



SA News



Kings of Judah: Growing Old Ungracefully

Kevin DeYoung

2 Chronicles 16:10-14: *Then Asa was angry ... and Asa inflicted cruelties upon some of the people at the same time.*
(verse 10)

Most of us will grow old. Only some of us will do it gracefully.

Verses 10-14 record the last stubborn days of a great king. Asa was a grumpy old man. His major offense? He got a disease in his feet and didn't ask the Lord for help. Now, there's nothing wrong with going to doctors. God wants us to be wise. But he also wants us to trust him—more than counselors, therapists, doctors, and pills—and trust him to the end.

There are two types of old Christians. There are those who fret and fuss about how bad things have gotten and how rotten kids are these days. These cantankerous old rascals don't like the church's music, people, or pastor.

But then there are Christians who, like fine wine, get better with age. They pray more. They get wiser and kinder. They understand what really matters. They love the Lord and everyday they read their big print Bibles with the devotional tucked in as a book mark. They pray for their kids and grandkids without ceasing. They're a pastor's best friend and they long to be with Jesus. These are the un-Asa-like believers the church desperately needs.

So what type of senior saint will you be—crotchety or Christ-like?

Kevin DeYoung is senior pastor of University Reformed Church, Lansing, MI, USA.

Mount Barker

In Chapter 8 of Romans, Paul quotes Psalm 44:22. He uses it to highlight the fact that nothing can take away God's commitment to love us forever. Even so, the message from the Psalmist is that, we like Israel of old, experience trials and troubles. For the Lord's sake, it is we who are being '*killed all day long*' and '*accounted as sheep for the slaughter.*' In one sense, this has been our recent experience.

After having experienced severe back and sciatic pain over the last 6 months, I have been on sick leave for the past 5 weeks following spinal surgery. Over the past few months, we have seen the curtailing of a number of our groups. Our numbers normally decline in the winter with some folk escaping the cold for warmer climes, while some are travelling overseas and also across Bass Strait. Others are suffering from colds and flu and some generally remain infrequent. The PWA is in recess for a number of months over winter. There has been no Breakfast for Blokes and no Home Group meetings going on. Added to this, with all the rain, the roof in one of the new toilets has been leaking.

On a brighter note, we give thanks to Him that my spinal surgery was successful and that I am now pain free. Thank you for your thoughts and prayers, not only for myself, but also for His faithful people here who, despite the cold, continued to meet together each and every week. The Lord continues to encourage us through sound biblical preaching and the eagerness of those willing to assist in times of trouble. We were blessed in having 23 year old Jeremy d'Lima (son of David d'Lima – Family Voice) preach one week followed by Rev Dr. Reg Mathews for three weeks. Home Missionary Ian Smith (ex Kaniva/Nhill Home Missionary) also contributed to enriching our time of Worship. Our children continue to learn and recite a memory verse and our hearts are encouraged as we recite verses with them. The hall continues to be well used by community groups with a new group having just started at the end of July. The Adelaide Hills Mental Health Team (part of the local Hospital) approached us twelve months ago, with the view to supporting a local Christian singer/song writer to teach people to compose and sing songs. This means that our hall is now being used by other organizations for at least two hours a day, Monday to Saturday. All appreciate the central location, the usefulness and comfort afforded from the facilities.



Singer Songwriter Robby teaching the new group the first song of many. They hope to compose up to 6 songs in the 15 week pilot program with A.H. Mental Health Team.

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

'Light' and 'salt' we must be as followers of Jesus, even if we seem to be killed off or discouraged. We know our future is in the Lord's hands. And even if we experience trials that cause us to be 'killed all day long', we trust His plans will bring joy to us. For we can have confidence even greater than the Psalmist. The Psalmist could only look back to the past redemption and salvation from the Lord who had led them out of Egypt by His mighty hand. But now we also look forward to the mighty working that can only come through the Holy Spirit working in our lives and Christ identifying with us. Being co-heirs with Christ, and suffering and being 'killed' as the Apostle reminds us, we are more than conquerors through Him who will cause us to be glorified together.

Robert Finster.

Mount Gambier

Mount Gambier's ESL (English as a Second Language) ministry has been offering a conversational English class every Friday morning since Term 2. Attendances have ranged from one on the first day to up to twelve. Attendees have come from Myanmar (Burma), Cambodia, China, Germany, India and Thailand.



The focus of the teaching and practice has been on greetings, shopping and other topics that help the students. Easy English Bible reading is also included each week.

