



Prayer Choice and Prayer Conflict

*But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.
Matthew 6:6 (NIV)*

Jesus did not say, 'Dream about your Father in secret,' but 'pray to your Father in secret.' Prayer is an effort of will. After we have entered our secret place and shut the door, the most difficult thing to do is to pray. We cannot get our minds into working order, and the first thing that conflicts is wandering thoughts. The great battle in private prayer is the overcoming of mental wool-gathering. We have to discipline our minds and concentrate on wilful prayer.

We must have a selected place for prayer and when we get there the plague of flies begins—this must be done, and that. "Close your door." A secret silence means to shut the door deliberately on emotions and remember God. God is in secret, and He sees us from the secret place; He does not see us as other people see us, or as we see ourselves. When we live in the secret place it becomes impossible for us to doubt God, we become more sure of Him than of anything else. Your Father, Jesus says, is in secret and nowhere else. Enter the secret place, and right in the centre of the common round you find God there all the time. Get into the habit of dealing with God about everything. Unless in the first waking moment of the day you learn to fling the door wide back and let God in, you will work on a wrong level all day; but swing the door wide open and pray to your Father in secret, and every public thing will be stamped with the presence of God.

*Oswald Chambers
My Utmost For His Highest, page 242.*

125th General Assembly of South Australia

The Assembly met, by appointment on Monday 23rd May 2011 at Mount Gambier Presbyterian Church. During the very well attended worship service the Moderator Ps Barry Rossiter Constituted the Assembly and Inducted Rev Ian Touzel into the office of moderator.

Among the invited guests were Very Rev David Jones, Moderator General, Missionaries John and Lynette Ellis and representatives of the local Christian churches. Three very special guests were Mr and Mrs Harold Touzel, Ian's father and mother and Sue Ross one of his siblings.

Rev David Jones preached the occasional sermon 'To Boldly Go...', an encouragement to reach out and plant churches.

Tuesday morning commenced with the Assembly Communion Service, again well attended, conducted by Rev Ian Touzel who preached an encouraging sermon entitled 'Contend'.

The Assembly constituted after morning tea with the fixed order of the day, the PWA Report presented by Mrs Cathy Ross, State President.

At the invitation of the Moderator the Very Rev David Jones addressed the house outlining the establishment of the Moderator General's church planting task force and his conviction for the need for church planting in Adelaide.

The business resumed with reports from the Business, Church and Nation, Dunbar Homes, Finance and Administration, Beltana Subcommittee, Karnkendi Campsite, Pastoral Ethics, Theological and Christian Education, Mission, Moderator's Nominating, Committees as well as the Presbyterian Trusts Corporation.

Parishes have already been notified of the matters which concern them and I encourage you all to respond appropriately and as quickly as you can to all these matters.

There was one Overture seeking changes to Rules and this has been sent to the Presbyteries under Barrier Act procedure. Another Overture sought changes only to the Regulations, and this took effect at the rising of the house, or the close of that business sitting of the Assembly, this Overture related to PCA Workers, of whom we have one whose status and situation remains until he retires or resigns.

Tuesday afternoon Rev John and Lynette Ellis gave an enthralling presentation on their work in Dehra Dun India. The evening Barbeque was a great success, marred only by an incident related below, at which we heard from Mrs Pat Leitch and her last trip to Korea.

One situation which caused all of us much concern was an anaphylactic reaction our brother Rev Don Broadwater suffered to the aroma of cooking onions. We knew he had an allergy to onions, and had made provision as requested, but were unaware of his current degree of sensitivity, as he himself was. He has since sought medical advice and is currently undergoing recovery treatment. In an email Don has relayed that the reaction was caused by two

medications he was correctly using to control his asthma, but they had caused his throat to become very sensitive to onion aroma. He is also allergic to some 15 moulds and pollens, however, he thanks God that he suffered that reaction at that time as it brought him under very good medical care. We also praise God that this care was available to him. I suggest that if Don is invited to a function onion is kept far from that place out of concern for our brother. Your prayers for Don and Gloria at this time will be appreciated.

*Brian Johnson
Clerk*



Back row L-R David Jones, Gary Ware, Stefan Slucki, Damien Carson, Ian Robbie, Don Broadwater, Chris ten Broeke
Centre row L-R Brian Johnson, Helen Mashford, Alan Clarkson, Ian Touzel, Barry Rossiter, Tom Morgan
Front row L-R Stuart McLean, John Ellis, Malcolm Lambert, Roger Bannister.

