



# SA NEWS

Newsletter of the Presbytery of South Australia Issue 51 September 2021

## When God speaks, we listen.

God's word spoke creation into being (Genesis 1). His word spoke to Abram a promise of a great Nation (Genesis 12). His word promised to David a descendant who would rule on the throne forever (2 Samuel 7). Each time, God speaks and blesses those who hear him. His word is powerful, effective and in control.

God's word, the agent of creation, became flesh and made his dwelling place among us. (John 1:14) God's word has a name, that name is Jesus. Not only was Jesus there in the beginning, but all things were made through, for and by him.

There are many reasons to listen to the words of Jesus, not least of which is that He himself is God. When Jesus says, "I am the way, the truth, and the life, no one comes to the Father except through me," He is making an exclusive truth claim. Not only is Jesus the sole means of salvation and admission to God's house, which is true, but He is claiming to be the path to, the source of, and the mechanism of God's grace.

And through Jesus death and resurrection, God provided himself to us in the person of the Holy Spirit, who indwells all those who call on the name of the Lord. God himself, Father, Son and Spirit working together for the good of those who love Him.

What a blessing God has spoken to us in the person and work of Christ Jesus. What a blessing God has spoken to us in the deliverance of His Holy Spirit.

Thank God today for his Word, and make sure you are listening.

Davo Gunning

## Adelaide

### Mount Barker

Greetings to all from our folk at Mt Barker.

We have celebrated the Sacrament of Holy Communion during May and August as per Covid conditions.

On the Queen's Birthday holiday, a working bee was conducted, to tidy up the church grounds and buildings. Special thanks to Mark Truyens for his care to polish the rear entrance door, Peter Lim and his sons who together with Chris Williams cleaned the rear garden of the manse and for the Green family's efforts in many areas.

During May, a friend of Edward Green, John Lee, joined in the services. Mr Mason from Lenswood attended a service and we were privileged on two occasions to welcome Tim Lamb, the grandson of Margaret Beavis.

During June we welcomed the Beames family into our midst. Paul, Heather, Faye, Lucy, Rose and Alex live in Macclesfield.

As part of our 4<sup>th</sup> July service, the Sunday School children illustrated the subject of some of their lessons. We are grateful for the efforts of Mark and Rene Truyens together with Mathew and Rachel Green. Sunday school is conducted on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month.

Matt attended our service on 1<sup>st</sup> August to tell us of his overseas work. He illustrated his subject with a visual presentation.

Our best regards to all readers.

Arthur Crompton.

### Seacliff

Seacliff Congregation has been blessed to have Matt worship with us several times over the past couple of months during his time in Adelaide.

As a member of the congregation, before he moved to his area of work overseas, we have known Matt and been able to follow him through the various stages of the work's development and have, like many others, supported him in prayer and financially.

Matt spoke to a gathering of the congregation and several invited guests in July. A 'bring your own' afternoon tea added to the enjoyment as we heard of the developments in the work. The news brought us much encouragement and 'fodder' for further prayer.

The regular meetings of the congregation continue and the Growth Group members are happy to have our pastor, Peter Lim, attend every second week.

Visits have recently been made to two members who, due to age especially, are unable to attend worship. Both Nell Verstegen and Joan Thompson are being well cared for and particularly enjoy the contact and renewing of relationships. The visitors too gained much joy from the time with them.

Heather Blunt

## Karnkendi Campsite

The most recent interruption to our lives with Lockdowns is, unfortunately (for all the good reasons), starting to become a way of life in Victoria with South Australia being caught up also with getting to know the measures we all have to go to in suppressing a highly contagious virus once it enters the community.

Beaconhills Christian College from Melbourne were once again hopeful to get through their year 9 Outdoors programme which saw them arrive on the 14<sup>th</sup> May at the camp that was to run to the 2<sup>nd</sup> June. However, Victorian Lockdown # 4 saw Parks and Schools close so they had to pack and coach all the children, supplies and equipment back to Melbourne. This would have been a strange feeling leaving the isolation of the Lower Glenelg National park to go back to Melbourne to enter a lockdown.

