

fellow workers

NEWS FROM AROUND THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
A PUBLICATION OF THE PCV STATE NEWS COMMITTEE

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“the right taste to life!”

My father-in-law was a very good amateur apiarist. Whilst I was courting my wife-to-be at the time he would slice a piece of honeycomb from the beehive rack for me to eat. It was sweetness at its very best. I loved it!

The psalmist in referring to God’s Word in Psalm 19 says that His Word is sweeter than honey from the comb. C.S. Lewis wrote; “I take this to be the greatest Psalm in the Psalter, and one of the greatest lyrics in the world.” Is this your response?

The Psalm is in three sections, the first concerned with nature’s eloquent testimony to its Creator – God’s general revelation, the second with the witness of the moral Law to His character – God’s special revelation, and the third a prayer inspired by both.

As to the first, I am entirely in sympathy with Paul who believed that the ordered universe we observe declares an intelligent and powerful creator. It displays such an astonishing variety of design that to deny it, one would be surely blind and stupid. I am continually astonished by the fact that human inventions that have been evidenced in nature (aeronautical inventions, for example) are seen as cause to praise man’s intelligence whilst denying any to nature’s inventor, is neither logical nor fair. At any rate, the psalmist is clearly impressed by the same two things that impressed the philosopher, Immanuel Kant, as being the surest clues to the reality of God namely, the starry heavens above, and the moral law within. And while at first sight, the two seem to have little connection with each other, the psalmist draws out parallels between them. You must remember that in Palestine where he wrote, the sun beats down mercilessly in the heat of the day, with a fierce, almost sterilizing intensity.

The Law of God, like the star-spangled sky, is a many-splendoured thing, having the same qualities of majestic order and consistency. The vigour and gladness of the sun’s rising are in it too. Like the sun at noon, the Law too is authoritarian in its power to penetrate the dark places of the soul, exposing with blinding clarity the half hidden thoughts and intentions of the heart.

Like the sun, the Law has a certain sterilizing quality. But just as the setting sun draws a gentle mantle of quiet tranquillity over hills and valleys, so there is a power in the revealed will of God to spread peace over us. The Word of God can do all this for us, if we give it a chance! And to give it that chance, we must spend time pondering it – simply giving it our thoughtful, prayerful attention. Is this your experience? Is God’s Word to you sweeter than honey from the honey-comb?

The words the psalmist uses to describe God’s Word are interesting. Law means instruction – of the sort a father gives his son, sharing with him a true knowledge of how things really are. God’s instructions to His children are entire, wholly adequate to the demands life makes on us, and able to convert the soul – to turn us about so we face God.

The testimonies are statements about the true nature of God, and in the Bible, that is how goodness is defined. When God says; “Do as I say,” He means, “Be as I am.” The only way to define goodness is to say that it is what corresponds to the character of God. That is why the psalmist says the testimonies are sure. You can rest the weight of your confidence on them, for they are as dependable as God Himself. For the same reason, they can turn even ignorant simpletons into master craftsmen in the art of living.

The Precepts (or Statutes) are the

contribute

Your contributions to *fellow workers* are welcome! *fellow workers* is now published every quarter (March, June, September & December). All copy and enquiries should be sent to the editor (contact details above). The deadline for contributions to the next issue is 10th July 2008. Photographs should be digital and sent by email if possible.

a faithful servant of god remembered

The Rev David James Innes was born on 26 October 1934 in Edinburgh, Scotland and died on 2 December 2007 in Box Hill Hospital, Melbourne. He loved and served the Lord with all his heart. David attended boarding school in Perthshire, Scotland, while his parents worked in Africa and, upon his mother's return to Scotland, attended Dollar Academy. During this time, he put his faith in Jesus Christ as his personal Saviour and started what would become a lifelong habit of daily time in God's Word and in prayer.

David then studied history at St Andrew's University and graduated with an Honours Degree. His plans were to teach, but the untimely death of his father caused him to rethink his priorities and David realised that God was calling him to full time Christian ministry. Indeed, his love of God's Word, and his desire to preach it, characterised the remainder of his life.

After completing theological studies at Edinburgh University, he moved to his first parish in Portmahomack, a small coastal village in Scotland. There, he married his partner for life, Anne Connell, from Glasgow, whom David had met at a Scripture Union summer beach mission at Elie, Scotland. Three children were born, twin daughters and a son.