Jean Flynn Church Elizabeth

Well we are still without a minister at the Jean Flynn. We'd like to take this opportunity to publicly thank our Interim Moderator the Rev Damien Carson for the work he is doing and for his excellent ministry. We always look forward to Damien and his family worshiping with us. Please continue to pray for us that the Lord will provide a minister to lead our flock and to extend the Church in Elizabeth. Our Elders ably fill our pulpit week by week and I know the work they put in is appreciated by the congregation and even though we are without a permanent minister, the morale of the Church remains high.

The gardening group, Calligraphy group, singing group and Bible study are continuing to meet each week. We are always looking for new members for all our groups.

Sadly one of our long time members Mrs. Vera Woods passed away to be with the Lord on the 11th of June. Vera was a faithful member of the Church. Her late husband Peter Woods was an Elder and Church treasurer for many years.

We are looking forward to a Sunday afternoon of Hymn singing on August the 7th. This will be our 4th service. It gives us the opportunity to invite people from the local community to fellowship with us.

Ceri Jones

Farewell John Campbell, A Gracious Servant Of God

John Campbell was born in Belmore, Sydney a few days before the death of King George V and named after his mother's father Rev. John Joy Thorp who had died 20 years earlier. His godly widow (nee Elizabeth Macdonald) was the only grandparent John knew. He grew up in the Canterbury/Bankstown area except for a year or so with his aunt in the Blue Mountains after the Japanese midget sub attack in 1942 and two years as a prep-school boarder at Newington College, Stanmore.

Having come to a personal faith in the Lord Jesus, he put aside his ideas of being an architect and, helped by a bursary from St. Stephen's Church (Rev Gordon Powell), studied Arts and Theology at Sydney University and the United Faculty of Theology 1953-58. He taught Sunday School at Punchbowl Presbyterian church.

He was appointed to Hillston/Gunbar parish in western N.S.W. (8 congregations) where he was ordained in May 1959. At the Katoomba Christian Convention he met Helen Palmer and after her two year course at Sydney Missionary and Bible College they were married in 1965 at her church in Cremorne. By then John was minister at Hurstville Grove. The Lord gave them their eldest daughter, Naomi, while they were there. After her birth they moved to the growing outer Sydney suburb of Campbelltown where they spent nine years and their other daughters Miriam and Bernice were born. In these years John was busy in the Westminster Society (standing for the authority of Scripture and Presbyterian doctrine) and Missions, Architectural and Historical Records committees.

Early in 1976, they moved to Camp Hill (now Creek Road) in Brisbane and when, in 1977 the Uniting Church was formed, they stayed with the 521 congregations which continued the Presbyterian church of Australia. During their seven years at Camp Hill John also lectured in Church History and when they moved over the border to Lismore continued visiting Brisbane to lecture. He was Moderator of the N.S.W. Assembly 1987-88. This entailed visiting many functions throughout the state and missionaries in P.N.G. and taking part in the Bicentennial celebrations.

The Campbells came to the North Adelaide/Norwood parish in 1992, then continued at Norwood alone and the independent Chinese Bethel Christian Church which meets in the Norwood Presbyterian church. After his retirement in 2001, John continued to serve, providing support ministry at Kaniva/Nhill, Vic., Port Augusta, Whyalla and Elizabeth and serving the Assembly as convener of the Mission Committee.

Since all their daughters, grandchildren and many other relatives were on the east coast, and John's health was declining, he and Helen moved to the Illawarra area in New South Wales in 2006.

John is remembered with great fondness as one of those who pastored here in South Australia under great pressure and to some cost in his own well-being.

His tone was always gracious. His wisdom and knowledge of proper process were appreciated by a small Assembly that lacked a lot of the residual memory of procedure that larger Assemblies have, and he never used that knowledge to further his own desires to the cost of others, but for the benefit of all. Add to this his presence as a pastor committed to the Gospel when our denomination was less faithful, and his presence as pastor at Camp Hill (now Creek Road) Presbyterian church in Queensland in the tenuous days just after church union and you can appreciate how a faithfulness can see fruit far beyond our actual labours.

Tom Morgan and Gary Ware

God's Irresistible Word Brings Life To Zimbabweans

The Gospel message is transforming lives in Zimbabwe as people come to know God's love and forgiveness through Bible League-trained Christians. Local Christians have been equipped through Bible League's Project Philip evangelism and discipleship training. Through this training they learn how to share the Gospel with others, form Bible study groups and disciple new believers.

Bible League
<http://www.bibleleague.com.au/news>

Mount Gambier

Two large bags of a range of knitted, crocheted and sewn goods have been packed up and forwarded to Mission Partners in Sydney, courtesy Scotts Transport. From there the contents will be distributed as needed.