These same restrictions then saw the Old Time music weekend for the 4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> June be postponed, at this stage, after being cancelled for 2 years. Then as we came out of this Lockdown with the rules allowing only 2 households to mix this saw the Richardson family from Portland, Warrnambool and Koroiit cancel the 11<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> of June, which was unfortunate as they have been long time supporters of Karnkendi.

Not to give up easily Beaconhills came back this time for the first occasion ever with their year 10's for a shorter 8 day outdoors programme. This saw 40 + students camping on the grounds and enjoying bush cooking and life around the campfire. However, our luck only lasted 4 days as Victorian Lockdown # 5 came which was followed by another mass exodus early am on the 17<sup>th</sup> of July.

This was followed with the Gunditj Mirring Aboriginal folk from Heywood cancelling their stay for the 23<sup>rd</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup> July.

To get the last of their programmes run in some form Beaconhills Christian College from Melbourne were due to arrive on the 16<sup>th</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> of August but, you guessed it, Victorian Lockdown # 6 came along. Things opened up a little in regional Victoria but are very strict for border communities like ourselves in Nelson. A 70 km corridor either side of the SA/Vic Border is allowed, with permits enforced, as long as we have no interaction with folk beyond the 70 km on the Vic side otherwise testing is required with isolation for first negative result. Consequently, at this time, we are treading water but getting on with some long overdue jobs which will be beneficial in the near future.

Some of the lovely donation money from the Penola Ladies has been put to



New storage cupboards

good use with floor to ceiling storage cupboards in the main hall and a new island bench with much needed closed under-storage in the kitchen.

Our good neighbour Mr Mac was looking for a little lockdown job to keep him busy and did a lovely job to tidy up the front veranda bench seating with paint he wanted to “get rid of”. These present so nicely now, we store them inside between camps!

To do our bit to help out with the sale of the Nelson Church we found the toilet system completely full of tree roots, I don't want to say much more, only to say the Glenelg shire health officer is happy now.



Bench seat makeover



Plant protection

Heather is having her own little war with a very hungry un-identified herbivore that is eating off her freshly established Kangaroo paws and planter flowers. This has now seen raised steel netting and poles come into force prior to the possible introduction of 240 volt hook up!

As our water is pumped from a bore at the front of the camp up the hill to the concrete tank at the church we needed our own reserve supply, so a 5,000 Gallon poly tank is now on site. We removed a very large tree stump on the east side of the boys toilet for this to finally sit on a bordered sand pad. We have also trimmed back overhanging limbs so the site is clear. I am slowly making sense of the underground plumbing at the camp!

Hope and Faith are working well in our prayers as Beacons Hills are pushing back their next camp so to be onsite as soon as the Melbourne lockdown can stop. Long time supporters of Karnkendi, the Bransholme Craft group (located just south of Hamilton), have made inquiries in the last few days to come for a 3 day stay from 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> of September. Although they are only small in number it is a major outing for them to enjoy a time of fellowship and sharing as their crafty fingers enjoy the front lounge and warm fire. This, hopefully, will be followed up with a Ladies Workshop booked for the 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> of October with around 20 attending.



More plant protection

Finally in regards to future bookings the Warrnambool East Primary School, who have never used the camp before, are planning a visit in early November with all of their grade 6's. This will see the camp filled in every allowed space to accommodate them but it is certainly a nice problem to have for a change.

We recently asked the Nelson Tourist centre if there was any history about Karnkendi and in a Nelson notes newsletter a 50/50 Dance was held on the 27<sup>th</sup> of August 1977, admission \$1 Adults and 50 cents for high school aged children, ladies to bring a plate to share with 20 cent per ticket raffle for a dressed Turkey donated by Leila and Harry Huebner (who were caretakers of camp). The proceeds of the evening went towards the materials to build the Nelson Hall.