The students are enthusiastic to learn and there's loads of laughs, fun and good relationships which is a great encouragement to the ministry team.

The team would testify that indeed "our help is in the help of the LORD, who made heaven and earth" (Psalm 124:8).

Thank to those who have supplied morning teas and who continue to pray for the ministry.

Ian Touzel



Hmm!

"If we want to see God's glory, if we long for ourselves and others to be transformed into godliness, we must dwell on the gospel, where his glory is most clearly seen. It is the gospel into which we are to look, and it is by the power of the gospel that we will be changed.

— Elyse Fitzpatrick and Dennis Johnson

Counsel from the Cross (Crossway Books, 2009), p. 40 <http://firstimportance.org/if-we-want-to-see-gods-glory/>

Naracoorte

The Ladies Fellowship invited the congregation to lunch at the Bushman's Arms Hotel on Sunday 6th July. We were joined by some of our Conversation English students and enjoyed great fellowship and an open fire on this cold winter's day. Bible Study, PWA and Ladies Fellowship meetings have continued during these past months.

Many members have been holidaying away in recent months with more to go soon. Stefan and Sue have enjoyed a holiday in warmer 'climes' e.g. Cairns and Townsville. Some members will be going overseas while others will be travelling north. We have had some members in Adelaide over recent months for medical treatment and we ask for prayer for them.

Please also pray for the future ministry in Naracoorte.



Pat Leitch

Seacliff



Rev Dr Reg Mathews and
Lesley Ey

On Sunday August 10th we were able to join with Mrs Lesley Ey as she was baptised during the morning worship service by Rev. Dr Reg Mathews. It was a very meaningful time and was followed by a time of fellowship in the hall with a bbq lunch. Several members of the congregation have experienced the loss of members of their families in the past few weeks: the mother of Graham Edwards, the mother-in-law of Mrs Sue Dollman, the mother of Mrs Lynn Byrne and grandmother of Matthew Byrne, and the younger son of Mrs Joan Thompson. We join them in their sorrow with prayer for their comfort.

This week we will celebrate the 80th birthday of Mrs Nell Verstegen with a church family lunch at a local restaurant.

Heather Blunt

Wattle Range

Millicent

Best wishes to all of the Church folk from Millicent Presbyterian Church

It doesn't seem long since we were sweltering during the hot weather, and now we are experiencing freezing temperatures with rain and wind. Keep Warm.

Steve Davies is now back at work and Rosslyn is still in re-hab in Adelaide, making slow but sure progress.

Our organist Sue Pappin and 3 of her "Sue" friends held another Biggest Morning tea in our hall and raised a total of \$2,726 for the fight against Cancer.

We are all sad at the passing of our friend Bob Foster. Bob was a staunch member of our Church. He was also the organist here at St Andrews & at Rendelsham for many years. Our sympathy goes to Beryl and family for their loss.

Many people are away during this cold weather and we only had a small attendance at Communion on the 1st June.

We welcomed nurse Gloria Buck back after a midwives conference in Prague.

A Bible society luncheon and quiz was held in the Uniting Church. This was attended by Sue and Thelma. The amount of \$240 was raised.

On the 2nd July we held a "Thanks for the Memories" afternoon for our ladies. Toys, photos, books, ornaments and handmade articles were on display and spoken about. An enjoyable afternoon of fellowship.

Our Minister Don continues to travel for medical appointments. We pray that the specialists will be able to find a solution to his problems.

We remember in our prayers all of our friends who are unable to join us for worship each Sunday.

Remember! You will never be alone if you have Jesus as your friend.

Thelma Thomas

Penola

Communion was held in June and members enjoyed a shared lunch in the hall after the service. Don had been preaching on some of his favourite passages and has now started studies on Nehemiah.

Robert Wood from Gideon's International spoke at our service on 20th July.

PWA met in July to discuss the Annual Fair which was subsequently



(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

held on 1st August. Attendances were down again this year and even though the weather forecast was for a cold and wet day, the sun came out and people were able to come into the hall for the luncheon without getting wet. Twenty six people came by bus from Boandik Lodge Mount Gambier to share the day with us. This helped to boost the numbers. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the day by donating money or food for the lunch and the cake/biscuit/slice stall, work stall, produce, plants or for just being there and enjoying the day.



The PWA Thanksgiving Service and Rally is to be held in the Penola Church on 28th August. Don hopes to be available for the Communion Service and as Guest Speaker in the afternoon, God willing!

