime, anywhere. For 10 years she served up to a dozen men a day, initially at the temple, and later at a shack in her village.

The women in her village despised her and Satya hated how this work made her feel but believed she had no options. As a single mother, she had to provide food and clothing for her three children. Alone and abused, Satya sank into a deep depression.

Four years ago, Satya met *Sharada, one of our team leaders, who explained there was a way of escape, an alternative life of restoration and hope.

Sharada helped her access health care. Sadly, Satya tested positive for HIV, but Sharada provided medications and support. As her health returned, Satya joined a 3 month sewing course and for the first time since she was a little girl she enjoyed friendship with other women. When she graduated, she was given a sewing machine, and resources to start a small business.

Satya is so thankful for Sharada and the love and support she received. Her children are enrolled in a Good Shepherd school, and she has high hopes that their lives will be different.

Satya is part of a growing number of women who have found help and freedom and is using this newfound hope to reach others still in bondage under this oppressive systemic abuse.

For over 2,000 years, girls have been dedicated to a goddess and forced into an horrific life of exploitative abuse. Girls are initiated without their consent, with little understanding that they will be trapped in a life of ritualised prostitution. They struggle with poverty, health issues, substance abuse, and depression. Their children are deprived of identity making them vulnerable to cyclical exploitation.

Our teams work in over 300 villages providing advocacy, education, health care and economic empowerment, protecting vulnerable girls, and liberating women. Local teams, mainly led by rescued and restored women like Satya, are the key to ending this abhorrent practice.

March 8th is International Women's Day. Join our 2024 IWD initiative and be a voice for these women (Proverbs 31:8-9). Each increment of \$250 raised supports 1 Village Leader in 1 village for 1 year, working to end the practice in her community by rescuing women like Satya, and preventing at-risk girls from

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Karnkendi

We do trust that all readers had a joyous Christmas with family and friends and continually wish all the Charges throughout SA a time of fellowship and good health for 2024.

From the 20th of September our committee voted to push forward on stage one of reroofing the outer cabins and requested an estimate from a local builder to price up the roadside outer cabin which has also included post inspection repairs to the verandah structure, repainting and new wall skylights to the outer toilet block. The estimated cost for this work including materials was \$5300 with GST included. We had \$2700 in our roofing donation account thanks to all the lovely support for this a few years back.

This was presented at the December meeting which was immediately approved and at the time of this report we now have a lovely repaired and painted verandah framework with a new roof and guttering of the main which required timber repairs and insulation batts that were not installed before.

All this lovely work has now, of course, made the walls look worse so these will get a tidy and repaint very soon.

Since our last report Anglican College Brighton Grammar from Melbourne did come from November 17-25th with their support staff as they run a huge outdoor education programme with 170 boys spread through the area with staff also in Portland and other locations in the Glenelg shire. They have rebooked for the 12th to 23rd of November which looks like it will be a regular event.

December was fairly quiet at the camp which is pretty standard, we held our pre-Christmas meeting on the 6th at the facility where we had a shared BBQ tea and the committee got to meet the Young family over a meal. This lead to the offer of them assisting with painting/grounds work to reduce their rent and help us out in keeping things maintained.

Late December /early January 2024 saw a regular family, that come to Karnkendi twice a year, enjoy the New Year which was followed with the lovely surprise to be able to welcome a Mount Gambier Presbyterian Church member who came in with a large group from the 11-14th and have already booked and paid the deposit for 1-6th of January 2025.

The end of January, with the school term started, has seen a burst of emails and calls from folk requiring information about the camp for the year and into 2025, which is very encouraging.

The cost per night per person has gone up considerably to cover all the fixed costs that have increased over the year. It is now around \$35-40 for adults with a reduction for children pending the size and situation.

Heather and I are very excited at the possibility of the local builder Steve Moloney continuing to push on with the reroofing projects we have decided on but also have him look over the camp to make repairs and reduce maintenance with flashing exposed timbers etc. Steve was in Nelson 20 years ago with his

wife Tanya to run the local Kywong Caravan park and they have recently semi-retired back to Nelson. They have organised a family get together for the 15th to 17th of March so they are true supporters of the facility, Tanya also helps Heather clean when needed.

The Young family are looking to settle in the area and are looking for work as they homeschool their two young children. They have cleaned up the block to the west of the cottage and are now busy preparing and planting veggies to supply the locals and sell at markets in the area.

The kitchen wet area upgrades are still planned as we have a quote on hold from Tye's plumbing in Mount Gambier while we wait for the Stainless Steel manufacturer to get a chance to measure up the area and get construction underway. This was planned for the end of January when the camp was not busy so hopefully this will soon be full steam ahead.

To have little much needed projects on the go is so refreshing as caretakers, as these make such an immediate difference for our user groups and the overall presentation of the facility.

Thankyou for all your support and constant prayers over the facility as we are truly humbled in the way the Lord's grace is showered upon Karnkendi.

Please don't forget that if you have a small group or even just a few families we would love to see you. Heather is only too happy to share all the wonderful things Karnkendi can offer along with information on our area with fishing, walks etc. 0448 871 225.

Harvey and Heather McBain
Karnkendi Caretaker
Nelson



Karnkendi cabins timberwork



Karnkendi cabins new roof



Karnkendi cabins new roof

Vinicombe Update



Kate Vinicombe is now at home and the family are now working out new routines and new ways of doing things. Matt and the children recently travelled to Groote Eylandt to visit people that they knew and draw their time on the island to a close.

