



# SA NEWS

Newsletter of the Presbytery of South Australia

Issue 69

March 2026



## The Nature of the Kingdom - The Nature of Our King

The disciples thought they were going to an inauguration, a coronation. And they were. But they were mistaken about the nature of the kingdom they were going to see begin.

Luke's Gospel relates that Jesus was consciously heading toward Jerusalem during chapter 9. Those who were with him appear aware of the direction they were headed, and dreamed about the purpose that Jesus had in mind for his arrival.

Thoughts of a throne, or perhaps thrones; honour for Jesus, and honour for them. They appeared certain they knew the hallmarks which befitted God's kingdom, and believed they should share in the glory to come.

The wilderness might have been a necessary place to visit, but it couldn't possibly be the place to stay.

The disciples were going to an inauguration, a coronation. The crown was one of thorns. The 'throne' was a cross. Instead of praises, there were only jeers. Rather than being feted and served, Jesus offered himself on behalf of those who rejected him and met their eternal needs.

This beginning point of Jesus' kingdom was not a departure point. The sacrificial love and service present at the beginning of the kingdom continue to be the character of the kingdom. Our king's character is also the character of all those who are part of the kingdom. The disciples would soon surrender their expectations of thrones and power. The emblems of honour they would embrace were scars, alienation, and rejection.

In the weeks leading up to Easter, walk with Jesus anew. Retrace the purposeful footsteps that lead him to the cross. The cross you and I deserved, but that he endured for us. Know that our footsteps are not alone, and that he walks with us.

The call of Jesus will bring us to choices of loving surrender and service. That's the nature of the kingdom, that's the nature of our King.

Gary Ware



# APWM

## Australian Presbyterian World Mission

Hi friends,

APWM is privileged to proclaim the gospel globally and pray that by God's grace we can have a '**Mission Impact**' in our ministry. APWM seeks to do this in FOUR ways:

SEND

TRAIN

PARTNER

RESOURCE



Please pray and partner with us as we seek to make Christ known across the world and have a 'Mission Impact' by God's grace both in our Indigenous ministry as well as globally.



### **New Director APWM**

We thank Rev Kevin Murray for his faithful service as National Director of APWM over many years. Kevin served the Church diligently during this time. We also thank his wife Julie for her ministry in supporting Kevin as he fulfilled his role. We wish them both the Lord's rich blessings in the next stage of their lives. Thank you, Kevin and Julie!

## Commissioning Service of Rev Chris Siriweera



On the 5<sup>th</sup> of December Rev Chris Siriweera was Commissioned as the National Director of APWM. The service of Commissioning was at the hands of the Presbytery of Maroondah and was held at the Donvale Presbyterian Church in Victoria. The Rev David Burke Moderator General brought greetings from General Assembly Of Australia and preached a challenging message themed "What's Love got to do with it?" based on Matthew 22:34-39. The Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria Rev Rod Waterhouse prayed for Chris and his wife Rose as they together serve the Lord, APWM and the wider PCA.

## Recommissioning of Rev Motor Isaac YAT - Kenya

It was great to have Motor, his wife Julia and their two sons Samuel and Mark enjoy their time in Melbourne. This was Julia's first visit to Australia, and we thank the Lord for making it possible for her to get her visa. During their stay they visited churches and had the opportunity of share about their ministry, especially ministering to refugees from Sudan.

On the 14<sup>th</sup> of December, Motor was recommissioned at the Clayton Presbyterian Church in Victoria. The service was led by Rev Michael Jensen, the Minister of Clayton. and Rev Chris Siriweera National Director of APWM led the recommissioning part of the service. The elders and Ministers present prayed for the family.



The family enjoyed a refreshing time together in Melbourne. Motor Yat, his wife Julia and their two sons left for Kenya on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January.

### **Recommissioning of Rev Rob Falls - Vanuatu**

Rev Rob Fall was Recommissioned on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January at the Hornsby Presbyterian Church by the Moderator of Presbytery Sydney North Rev Andrew Sylvester. Rev Chris Siriweera the National Director of APWM preached the message. The Moderator, elders and Ministers present prayed for the family as part of the recommissioning.



### **Rev Nate & Sami Ho and family – Japan**

We praise God for the financial support so far received for the Ho family. They have applied for their visas and are looking forward to starting their ministry in Japan upon receipt of their visas. Let us continue to pray for the nation of Japan that they will open to hear the good news God's gospel.