Barbara Provis

Mount Gambier

Over the weekend of Friday 27th to Sunday 29th June we were blessed with ministry by David D'Lima of Family Voice Australia.

David spoke to a combined youth meeting on the biblical example of Daniel.

Then at the men's breakfast his message urged men to follow the example of Christ.



David D'Lima (right) at the men's breakfast

His Sunday morning message gave attention to God's sovereignty over the nations. David also preached at the citywide service in the evening.

Whyalla

During June the ladies held the "Presbyterian Ladies Brunch". It was a great success and over \$700 was raised and donated to the Whyalla Cancer Support Group at the Whyalla Hospital. A fantastic effort from everyone involved.

The PWA Cake Stall in late July was also a great success. Thanks to all the ladies, and gentlemen who contributed to that success—and to all the customers, of course.

The Rt. Rev Gary Ware has been appointed Moderator for Whyalla.

John McVey

TORRENS PRESBYTERY - Strategic Plan and Workshop - 9th August 2014

The afternoon brought together about 45 people from the six metropolitan parishes around Adelaide. The Torrens Presbytery thought it would be helpful to gather interested members of all congregations to join with the Presbytery to talk about developing a Strategic Plan for the Adelaide region. While the day got everyone thinking not all questions could be answered. One question posed as a “homework” exercise was – ***What is a healthy viable parish?*** All attending at least recognized the difficult challenges we face, for example when combined we are, at best, 180 worshipping adults in a city of 1.3 million people. Rev. John Irvin facilitated the day. John had some ‘out of the box’ crazy ideas for us. He prefaced some of his ideas as “I could get shot for thinking this”, yet instead of shooting him we thanked him for getting us all to think about the future. Below are five of the ‘crazy’ off the wall ideas.

Do nothing, maintain the status quo.

Engage a roving minister (“commissioner”) to service the congregations without a settled minister on a rotating basis.

Pair up congregations and share the minister (f/t or p/t).

Pair up congregations, combine assets to support ministry in one of the centres.

Pool assets of all congregations, use assets to support 1 or 2 brand new ministry centres.

This was not an afternoon of making decisions, but of taking the first faltering steps in discerning together the future God has for Presbyterian ministry in Adelaide.

We were joined by Rev. John Langbridge from Queensland, Graham Roberts from Hobart and Rev. Gary Ware from Mount Gambier – all assessors to the Torrens Presbytery.

Rev. Bruce Meller from Sydney and Rev. Peter Barson from Queensland also joined us for the afternoon discussion.

Thanks go to all the members of North Adelaide for their hospitality and support for this event.

Robert Finster – Publicity Officer



John Irvin facilitating some thinking and discussion at the North Adelaide Presbyterian Church.

News from the John Flynn Patrol



Our annual outreach at Beltana was fantastic! So much to tell you in such a small space. We are praising God for His leading, supplying needs, opening hearts, teaching, surprising us again and again, giving us a hope and so much more.

Thank you to those who prayed for the event. We value your support. While we will not know the ultimate results (for now), we can report what we know: a team was brought together, Jono was baptised, movie night and church service was well attended, good fellowship with local Christians, locals and travellers who don't know Jesus were welcomed, gospel message given 'by word and deed', hospitality shared, book stall and resources (free) was well used, friendships deepened, the "Smith of Dunesk" building received some TLC and we all left knowing that this patch of the outback has been exposed to our Lord Jesus' salvation plan. We thank our gracious God for supplying all. Humbling!

Pre Outreach Timeline:

We have been encouraging our supporters to pray and consider joining us on the yearly event—June long weekend.

One month out – several groups interested but no one definitely joining us.

One fortnight out – a new couple that joined our church (Whyalla) decided to come



One week out – thought that it would be the four of us (plus cute child). We would just have to 'knuckle down' and work hard.

Two days out – arrived at Beltana Station to be greeted by a visiting mature Christian couple who were keen to be involved.

One day out – the couple we just met call in another Christian family of seven to help out. Praise God for our team of 14!

Please continue to pray for the work of PIM. We are a big family which includes patrol teams, committee, administration and supporters (you).

You are a very valuable part. If you know of anyone who would like to be part of PIM, call Stuart: (08) 9398 1304. PIM needs more Patrol Teams!

"Let them praise the name of the Lord: for his name alone is excellent; His glory is above the earth and heaven." Psalm 148:13 (KJV)

Thank you for all your prayer support.