Matt says "It was a really sad trip, basically I would go and catch up with someone and sit on their verandah and cry and then, just hit "Repeat" as I visited the people that we knew. But it was really good, it was a really good time and people looked after us really well."

Kate comments "Overall the kids are going really well. The girls have settled into school. and made new friends and Amos is a joy to have around. Of course, there's lots of still getting used to things and getting used to having me around and what I can and can't do."

The Vinicombes are currently renting in the Melbourne suburb of Watsonia. Matt says "...the plan is that we stay in

this area in Watsonia and we build a house that will enable Kate to engage in family life, in community and in church as much as she's able to. I just want to say thanks to everyone who has been praying for us. It's been a real blessing to have people journey with us and praying with us through this year for us. Thank you so much for praying for us and succeeding for us."

If you'd like to watch a video produced just before Christmas then please go to
<https://vimeo.com/897146327>

Japan 0.5%



Japan has huge gospel needs combined with very little Christian witness. It is an advanced economy with a high standard of living, but It's estimated that less than 0.5% of the population is Christian.

In November 2019, Presbyterian Youth NSW ran its first trip to Japan. Working with the Osaka Presbyterian Church, the trip was designed to:

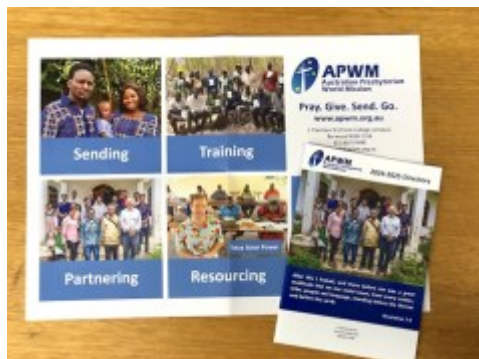
- serve the congregation in its outreach
- expose participants to overseas mission
- assist participants in exploring life in another culture.

Unfortunately the pandemic made it difficult to run a follow up trip.

The good news is that another trip is now planned for November 2024. This is a great opportunity to experience the culture and sights of Japan and encourage missionaries in Osaka and Tokyo.

For more information please contact Chi Un from Macquarie Presbyterian Church NSW chiieongun@gmail.com

APWM Prayer Directory 2024-2025



Every two years the APWM National Office produces a Prayer Directory listing its missionaries together with a brief description of their ministry.

At least three copies have been sent to every church and more are available on request. A copy of APWM's promotional poster has also been sent to churches.

We are encouraged by the number of people who tell us that they use the Directory every day to pray for our missionaries and the spread of the gospel across the world.

If your church needs more Directories or if you would like one then please email: office@apwm.org.au

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



APWM Partnership News



One way of learning more about what God is doing across the globe is through 'APWM Partnership News', a fortnightly email delivered to your inbox.

Partnership News contains updates from missionaries, reflections on the bigger picture of the progress of the gospel, links to useful videos that you could show in church, and some prayer points.

If you'd like to subscribe then please either sign up at this link:
<https://bit.ly/3QxxbM8> or
 Email: office@apwm.org.au and ask to be put on the Partnership News list.

Praying for the World's Muslims



Each year Operation Mobilisation produces a prayer guide "30 Days of Prayer". It's a worldwide prayer initiative centred around interceding for Muslims during Ramadan a significant month in the Islamic calendar dedicated to religious observance. By the time you read this, Ramadan (March 10th - April 8th) will probably be nearing its end. However, you could still order a prayer guide and use it throughout 2024 or order one in time for Ramadan next year. The prayer guide will help inform and equip you to pray for Muslims during your time of personal daily devotion, family prayer time or corporately in a small group or church.

The guide costs \$6.00 per copy and can be ordered at

<https://worldprayerguides.org.au/>

Alternatively you could download the Prayer Reach App which is available on the Apple App Store and the Google Play Store.



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being dedicated. People can donate directly, or organise their own ‘challenge’ or event to raise awareness and funds.

Would you join us this March so together more damaged women and at-risk girls can find hope and dignity, and learn of a God who yearns to heal them, to have a relationship with them, to love them.

Details are at www.dfn.org.au or E: info@dfn.org.au

Additionally, we are looking for volunteers to help with communications, and raising awareness.

E: info@dfn.org.au for details.

*Name changed to respect identity and privacy



Satya photo from behind



Skills training



Telehealth check

PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for all those who have been affected by the recent fires and floods throughout our 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 Elizabeth Church; congregation and elders.
- 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.
- Praise God for the privilege of being able to support our brothers and sisters overseas. Please pray that the response to the Easter PresAID Appeal will be generous and that the assistance that it will provide would be effective.
- Pray for the Wattle Range Charge; congregation and elders.
- Pray for the people of Ukraine that through their suffering they will look to Jesus.
- 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 the Naracoorte Church; congregation and elders.
- Pray for 'M' serving in West Asia.
- Pray for all our emergency services (Police, Ambulance, Fire & SES) that they will be preserved and kept safe as they serve the community.
- Pray for the Karnkendi campsite. Harvey & Heather McBain and all those who stay there.
- Pray for the war in Gaza that there will be a peaceful resolution to this and that remaining hostages will be set free.
- Pray for the Presbytery of South Australia, Davo Gunning Moderator, Gary Ware Clerk.

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 2024 issue are to be in my hands **no later than 5.00pm Monday, 20th May 2024.**

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