In 1971, David and Anne moved to a parish in Kirkwall, on the Scottish Orkney Islands where he ministered God's Word to his congregation of over 1,000 for eleven years. Under his charge, David and Anne saw numerous young families come to the Lord, who became very dear to his heart.

In 1982, David and Anne made perhaps the hardest decision of their life, when a call came from St Stephen's Presbyterian Church in Surrey Hills, Victoria. They agonised over the decision until they were absolutely clear that the move was God's wish. In August 1982, the family arrived in Melbourne and there followed 17 wonderful years of ministry, being used by God to change the course of many lives.

David actively supported the wider work of the Presbyterian Church: as a Victorian Moderator and also as a Presbytery Moderator on a couple of occasions; as a council member of the Presbyterian Ladies College; Chaplain of St Andrew's Presbyterian College; member and convener of the Theological Education Committee and, latterly, Presbyterian Chaplain at Box Hill Hospital. He and Anne also actively supported the work of Christian missionary organisations, such as Interserve and Trans World Radio.

In their retirement, David and

Anne joined Ashburton Presbyterian Church. The Presbytery responded to a unanimous request from the Ashburton session by appointing David as an assessor elder. David was a valued member of session and was diligent in visiting and praying for the 'flock'.

In the last couple of years of his life, he suffered numerous illnesses. This became a very hard road for him to travel and he increasingly looked forward 'to Glory', where his memory would be restored, his body made healthy again and he could serve his Christ more fully. Before his death, he stipulated that his funeral should 'centre on Jesus and His victory, and be joyful and thankful, a testimony to the living hope that is ours in a risen Lord'.

David will be widely remembered as a loving, gentle and patient man, who faithfully preached God's Word and regularly visited, listened to and prayed with his congregation. He is survived by a sister, Ruth, his wife, Anne and his three children, Margaret, Maureen and Gordon, who _along with many friends and colleagues _will miss him dearly.

REV PETER ORCHARD
Minister, Ashburton Presbyterian Church

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA



**Epworth
Freemasons Hospital
Maternity Unit -
Pastoral Care
Worker** (0.5EFT)

The Health & Community Chaplaincy Committee of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria is seeking to appoint an experienced Pastoral Care Worker for a new half-time position in the Maternity Unit at the Epworth Freemasons Hospital in East Melbourne. The appointment is for a 2 year fixed term contract position (subject then to review) and will take place from 1/7/2008.

Reporting directly to the Pastoral Care Coordinator at the Epworth Freemasons and employed by the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, the Pastoral Care Worker will be responsible for the provision of spiritual and emotional support to patients, families and staff within the maternity unit at the Epworth Freemasons Medical Centre on Victoria Parade. The successful applicant will demonstrate a sincere Christian commitment, highly developed interpersonal skills and the ability to

work as part of a multi-denominational team. They should possess tertiary level qualifications in Theology, Counselling or Social Sciences with relevant practical experience. Experience in the provision of loss, grief and bereavement support will be highly regarded as will previous experience in pastoral care within a hospital setting. The successful applicant will also be expected to demonstrate a commitment to both ongoing professional development within the role and hers or his own self-care. 20 hours of work (0.5EFT) will be negotiable over 3 to 4 days each week and an attractive salary will be offered to the successful applicant.

A detailed position description is available and may be obtained by emailing the Convenor of the Health and Community Chaplaincy Committee at the address below.

Applications (including 2 references) should be forwarded to:

Mrs Kathy James
The Convenor
Health and Community Chaplaincy Committee-
Presbyterian Church of Victoria
9 Tanya Court, Croydon Hills VIC 3136
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the church in the community: sports chaplaincy

Chaplaincy has traditionally been associated in areas such as hospitals, prisons and Defence Forces. However, one developing area of chaplaincy that has been a blessing to both churches and communities is sports chaplaincy.

what is sports chaplaincy?