Your partnership in our mission is essential for the effective advancement of our Lord's Gospel in the outback.

The movie night was well attended. Our SA home church was praying about the cold. The hall was surprisingly warm. We were able to reach others that didn't come to church the next morning. The John Flynn DVD shown, barbeque, popcorn and hot drinks appreciated.

Jono's baptism was amazing. Many friends and family attended, all at various stages of relationship with Jesus. The Gospel was proclaimed. 37 attended and the discussions afterwards were fruitful and relationships strengthened.

David preached on God's Grace, using the author of the hymn, Amazing Grace, John Newton as an illustration.

Thank you for praying for David.

Preaching is becoming easier.

Free book stall, literature and scarves were well received. Bibles, tracts, scriptural fridge magnets, devotional material etc was taken from the table.

Thank you to those who supplied God's Word to those who don't have it.

Our last teen Bible was given with devotional material to a teen girl whose Christian grandfather brought the family along to our movie night and then to the Sunday service. Please pray for "S".

Please pray for the spiritual journey towards salvation of all who attended: their ears and hearts open. Praise God for the workers that He brought together, in His time. Pray also for financial support – our sponsorship needs to increase so we can continue without financial burden or distraction.



Hmm!

"Do you ever think it might be time to get ready for eternity? It is obviously more important than life here and now.

The first step in preparation would be to see that I was 'right with God'. I am not naturally right with God. If this were the case there would have been no reason for the Lord Jesus to come into the world and to die, taking the punishment our sins deserved. We need to repent of a life lived in independence of God and to trust in the death of the Lord Jesus as our only means of forgiveness and being 'right with God'.

We should contemplate the New Creation where we will be 'Like Jesus'. What a joy that will be. I will be perfectly in God's image. That's a thing to be longed for. 'The glory which will be revealed' will so dwarf our life here that it will take on the significance of our first day at kindergarten.

Trust what God says: It will be glorious. And long for it to come. "

John Chapman,
Australian evangelist and Bible teacher, who died in
November 2012, aged 82
[http://www.australianchurchrecord.net/
ACR_1898_Dec_2009.pdf](http://www.australianchurchrecord.net/ACR_1898_Dec_2009.pdf)



Hmm!

"Suffering helps us look for our Savior. If we never have any trouble along the journey, we would never have any reason to long for Heaven. Like the Israelites, we need the house of bondage to help drive us to the Promised Land."

— Philip Graham Ryken
Exodus: Saved for God's Glory (Wheaton,
IL: Crossway Books, 2005), 37.
<http://firstimportance.org/suffering-the-savior/>

Displaced Iraqi Christians die in miserable conditions

Reports have emerged that Iraqi Christians driven from their homes by Islamist militants are beginning to die in crowded camps and other temporary places of refuge.

Hundreds of thousands of Christians were forced to flee their homes, many with nothing, as militants from ISIS (the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant) violently seized towns and villages in the Nineveh region. The militants overran Qaraqosh, Iraq's largest Christian town, on the night of 6-7 August.



More than 1.2 million Iraqis have reportedly been driven from their homes.

Many Christians have taken refuge in Iraqi Kurdistan. Some are sheltering in churches and schools, though others have no choice but to sleep in unfinished buildings, in parks and in the streets. The most vulnerable amongst the displaced are reportedly dying because of shortages of food, water, medicines and shelter from the elements.

Harrowing reports have been emerging of the plight of those who were unable to escape the militants' violent advance.

The United Nations has highlighted abductions and sexual violence, saying that some 1,500 Yazidis and Christians

may have been forced into sexual slavery.

Some of those displaced from the Nineveh region had already fled just weeks earlier from the city of Mosul, which was captured by ISIS (which now wishes to be known as the Islamic State) on 10 June. Christians in Mosul were given three options: convert to Islam, pay the *jizya* tax of subjugation and accept a humiliating second-class status, or face death.

Although many Iraqi Christians have been turned on by their neighbours since the ISIS onslaught began, Barnabas has heard of at least two cases in which local Iraqi Muslims have spoken out on behalf of their Christian compatriots. Both were killed instantly by ISIS or its supporters. **Give thanks** for their bravery and for that of all who speak out against ISIS.

Will you help?

\$13 pays for a hygiene kit including soap and sterilising liquid.

\$18 buys a blanket for a displaced Christian family.

\$27 provides a food basket including rice, lentils, canned meat and fish, tomato paste, tea and sugar which will last an average sized family for about 10 days.