To reduce our overheads we have now cut off all phone landlines to the camp and Church which was the camp office. The contact number is reflected in our website [www.karnkendi.com.au](http://www.karnkendi.com.au) but if you can or wish to book Karnkendi for a family outing or small group, once we can, please call Heather on 0448 871225.

Many thanks for all your prayers of support,

Harv and Heather McBain

Karnkendi Caretakers



Tank site

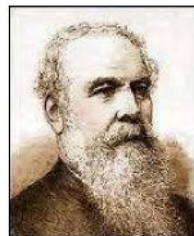
## Christianity is About Jesus

It is well to be acquainted with all the doctrines and principles of Christianity. It is better to be acquainted with Christ Himself. It is well to be familiar with faith and grace and justification and sanctification. They are all matters "pertaining to the King." But it is far better to be familiar with Jesus Himself, to see the King's own face, and to behold His beauty.

This is one secret of eminent holiness. He that would be conformed to Christ's image, and become a Christ-like man, must be constantly studying Christ Himself.

—J.C. Ryle, *Holiness*, page 191.

J.C. Ryle (1816-1900) a fervent evangelical, was the first Anglican bishop of Liverpool, UK. Many of his books and articles are still in print today.





## Pray the Lord of the Harvest

Sheryl Sarkoezy



*Alan & Faye Canavan, serving with APWM and Wycliffe for over 35 years*

Last year, as the world went into Covid lockdown, and human plans began to unravel, Australian mission agencies wondered how the pandemic would affect cross-cultural mission around the world. Would those ready to go *ever* get to the field? Would some come home, *never* to return? Would churches struggle to raise up new mission candidates in the face of such uncertainty? *What was God doing here?*

We've been observing a downward trend, especially over the last couple of years, in the number of missionaries in the APWM family. Is it Covid, or something else? Is it more, or less, than in the past? We did some number-crunching to find some answers.

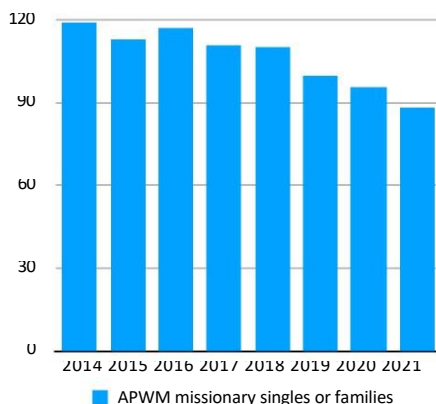
We learned that, over the last 7 years, 30% of missionaries who had ended their service had done so within 5 years of going out. This isn't as high as the figure often quoted from *Too Valuable to Lose*, a book published by the World Evangelical Fellowship two decades ago. But still, it represents more than 20 families.

On the other hand, APWM has 13 missionaries who have been on the field for more than 20 years, and 6 of them for more than 35 years! And they are still serving, most of them in Bible translation and Bible language recording.

Over that 7 years, the number of missionaries 'coming home' has gone up and down, with no clear trend. Anecdotally, the pandemic has been just one factor for people returning home in the last 2 years. Schooling for children, political unrest in certain countries, the need to care for ageing parents, and personal health issues are among the many reasons that missionaries have returned home in slightly higher numbers than previous years.

The trend that seems more closely correlated with the decrease in missionary numbers is the decrease in the number of people coming forward to partner with APWM and other agencies. The reasons for this are not entirely clear, but there's a renewed conversation in mission circles about how to mobilise for mission in the 21st century so that the gospel continues to go out around the world.

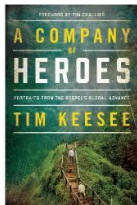
Pray with us that the Lord of the harvest will send out more workers, for the harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. (Ma[thew 9:37-38])



## Highly Recommended Books on Mission

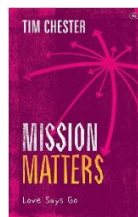
### **A Company of Heroes: Portraits from the Gospel's Global Advance** - Tim Keesee

Well written, easy to read with extremely encouraging accounts of God's work from a bigger picture perspective. Possibly one of the best books in recent years!