A bag of scarves and beanies was packed for the local Salvation Army. Whilst a fourth bag was packed for the Women's and Children's Hospital.

Thank you to Jean Brown and Yvonne Cherryman for packing the bags and the ladies of Coffee and Craft who have made the scarves, jumpers, beanies, rugs etc that have gone into the bags.

Heather Touzel

Naracoorte

St Andrews Naracoorte is continuing on strongly during our vacancy with the assistance of our Interim Moderator Rev Gary Ware, Rev Alan Clarkson and members of the Mount Gambier Parish who are assisting the Naracoorte Elders. Our thanks to you all. We ask that you would pray with us during our vacancy; for the selection committee and for wisdom and leading by the Holy Spirit.

In June we enjoyed fellowship and a pooled lunch in the hall after the Communion Service and in July the congregation joined the Ladies Fellowship in a lunch at a local hotel. These lunches provided great fellowship for the congregation and were very much enjoyed by our Korean friends.

I read in Joy Hill's (PI) newsletter recently *"the viola (or pansy) flower is planted to look beautiful and seems not to do much else. But oh, the pleasure it brings when we see the beauty and array of its colours; and how the beauty can lift our spirits as we see God's creation at work. We each need encouragement in various ways to 'bloom where we are planted', no matter the circumstances."*

God Bless

Pat Leitch

Largs North

Along with all churches, even though ours is small, we at Largs North are faced with many difficult decisions, especially those relating to the development of our Church.

Our fellowship has recently lost two wage earning Godly youngsters, we dearly loved them and miss them, yet they have seen fit to move to a 'bigger' church. I guess we can understand their needs. Yet at times we feel very small.

So we have been wrestling and praying much about church growth, taking an honest look at our attitudes and practices. The question has been raised, should we modify, or water down a bit, the truth in doctrine or practices, so as to gain more people? Should we turn away from the paths of our forefathers like so many other churches have done? Should such things as music, singing and such like take greater precedence, as has happened in what we see as 'busy churches', who have replaced the centrality of God's word and meaningful hymns and prayers, for something more acceptable to our modern society. Should we follow these 'modern' churches, which almost without exception, have decided to modify the truth and practice, in order to have more adherents and get along better. The emphasis without doubt for today's churches is on growth, bigness, size, and success.

The answer we have reached, after studying God's word, frequent fervent prayer, discussions, and much soul searching, is no. We are called not to tinker with God's truth, and to avoid at all cost attacking the bible with a pair of scissors, cutting out the bits difficult to accept. Instead we are resolved to preserve the truth in doctrine and practice and take the consequences? We join with Luther, saying 'and here we stand'.

Yet we must take an honest look at the image we do portray to the unbelieving world, are our services unnecessarily long, even boring, are they user unfriendly? Are the topic we preach or discuss relevant, do we highlight the practical application of God's word? Could we adopt more modern hymns and so on? These questions we are seriously addressing.

But what ever we decide, the foundation to all we do or seek to do must be grounded on God's word, where we are encouraged *2Timothy 1:12-14 I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day. Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. That good thing which was committed unto thee keep by the Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us.*

Dear Lord, please help our small fellowship, with all the discouragements and the indifferences of the local unbelievers to Your gospel, help us to never modify or compromise Your word to achieve church growth. Help us by maintaining within our hearts, a Holy Spirit convicted resolve, to hold fast to our gospel beliefs and our God given priorities. Amen.

Raymond Brewer

Mount Barker



Toilet Construction commenced

Greetings and Salutations to all. The last three months have been a time of 'fresh starts', 'new beginnings and new creations'. The construction of new toilets, rear entrance and disabled ramp has finally commenced at St. Andrew's, Mount Barker. Our willing men had to remove the existing shed on the site. Contractors commenced in the third week of June.

We also commenced a second project - a church vegetable garden. This project is headed by Elizabeth Lawson one of our new members and we look forward to seeing growth there! Some of the old timber was recycled as garden edging at the rear of the property and new tiles were obtained for the vegetable garden retaining wall. God gives us so many resources. We ask, seek to use what we have and ask the Lord to use ourselves for His glory.

On Sunday, 31st July, Kids Church for young people commenced, ably led by Ray and Nicky McGroarty. Also under discussion is a new ministry for our young adults.

In 2 Corinthians 5, verse 17 we are told, "as we are 'in Christ', we are His 'new creations'." Pray that God would continue to stretch us all as



Bring and Share Lunch after the Service - July 31.



Breakfast for Blokes on June 25 with Trevor Grace speaking to the men about his conversion.

His 'new creations in Christ'.