How to give to the Barnabas Fund:

online: www.barnabasfund.org or by

phone: 1300 365 799

www.barnabasfund.org

The Reformation - Has the Holy Spirit Moved On?

In five simple slogans known as the Five Solas, I believe the Reformers brought us back to the heart of the Gospel. The Bible has not changed one iota since the 16th Century, and neither has the Gospel that the Bible proclaims. When we move beyond the Bible, we move away from the Holy Spirit who inspired it. Some people would say that the Holy Spirit has moved on. With all that is in me, I must humbly but strongly disagree. It is indeed sad that most Christians think these things to be irrelevant, when in all reality there could be nothing more relevant to the Church and our world.

Briefly then, let me enumerate these five solas of the Reformation. Luther and his reformers had 5 main slogans, all using the word "SOLA," which is the Latin word for "ALONE." It was this word "ALONE" that designated the true biblical Gospel and set it apart from all other pretenders. The cry of these Reformers was not simply FAITH!, GRACE!, CHRIST!, THE SCRIPTURE!, or THE GLORY OF GOD! (All embracing a false Gospel could do that.)

Instead, the cry was FAITH ALONE!, GRACE ALONE!, CHRIST ALONE!, SCRIPTURE ALONE!, THE GLORY OF GOD ALONE! With Scripture alone as the sure foundation, the Reformers affirmed that justification is by grace alone, received through faith alone because of Christ alone for the glory of God alone...

The five solas are relevant in all ages, because they are truths that can be clearly demonstrated from sacred Scripture. To many, these doctrines are mere historical novelties - interesting milestones and beliefs of a former era. Yet, as far as I can see, it is very much apparent that we need these same biblical, Holy Spirit inspired correctives in our own day.

The 16th Century is one very different to our own. We may strongly disagree with the burning of heretics at that time, and perhaps even be shocked by the very hostile rhetoric that flowed freely between those who disagreed on these issues. Yet at the same time, we must try to understand a culture so removed from ours where people believed the Bible was the Word of God; that heaven and hell were real places; and that doctrine actually mattered...

I don't believe the Holy Spirit has moved on from the central truths of the Reformation. In fact, I believe He is calling His Church back to the proclamation of these doctrines that once shook the world

John Samson is the founder and President of Reformation Study Center (www.reformationstudycenter.com) and serves as pastor of Kings Church, Phoenix, Arizona, USA.



Hmm!

"There is a thirst for happiness in the soul of man, but there is a drought in all things but in God."

— Edward Griffin

Christ, A Refuge From The Tempest

<http://firstimportance.org/2012/01/thirst-and-drought/>

PRAYER POINTS

- 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. Uphold in prayer your parliamentary representatives, federal and state.
- Pray for the Mount Barker church; congregation, elders, Robert & Julie Finster.
- Pray for Gary Ware South Australian Moderator that he will receive refreshment while on leave for the next 12 weeks.
- Pray for many people to become and grow as Christians through PIM patrols
- Pray for the Port Augusta church; congregation, elders, Barry & Cheryl Rossiter.
- 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 Christians in Iraq, Syria and the Middle East who are facing severe persecution for their faith.
- Uphold in prayer David & Gae McDonald, John Flynn Patrol, PIM.
- Pray that the Lord will protect and sustain His people in Iraq. Pray that they will hope in Him at this seemingly hopeless time, for with Him there is unfailing love and with Him there is full redemption (Psalm 130:7). Ask the Lord to work radically in the hearts of the militants who are so ruthlessly persecuting Christians and other religious minorities, and turn the fighters from their destructive purposes.
- Pray for the Naracoorte church; congregation, elders; Stefan & Sue Slucki.
- Pray for Christians to be instruments of truth and grace in the midst of skepticism and increasing opposition to the Christian faith.
- Pray for hearts to be opened as the Lord Jesus Christ is proclaimed by word and deed by PIM workers.
- Pray God will raise up men and women with the spirit of Elijah "to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children and the hearts of the children to the fathers". Pray that this September 2014, we will see a revolution and restoration of fatherhood in Australia
- Pray for Assembly Clerk Brian Johnson and all conveners and committees as they implement the decisions of the Assembly that was held in May.

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 2014 issue are to be in my hands **no later than 5.00pm Monday 10th November 2014.**

Email: pcsanews@bigpond.com

SA News is a publication of the Theological & Christian Education Committee of The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of South Australia Inc.