Please continue to pray for:

Rob Falls and family as they continue their ministry at Talua Theological Institute in Vanuatu. Give thanks to the Lord for the recent break they enjoyed with extended family and friends in Australia.

Motor Yat and the family as they settle back to life and ministry in Kenya following their time in Melbourne.

The Ho family as they make preparations leading up to their departure to Japan.

Please pray for Chris as he settles into the role as National Director, and for Rose as she adjusts to new family dynamic in supporting Chris in his role.

## Mount Gambier

In early December our Care & Concern Committee had their annual lunch together. This was a great time of fun and fellowship to finish off the year. Below are photos of everyone enjoying themselves at the lunch.



Since the December SA News we have had two new babies arrive in our congregation. In December Christine Ware gave birth to a dear little girl and it has been lovely seeing her in worship on Sunday mornings. In February Christina Murcott gave birth to a dear little boy and it was great to see him recently in worship for the first time. It is so nice having small children and babies in our congregation.

The start of the new year saw the recommencement of our Growth Groups. This year we are working through a topical study titled Fellowship. For this series we work through different scripture readings every week and each Growth Group studies the readings from the sermon preached the Sunday before using a study guide prepared by Rev Gary Ware.

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.



**PIM events are back for 2026. This year you'll find us not just at New Dunesk, but also several locations across the nation!**

— worth driving for —

Whether you're looking to improve your ministry skills, connect with other Nomads out on the road, or celebrate Easter in the high country, there's something for everyone.

Registrations for several 2026 events are already open. For further details on each of these events and to register visit our website. To find out more, email [events@pim.org.au](mailto:events@pim.org.au) or call 0438 868 964.

### **March**

*The PIM Gospel Nomads are an ongoing community of like-minded travellers seeking to use their time and travels for God's glory. Joining the Gospel Nomads provides opportunities for members to develop new skills, make new friends and find ways to serve whilst on the road.*

#### **17-22 March 2026**

##### **Gospel Nomads Orientation Week**

This first event for the 2026 Gospel Nomads 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.

**For any enquiries about the Gospel Nomads Orientation Week, please email [gospelnomads@pim.org.au](mailto:gospelnomads@pim.org.au)**

#### **23-27 March 2026**

##### **Working bee at New Dunesk**

**PIM are calling for volunteers to be a part of a Working Bee at New Dunesk to build a stage and shed** which will serve as a multi-purpose building for camps, concerts, and a range of events. Most of the work required is unskilled labour, so all you will need is a shovel (to lean on), a hat, some gloves, and a sense of humour. John Chester is leading the project. We will also be looking for people to help with some basic catering, so there is something for everyone to do. Come and help for one day or as long as your time permits.

Camping is available onsite, and there are showers, toilets and well-equipped camp kitchen.

If you are able to support or are interested in finding out more, please email [events@pim.org.au](mailto:events@pim.org.au) or phone 0429 329 074.

## April

3-6 April 2026

### Easter in Bombala

**Celebrate Easter with Noah and Nerroli of the Snowy Mountains Patrol, with a family friendly weekend of camping, bible talks and community activities in Bombala.**

A series of Bible talks will be held on the Saturday, followed by a Sunday morning church service, BBQ lunch and Easter egg hunt! Enjoy a range of planned activities, explore the local area, and get to know the Vasiliades and the Gospel work they are doing in the local community.

**For more information and to RSVP for the weekend, please contact Noah Vasiliades directly:**

Email: [noahvasiliades@gmail.com](mailto:noahvasiliades@gmail.com)

Phone: 0492 960 223

## October

2-5 October 2026

### Tracks: Outback Concert

PIM are thrilled to bring back the *Tracks: Outback Concert* for another year.

A family friendly weekend of camping and live music at New Dunesk. Camp out under the stars, sit around a warm campfire and enjoy live music from a fantastic lineup of Australian country singers.

**Save the date - more details to come!**

13-16 October 2026

### WA Gospel Nomads

Based in Albany WA, this event provides an opportunity for people on the West coast to be involved in the PIM Gospel Nomads Network. Learn new skills, connect with other nomads and find new ways to serve and share Christ while on the road.

Mornings will be spent in teaching and training in evangelism and discipleship, afternoons will be spent sightseeing, and evenings in fellowship and prayer, with guests to share experiences.