Sports chaplaincy takes the same gospel approach as traditional forms of chaplaincy: being Christ in the community. Sports chaplaincy in Australia has gained momentum over the past 20 years through an organization called Sports Chaplaincy Australia (SCA). SCA chairperson Rev Luke Tattersall (Minister at Wentworthville P.C., NSW) explains that sports chaplaincy is so effective in reaching the community for the gospel because sport is culturally relevant to so many Australians. On any given weekend or weekday, communities gather for sport. This has provided local churches with great opportunities to serve and reach their communities. Acceptance of chaplaincy by local sporting clubs has grown through the testimony of chaplains in high profile sports such as the AFL, Victorian Bushrangers Cricket and the V8 Supercars.

impacting communities

In rural areas, where drought and depression are hurting communities, several churches have engaged their towns using sport. In the town of Donald (northern Victoria), one local church is serving the town's youth football team through a sports chaplain. Donald's small community has been hit with numerous suicides and depression. The impact is also felt among the youth of the town. Within this context the sports chaplain has been able to bring a steadfast message of hope and consistent contact with these footy families. Through men's breakfasts, youth events and counselling the chaplain has been able to show that the church is still relevant and the gospel is still "Good News."

impacting individuals

When Troy Broadbridge (Melbourne Football Club) was killed in the Boxing Day Tsunami, the club turned to their

chaplain for help. The club's sports chaplain had been building trust with the players for years through relationship counselling, mentoring and acts of service. This trust had allowed him to conduct Troy's funeral along with grief and loss counselling for the whole club. Having a sports chaplain in the club allowed players to chat and find out about the ultimate victory that Christ had won over death. The result has been a greater acceptance of chaplaincy in the AFL and the sharing of the gospel to many.

Essendon Football Club chaplain tells the story of a player who had seen "The Passion of the Christ" movie and had many questions to ask. The chaplain, because he had proven his love for the players over many years of service, was the logical person that player approached. After regularly meeting the chaplain for Bible studies that player now professes Jesus as Lord.

Sports chaplaincy is a culturally relevant way to reach our sports-mad community for Christ. Players, officials and whole towns are growing in the acceptance of chaplaincy. In our post-modern society that believes the Church is irrelevant sports chaplaincy has shown that people still have a need and a desire for a relationship with the Creator through Jesus.

Project 72 is a local church centred approach that aims to connect your church with your community using sport. If you or your church



HCCC member and sports chaplain
Jeremy Dover

are interested in impacting your community through sports chaplaincy (Project 72), or you are interested in finding out more please contact your Health and Community Chaplaincy Committee (convenorhccc@optusnet.com.au).

MR JEREMY DOVER

HAVE YOU GOT A SPARE CAR?

Have you got a spare car? APWM Vic. is in need of a reliable car or two (in good working order) for missionaries on home assignment. If you can help, please contact the Convener,

Rev. Philip Burns on 54436189, or philipjburns@gmail.com

Sunday 27th April 2008 at 3pm

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Prof Douglas Milne,
College Principal and the
Theological Education Committee
cordially invite you to attend the official opening
of the

Student Accommodation at PTC

by the Rt Reverend Robert Benn,
Moderator General of the Presbyterian Church of Australia

through the “furtherest fences”

The PIM Full Committee met again on Tuesday 29 Jan in the Sydney Church Offices. There were many items to get through but by God’s grace, the meeting was harmonious with a number of key decisions being made in the on-going work of sending the gospel beyond the furthest fences. Here are a few of the highlights from that meeting:

Darwin – we praise God for the way He is leading His people and bringing them together under the guidance of Rev. R. Duncanson. At their first anniversary of the re-established work, 67 worshippers came together. God is at work in that city; pray for continued strengthening of the work there. The Full Committee is investigating the possibility of purchasing a manse. This will facilitate a better use of finances as well as giving a sign of permanence for the ministry. Already there is a sizeable deposit available for a manse due to the generosity of God’s people.

Patrols – Space doesn’t allow an update on all of our padres but as we circled the country at the meeting, their wonderful gospel work was repeatedly noted. Many opportunities continue to arise for practical support as well as

the sharing of the good news of Jesus. Pray for fruit for the kingdom. There are a number of part-time vacancies that need to be filled; these vacancies are due to the location of patrols. Pray that more workers will be raised up. As you read this, is God laying it on your heart to serve as a PIM padre?

A number of patrols have struck up solid relationships with various congregations. For example, Andrew & Kerri Purcell (Charleville) were visited by three members of the Maroochydore congregation. These members brought with them 60 Christmas hampers to give out on the stations. This did create a slight logistical issue getting them out but, what a great problem to have! We also give thanks that the Purcells were not affected by the recent flooding in and around Charleville.

Terry Sadler officially retired as a padre at the end of 2007. However, he came to the meeting with a proposal to continue working in a much smaller area for 3-4 days a month on the edge of the NW NSW (Darling) patrol. He will commence this work in the near future.