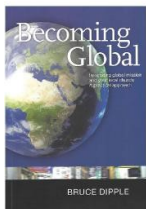
### **Mission Matters: Love Says Go** - Tim Chester

A practical book surveying the Bible's teaching on mission from Genesis to Revelation. An easy read and a great place to start in seeing the Bible's bigger picture when it comes to the Bible and global mission.



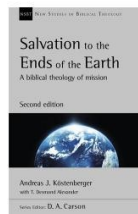
### **Becoming Global: Integrating Global Mission and Your Local Church: A Practical Approach** - Bruce Dipple

A terrific handbook on how to help your congregation think through how to integrate global mission into its ministry. (Please note: sometimes out of print.)



### **Salvation to the Ends of the Earth (2nd edition)** Andreas Kostenberger & T.D. Alexander

Starts with a brief survey on the Old Testament and then develops into a more in-depth look at the New Testament's teaching on global mission. More academic than Chester.



## Keeping in Touch with Global Mission

At APWM we continue to be encouraged by the service of our missionaries. If you would like to know more about the ministry of our missionaries and the countries in which they serve there are two ways you can be better informed.

### **APWM Partnership News**

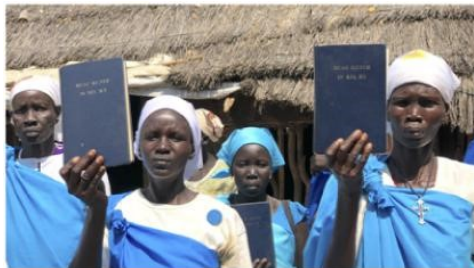
APWM National is now sending out a weekly newsletter via email. If you'd like to receive this newsletter then please sign up here

[shrtm.nu/NSAb](http://shrtm.nu/NSAb)

Or here <https://www.apwm.org.au/resources/newsletter/>

### **Prayer Update**

We produce a bi-monthly prayer update with prayer points for each day taken from the newsletters sent out by our missionaries. You can sign up for the Prayer Update by sending an email to [office@apwm.org.au](mailto:office@apwm.org.au) and providing the name of your church and contact details (phone number or email address) for your minister.



## How Will They Hear?

In 1917, Cameron Townsend started passing out Bibles in Guatemala among the Cakchiquel Indians. Many of the people he came in contact with had no idea who Jesus was. Whenever he would ask them, they would say "There is no Jesus who lives in our village; maybe he lives in

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## Naracoorte

Greetings in our Lord Jesus.

Naracoorte Parish is going along ok with regular services provided by our Elders. We have Rev Rudi Schwartz and his wife Heila scheduled for a stay in September and October, but that is not looking very hopeful at the time of writing this.

On the bright side, the ladies KYB - Bible studies continue weekly, which is an encouragement to the ladies and Julie McLean and Pat Leitch (as Leader and Assistant Leaders of KYB) are looking forward to attending a CWCI Southern Regional Board - Encouragement & Affirmation Day on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> August via Zoom.

Unfortunately, the Ladies Fellowship has had to postpone a luncheon in early August, at which we usually raise money for a local charity. Also our annual Congregation dinner has had to be postponed, due to restricted numbers and renovations at the hotel where we usually dine. They have a small private dining room which was being renovated, along with the kitchen, at the time the dinner was planned.

We celebrated Elder Tom Loechel's 80th birthday on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> August, with a cake and many celebratory wishes. (Pictured on the right).

Thank you all and may God bless you and I leave you with these words as we consider the many difficult situations throughout the world:

**1 Thessalonians 5:17-18**

*"...pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."*



Pat Leitch

*(Continued from page 9)*

Some have enjoyed a campfire, a great sunset and warm fellowship over a meal with other travellers.