**This is a free event, but RSVP is still essential. Please email [gospelnomads@pim.org.au](mailto:gospelnomads@pim.org.au) or call 0438 868 964 for more information or to register your interest.**

## Naracoorte

It is very encouraging to see God working here in our town. We are seeing visitors attending worship services most weeks, and not always the same people. Our membership has grown by 8 in the past year. The number of ladies studying KYB Bible studies each week has been growing steadily over the past 1-2 years. We now have over 20 ladies, not all from St Andrews, but from other churches in the town as well, even one lady is travelling from Penola to attend. It is wonderful to meet together over God's Word and share together.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of February an Introduction to the Term 1 Study – Living in God's World: Selected Psalms Part 1 was held at St Andrews in Naracoorte, with visitors coming from as far as Tintinara and Mt Gambier. We met together for morning tea and then the program followed, finishing around lunch time. We had a speaker (Mrs Karen Moore) and a CWCI (Christian Women Communicating International) representative attend.

Pastor Rudi has begun Bible Studies in the manse on Tuesday evenings with the topic being "How and when will Christ Return."

We celebrated another big "0" birthday in January for Jock Virgo. Julie McLean made a delicious chocolate cake and after singing Happy Birthday, we all enjoyed his birthday cake.

After our Communion Service on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March the congregation will go out to Robert and Jan Boord's property at Stewarts Range for a combined lunch. This is a great place to visit, it is a campsite in natural bushland and we thank Robert and Jan for their hospitality.

We are starting to think about a celebration for our 170<sup>th</sup> birthday in October, so watch this space for more information.

*"Look to the Lord and His strength; seek His face always." Psalm 105:4*

Pat Lietch



*Jock with his birthday cake.*

## Wattle Range

A Communion Service was held on 7<sup>th</sup> December. We arranged a nativity scene at the front of the Church on Christmas Eve and a few locals came and joined in with the congregation. It is always lovely to hear the singing. We did not have services on 11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> of January, due to many people being away. Service attendance has averaged 10 at Penola.

Ann Petersen, a member of the Penola congregation for many years, passed away on 21<sup>st</sup> December. Her funeral was conducted by Rev Rudi Schwartz on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> January at St Andrew's, Penola.

The AED Units have been installed in both the Millicent and Penola Church Halls. They have been registered on the Government website. Thanks to Josiah Wilson for his work, to see the AED rollout completed.

Barbara Provis

**2026**

# 5 GLOBAL DAYS OF *Prayer*

Worldwide Worship & Prayers for Gospel Movements, Revival & Transformation

**February 17th**  
Global Day of Prayer for Buddhist People (Lunar New Year)

**March 16th**  
Global Day of Prayer for Muslim People (Night of Power)

**May 24th**  
Global Day of Prayer for the Worldwide Church (Pentecost)

**September 21st**  
Global Day of Prayer for Jewish People (Day of Atonement)

**November 8th**  
Global Day of Prayer for Hindu People (Diwali)

[www.110cities.com](http://www.110cities.com)

## Today's Quick Word

**Romans 14:19** *Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.*

The people in the fellowship of believers in Rome who were receiving this letter from the Apostle Paul, as they struggled applying the implications of their new-found belief system to their daily lives, were coming to different conclusions with regard to some very practical issues.

Should they, or should they not, buy and eat meat that had been offered to idols in a pagan temple? Paul talked about those who were 'strong' in their faith and those who were 'weak'. The trouble is, because they **all** felt very strongly about the view they held, either on one side or the other, each would have assumed they were on the 'strong' side of the faith issue, and those who took the opposing view were among the 'weak'. That's how it works with our (fallen) human nature, even today.

Concerned about the life and health of the Church, Paul knew very well what the big trouble is: that Satan, whose purpose is to destroy the Church, could use this reality as a very effective weapon in his hands.

Each New Testament Church had its own problems in this regard: in Corinth it could be about the gift of 'speaking in tongues'; in Galatia it could be about the importance of the Jewish rite of circumcision; in Ephesus it could be about whether one came from a Jewish or Gentile background; in Philippi it could be about the place of 'faith' and 'works' in salvation; in Colossae it could be about 'humanism' and the divinity of Christ and his being the **source** of **all** wisdom and knowledge; in Thessalonica it could be about eschatology; and so on.