Breakfast for Blokes is now in its third year, with a noticeable increase in numbers from an average of 10 to 20 men. Recently, Trevor Grace spoke. Trevor is a local teacher and father of two. All of those who attend get well fed on the Truth that God works His purposes out in the lives of ordinary people. So often we do not see His workings except in hindsight.

We keep learning truth, teaching truth and seeking to reach others with the truth.

There have been a number of our members away at this time with the cold. Some have been suffering illness and a number of older members have required hospitalization. We pray for them.

If coming to Mount Barker come and visit us.

Robert Finster

Seacliff

Services of farewell, be they the “heavenward call for the prize in Christ Jesus” [Philippians 3:14] , or a more temporary relocation of a church-family member here on earth can and should be joyous occasions.

On 24th July the Seacliff congregation farewelled two appreciated members.

Leiep Joseph, student from Vanuatu returned to her family after spending several years in Adelaide.

Phuong Tran returned to her family in Melbourne after being converted here in Adelaide and spending six Spiritually-formative years at Seacliff. Recently Phuong took on many responsibilities and both will be missed.

Preaching has been a ‘gambol through Galatians’. The re-statement of the truth that the power to obey God comes through preaching Justification by Faith i.e. free Grace in Christ.

It has been thrilling to revisit this grand *charter of Christian Freedom* as Galatians has been termed.

Stefan Slucki

Wattle Range Charge

Millicent

A note from the Editor

My sincere apology to Thelma Thomas and the Millicent Congregation. Thelma wrote an article for this issue of SA News and it was received by me before the due date. I omitted to take it with me on holiday, we are currently in Western Australia, and therefore unable to include it in this issue. It will be included in the next issue along with the article for December.

Again, my humble apologies to all concerned.

Penola

Since being inducted as pastor to the Wattle Range Charge in May, Rev Don Broadwater, has only preached a few times at Penola and Millicent, due to a severe reaction to cooking onions prior to the Assembly Dinner. In June he visited several specialists in Adelaide, and was advised not to use his voice for six weeks. A trying time for Don and Gloria, and also for the Elders and members of the various churches. Services have continued at Penola every Sunday and Dergholm on 1st and 3rd Sundays, with congregations thankful to Elders Neil McLean, John Langens and Brendan Provis for filling the pulpits. We are praying earnestly that Don receives a good report from doctors in August, and can return to being our Pastor soon.

PWA ladies met in June for a dinner meeting at Val McLean’s home and in July met in the hall to discuss the Church Fair to be held on 5th August.

We had a visit from Jonathon Adams, a retired electrician from Ulverstone

in Tasmania who has a burning desire to see the Word of God in the hands and hearts of people in the rural and out-back parts of Australia. He, with his wife Anh and their 6 year old daughter Sarah, have travelled around Australia distributing New Testament Bibles to communities. On Thursday 14th July they shared our evening meal and spent the night with us. On Friday morning they handed out Bibles in Penola's main street. Brendan joined them working down one side of Church Street, and many people accepted a copy. Only 2 people declined copies while he was with them. The Church Board paid for 40 copies of the New Testament that were all given away in about 1 ½ hours, with only 4 'knockbacks'. Jonathon promoted our church with everyone he spoke to - with shop workers he said we recognised the contribution the businesses in the town made to the community, and the free gift of a Bible was in recognition of that contribution. With tourists he mentioned our church, and asked would they accept a free gift of a Bible, either for themselves, or to give to someone they knew.

Anh is Vietnamese and has been in Australia for 8 years. She has spoken both English and Vietnamese to Sarah all her life, so she is bi-lingual. The family travel to Vietnam regularly to distribute Bibles to rural mountain areas in the west of the country. There is a much greater 'hunger' for the Word of God in Vietnam than Australia, with people queuing in long lines to get a copy, very different to Penola on Friday. In the area they go, one pastor has 2000 people to minister to. The Communist Government, in power since 1973, is strict regarding Bibles being distributed, and while Anh is able to do it, Jonathon has to avoid being involved directly, otherwise he risks being arrested. Jonathon refers to the Bibles he distributes as "God's seed" going out into the communities and has been supported by the Bible Society of Australia in making a large number of Bibles available to churches at low prices. His family upbringing was in a Presbyterian Church, and many of the churches he distributes for are Presbyterian, but he also had Baptist, Anglican and even a Seventh Day Adventist involved around the country.

Barbara Provis.