We still have room for more Founding Partners to get on board. This is a great way to be part of a brand-new initiative that will build our church's capacity to reach our nation with the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Founding Partners are providing the financial resources to lay the foundation for a ministry that, we hope, will bear fruit for decades to come. At \$100 per month for three years, or \$50 per month for two years, it is not an insignificant commitment – but it is one that will make a big difference in making disciples amongst people living in remote places across our big country.



Goldilocks would have loved the weather. Not too hot, not too cold – just right. Which was a real blessing. Our long planned for volunteer work crew had arrived to install the new roof on the Piggery; a job that is best done when the weather is just right.

The Piggery is a central piece of New Dunesk infrastructure. From here, PIM aims to run a whole host of programmes that Inspire, Equip and Send out God's people for ministry in the Inland. We are very much looking forward to the day when this building is filled with people undertaking training, enjoying one another's company, and learning more about what God is up to across our nation.

The work crew punched out a huge amount of work in less than a week to transform the Piggery. We were blessed by their skills, hard work and generosity, and we look forward to having them back for another round of work in the not-too-distant future.



While the work crew were busy hoisting roof trusses, fastening metal sheets and laying out insulation, another group of generous people were quietly at work behind the scenes making it all possible; these people are our Founding Partners. Because of their commitment to make regular financial donations each month, we have the confidence to proceed with our plans. The donations made by our Founding Partners are specially aimed at getting New Dunesk up and running in the first three years. In this case, our Founding Partners have literally helped put a roof over our heads! Their generous donations paid for all the materials needed for the Piggery and for hiring the equipment we needed to safely do the high access work on the roof. What a blessing!

We have designed the Founding Partners program so that it is a real partnership, not a one-way street. Our Founding Partners enjoy many benefits, including an invitation to drop in and camp at New Dunesk anytime they are passing by. We are thrilled that some of them have taken the time to do this. In recent weeks, we have enjoyed a number of visits from Founding Partners who have made a visit to New Dunesk part of their travel plans. They have enjoyed seeing first-hand what their partnership is achieving, and they have caught the big vision for what we are doing through New Dunesk.

*(Continued on page 8)*

## Mount Gambier

On Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> August Mount Gambier Presbyterian Church commissioned two of our members, Jeroen and Diana, to mission in Papua New Guinea. Our guest speakers joined us by video recording, including our preacher Kevin Murray.



It was a different sort of service, but we've had lots of those over the last 18 months.

Later in August we had a visit from Matt. He was able to visit several groups and speak to them about the work he does. We were able to view a visual presentation of the area he serves in and the work he does.

These were very encouraging events for the congregation.



Gary Ware, Jozua, Naomi, Diana, Jeroen and Anne at Jeroen & Diana's commissioning service.

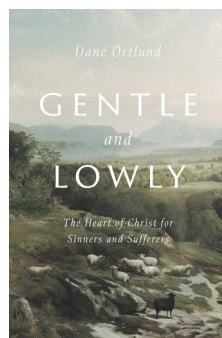
## Book Review

### Gentle and Lowly by Dane Ortlund

"I have read no book that more carefully, thoroughly, and tenderly displays Christ's heart."

- Paul David Tripp, President, Paul Tripp Ministries; author, *New Morning Mercies* and *My Heart Cries Out*.

Christians know what Jesus Christ has done - but who is he? What is his deepest heart for his people, weary and faltering on their journey toward heaven? Jesus said he is "gentle and lowly in heart." This book reflects on these words, opening up a neglected yet central truth about who he is for sinners and sufferers today.