The same thing can easily happen in our churches today for all sorts of different reasons, and Satan is too ready to act! Paul's key to all this is, as in his other letters, "**make every effort** to do what leads to **peace** and to **mutual edification**." He is not telling us to compromise on what we believe as if it doesn't matter, nor to not hold any of our beliefs **strongly** and with **conviction**. But he **is** telling us to separate essential Gospel truths from things that include personal opinions coming more from our personality and background than from God's revealed **truth**. Against the Devil's cunning and scheming we need to be intent on '**agreeing to differ** and **resolving to love**' and **edify!** I personally have learnt so much that is helpful and edifying for me from fellow-believers who, for some strange, unknown reason are quite 'wrong' in some of their ideas! As Paul so tellingly said to the Corinthians: "If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be. If they were all one part, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, but one body." (1 Corinthians 12:17-20) Yes,

we **all need each other**. I **need** my **left-leaning** Christian friends (painful as it is!) to keep me from falling off the **conservative** end of the spectrum. The Calvinist George Whitfield **needed** the Arminian John Wesley (and vice versa), and God used them **both** mightily in the work of his Kingdom.

– Bruce Christian

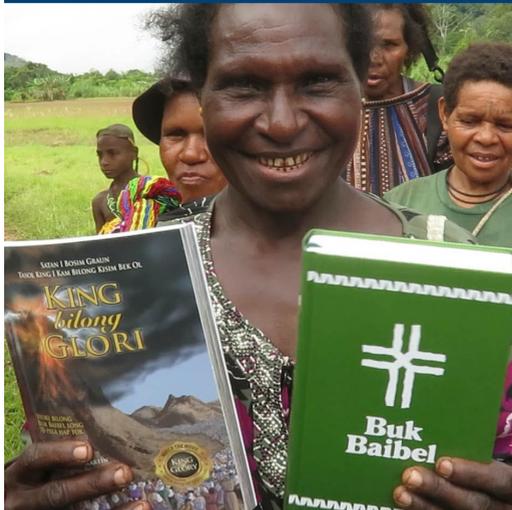
## Thousands of King bilong Glori books take wing with MAF

In remote communities across Papua New Guinea, both young and old are finding the MAF-distributed *King bilong Glori* book helpful to strengthen their faith.

Story by Aquila Matit

“The books were so well received that we quickly ran out of the supply that we had,” said Glenys Watson, an MAF pilot based in PNG.

In 2023, MAF began receiving *King bilong Glori* (King of Glory) Bible overview books, as part of the MAF Technologies ministry. Pilots like Glenys carry them in ‘Bible Boxes’ on most flights, alongside English and Tok Pisin Bibles, Bible comics, audio Bibles, and other resources. These items are sold at a great discount to make them affordable for people in remote areas.



Glenys regularly flies to dozens of airstrips across the nation, carrying the Bible Box to places such as the tiny mountainside community Sikoi.

Jonathan Meweh is a young resident of this roadless village, working as a carpenter on a school building project. With only two churches offering irregular services, Jonathan knows how vital these books are.

“I worship but I don’t really know the Bible, but I am learning more about God through this book. This book is very simple, though I have not completed my education, the English is clear, and I can relate to the illustration and the message,” he said.

Glenys has been in regular contact with Tom Leger of ROCK International to secure these books.

“*King bilong Glori* is the Tok Pisin language version of the King of Glory book in English,” Tom said. “Created in 70 scenes of picture next to text, the book tells the story of the Creator-Owner of the universe and His plan to rescue His rebellious subjects from the kingdom of darkness.”

## 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 Angus Taylor; that he will be guided by Christian principles and come to know Jesus as his Lord and Saviour.
- Pray for the Northern Suburbs 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 Naracoorte Church; Rudi & Heila Schwartz; congregation and elders.
- Pray for the towns and cities of South Australia, for the people in them who do not know Christ, including unsaved family members, friends and work colleagues.
- Pray for goodwill, hope and compassion of all who bear responsibilities in government - Commonwealth, State, Territory - together with local authorities to address the issues we have as a nation.
- Pray for 'M' serving in West Asia.
- 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 Presbytery of South Australia, Davo Gunning Moderator, Gary Ware Clerk.
- Pray for rain to fall over the areas of our country that need it.
- Pray for persecuted Christians throughout the world.
- Uphold Jeroen & Diana while they are here in Australia and when they go back to Papua/New Guinea. Pray for safe travel throughout the country for them.

### 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 2026 issue are to be in my hands **no later than 5.00pm Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

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