Whyalla

Greetings in the name of the Lord. It was with great sadness that we learned of the



passing of our former Moderator and friend, The Rev. John Campbell. Mr. Campbell was Moderator of Whyalla for many years and he was loved as well as respected. It was always our pleasure to see him and welcome him back into his parish. On the Sunday following the news of his passing prayers were said for Helen and the family before commencing the service of worship. This was followed by a moment of respectful silence. John was always in our prayers.

One of the great pleasures of this last period was attending the concert given by the Watoto Children's Choir held at the Bunyarra Christian Centre in Whyalla. Bunyarra was packed to capacity and the evening of singing and dancing was, well electric. The enthusiasm of the children was something to behold. The Watoto Children's Choir was formed in Uganda and is composed of children who have lost one or both parents to

the AIDS Epidemic or to one of the interminable wars that plague that part of Africa. I had the opportunity to speak to some of the children after the concert and it was wonderful to hear them relate what the Lord had done in their lives.

The ladies of the PWA held their "Biggest Morning Tea" between 11am and 1:30 pm on Saturday 18th June. The event was a great success attended by over 90 people. Over \$500 was raised and sent to the Cancer Council of Australia. The ladies of the PWA are to be commended on the work they do to ensure that we continue to worship here. As a family of God's people we all work well together to maintain a Presbyterian presence here in Whyalla.



We have been blessed with a number of visitors lately including two members of the Korean Presbyterian Church of Norwood who worshipped with us for the few weeks they were based at the Dentistry School at the University of South Australia. July also saw us hold a Birthday Party with a difference. The difference was that it was a collective Birthday Lunch held in

the James Harris Hall to celebrate the 80th Birthday of several of our members.

Session has been discussing the possibility of holding an informal evening service. It would not follow the traditional service format but be more of a prayer and praise with members of the congregation taking part. Rev. Campbell did something similar to this at Norwood many years ago.

The congregation are in good heart as they continue to serve the Lord in the City of Whyalla.

John McVey

Church and Nation Committee

This committee is currently flat out supporting Federal efforts to promote the current, historic and *biblical* "definition of marriage" being between a man and woman for life.

In South Australia, the drive towards the entitlement for same-sex partners to adopt children;

the decriminalization of soliciting for prostitution;

the legalizing of voluntary euthanasia are other issues of current concern.

The committee is also working on policies concerning refugees and the healthy use of 'social media' such as Facebook.

*Stefan Slucki
Convener.*

Islamist Group Pilots "Sharia-Controlled Zone"

Muslims Against Crusades are targeting the London borough of Waltham Forest to be the first "sharia-controlled zone" as part of a new "Islamic Emirates Project".

This message is being distributed in certain Muslim enclaves.

The announcement comes after the Islamist group released Islamic Prevent, as reported by Operation Nehemiah last week, which called upon Muslims in Britain to create enclaves in major cities where sharia will one day be implemented.

The group said,

As part of our Islamic Emirate Project, Waltham Forest is to be the first borough to be targeted for an intense sharia led campaign, introducing the prospect of Islamic law for the Muslim community to abide by.

Waltham Forest is.... A borough with a marked Islamic fingerprint; Muslim businesses, mosques and Islamic schools emblazon its streets, making a transition into a thriving Islamic emirate, very real and plausible.

The organisation intends to persuade Muslims in Waltham to self-enforce sharia initially with specially designed leaflets and posters that read, "You are entering a Sharia Controlled Zone—Islamic Rules Enforced."

*Barnabas Fund weekly newsletter
21 July 2011*

PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for the Largs North congregation, elders and Pastor, Raymond Brewer.
- Your parliamentary representatives, federal and state.
- 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.
- Pray for steadfastness for the millions of Christians undergoing severe persecution by followers of other religions and non-religions philosophies.
- Pray for Helen Campbell and family mourning the passing of John.
- Pray for the Mount Gambier charge-2 congregations including Nelson-elders, Gary and Margaret Ware, Ian and Heather Touzel.
- Distribution of Christmas Boxes by Samaritans Purse.
- Persecuted Christians in Iraq.
- PIM leadership: Robert Duncanson NT, convener; Stuart Bonnington WA, superintendent.
- The residents, staff and Christian ministry in the 36 Presbyterian facilities for the aged in all states.
- All members of our Defence forces, and chaplains full time and part time.
- For God to reveal Christ's grace and truth to many living under the darkness of Islam.
- For the Commission of the General Assembly of South Australia meeting at Mount Barker on 17th November.
- Praise God for the life of John Stott and pray that his writing will influence yet more lives.
- Industrial chaplains ministering to people in their places of employment.
- A return to the authority of God's written Word in all churches
- The influence of the church in China, both official and underground
- North Adelaide congregation, elders and Chris ten Broeke.

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

Monday 7th November 2011.

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