Christians know that God loves them, but can easily feel that he is perpetually disappointed and frustrated, maybe even close to giving up on them. As a result, they focus a lot-and rightly so-on what Jesus has done to appease God's wrath for sin. But how does Jesus Christ actually feel about his people amid all their sins and failures? This book draws us to Matthew 11, where Jesus describes himself as "gentle and lowly in heart," longing for his people to find rest in him. The gospel flows from God's deepest heart for his people, a heart of tender love for the sinful and suffering. These chapters take readers into the depths of Christ's very heart for sinners, diving deep into Bible passages that speak of who Christ is and encouraging readers with the affections of Christ for his people. His longing heart for sinners comforts and sustains readers in their up-and-down lives.

*Hardback available from Koorong for \$22.99*

# **A call to prayer for our defence and veteran community given the situation in Afghanistan**

*“Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body” (Heb 13:3).*

The vision and reports coming out of Afghanistan are bringing deep distress to many. The implications of the fall of Kabul to the Taliban are socially and politically far reaching and should be the subject of our prayers.

In no way seeking to minimise any of the range of concerning issues, I write to ask that you add to your prayers our Defence Force personnel and Veteran community. Many are experiencing real frustration, sadness, and anger given what is happening in the land where they sacrificed so much. I invite you to:

- Pray for the people of Afghanistan enduring the current humanitarian crisis. Pray for their safety and their welfare into the future.
- Pray for the church in Afghanistan as it endures the atrocities of the Taliban. Pray especially for the women and children left in their hands.
- Pray for our 36,000+ veterans and their families, including those who have served in the Middle East and Afghanistan over the last 20 years. Despite what occurs in Afghanistan now, pray that they may know we are thankful for their service and sacrifice.
- Remember with thankful hearts our Coalition servicemen and servicewomen who gave so much for Afghanistan.
- Pray for our Australian and Coalition Forces presently deployed in support of the evacuation process of Australian citizens, Afghan nationals, foreign workers from Afghanistan, and citizens of many other countries.
- Pray for wisdom in the decision making of our leaders in Defence: For the Chief of our Defence Force, General Angus Campbell; The Minister for Defence, the Hon. Peter Dutton; the Assistant Minister for Defence, the Hon. Andrew Hastie; and the Minister for Veterans Affairs and Defence Personnel, the Hon. Andrew Gee.

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## **Martin de Pyle**

Presbyterian Representative – Religious Advisory Committee to the Services  
Convenor – Defence Force Chaplains Committee, General Assembly of Australia  
0429 329 074 [www.westfootscraypc.com.au](http://www.westfootscraypc.com.au)

## PRAYER POINTS

- Intercede for the Federal Government; Prime Minister Scott Morrison; that he will lead with integrity, stand firm in his belief and hold fast to his faith.
- Pray for the Adelaide Church; Davo Gunning, Ben Harvey, Peter Lim; congregations and elders.
- Pray for Bible Studies being held; that people may come to a deeper knowledge of God and our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.
- Pray for all security forces around the world working to prevent violence and destruction, that our Lord will lead and guide them in their work, even though they may not know Him.
- Intercede for the Defence and Police forces and all first responders during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Uphold in prayer your parliamentary representatives, federal and state.
- 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.
- Pray for persecuted Christians throughout the world.
- Pray for all those affected by the Coronavirus.
- Pray for the Leader of the Opposition Anthony Albanese; that he will be guided by Christian principles and come to know Jesus as his Lord and Saviour.
- Pray for the Naracoorte Church; congregation and elders.
- Pray for the Presbytery of South Australia, Moderator Davo Gunning; Clerk Gary Ware.
- Pray for the APWM office, Kevin Murray (Director)
- 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 hearts to be opened as the Lord Jesus Christ is proclaimed by word and deed by PIM workers.
- Pray for Christian witness in primary and secondary schools (especially your local ones) through believing pupils, parents, staff and visiting teachers.
- Pray for 'M' serving in west Asia
- Uphold our brothers & sisters throughout our country who are unable to meet physically. Pray that they will keep focussed on the Gospel.
- Pray for Jeroen & Diana as they take up work in Papua New Guinea.

### 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 2021 issue are to be in my hands **no later than 5.00pm Monday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2021.**

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