Cameron & Carmel McKenzie (SA) will have had their first child by the

time of printing. Pray for them as new parents but also, pray for them as they make adjustments to the nature of their patrol. Having a baby in tow creates extra logistical issues but may also open many more doors with the women on the stations.

There is a great need in the rural areas for ministry. A significant discussion took place over the matter of Christian witness of any denomination moving more towards the coastal areas. While not providing any solutions initially, the question was raised as to how we, as the Presbyterian Church, can minister effectively to those in country areas, particularly where there is no full-time minister available.

We thank God again for all who support the PIM through prayer and through their finances. Please continue to support us. The gospel is going beyond the furthest fences; pray for wisdom for the committee, safety & good health for our padres & families and for the building up of the kingdom through the PIM.

PASTOR MARK SMITH

Minister of Drouin Presbyterian Church
Secretary, Presbyterian Inland Mission

wherever the saddlebags may fall

What would our Presbyterian Churches look like if we had just 5 percent of the local population attending? Some of our congregations would have many thousands of people pressing at their doors. Who could imagine such a scene unless it was in the midst of a massive society-wide upheaval of renewal and revival?

Well, actually, such congregations really do exist. I’m not talking about far away overseas somewhere, but here in Australia. They are great congregations with a real sense of community within themselves and which have a big impact on the whole of the community of which they are a part. They are typically small congregations where 5 to 25 people meet out of town populations of 100 – 500.

What is happening to these “strong” congregations in the Presbyterian Church and other denominations throughout Australia? Typically, they are struggling to maintain services. They have very little income and they are lowest in the pecking order when it comes to attracting ministers.

It is good for us to step back from the pressing challenges of living as a Christian in the immediate spheres of

family, work and local church to consider the broader needs of the gospel throughout our country.

This was what happened when the Presbyterian Inland Mission Committee met in late January. As we considered the needs of the remote and sparsely populated areas of Australia, we heard a number of stories of vast areas within our country where there is NO church – not just, where there is no Presbyterian Church – but where there is no church of any denomination. These are not just small areas, but some of these black holes are larger than the area of Victoria. Many of these areas have thousands of people living within them, and are steadily expanding in size!

While we are delighted with the increase in work being done in Inland Australia, and thrilled by the support we have received over generations for this work, it remains obvious that there is SO MUCH MORE CRYING OUT TO BE DONE.

We cannot, as so much of the church seems to be doing in rural Australia, sound the retreat when there is so much need. What are we to do? Jesus told us very simply. He said to ask the Lord of the harvest to send out workers. Our first concern is not to be the logistics and finance of ministry in remote areas, but workers. Our experi-

ence has shown that when the Lord sends workers out, that he seems to provide the necessary support along with them.

Will you join with us to ask the Lord to send out workers so that one day we may be able to say that the whole country is within reach of gospel ministry?

These jobs are often in harsh climates. They often involve great loneliness and there are never likely to be large congregations or financial independence. These tasks will be expensive for the church and come at a personal cost to those who go. The difficulties are the reason they have been left until last in the progression of the gospel in our land, but a reason is not an excuse, and every missionary endeavour has always come through men and women laying down their lives at the feet of Him who gave Himself for us.

It was said of the Methodist circuit riders, who pushed further and further West in the colonisation of North America, that the harshness of their work meant they died young, but wherever their saddlebags fell, there a church was planted. May the same selflessness (or should I say Christ-fullness) be seen in our work, whether in the city or the remote areas of Australia.

REV ROBERT DUNCANSON

Minister, Darwin Presbyterian Church
Convener, Presbyterian Inland Mission

a time of reflection

On the 16th of February, the PYV Annual General Meeting was held at St Kilda Presbyterian Church. It was a time of reflecting on the past year, and planning for the year/s to come. Voting for the new council took place, with Alex Venn being appointed as President, Russell Graham as Vice President, Sarah Brightwell continuing as Treasurer, and Rene Graham being elected as Secretary. Other council members for this year include: Kirsty Watson, Andrew Burns, Dean Carroll, Sarah Weber, Ruth Ronalds, Joy Venning, and Shady Mehanni.

upcoming events for pyv in 2008

By the time the next issue of Fellow-workers is published, Senior Camp will have come and gone, held on the long weekend, 7th-10th March. This year's camp is being held at Merricks Lodge, on the Mornington Peninsula. Richard Quadrio is giving talks on "Sharing your faith without being obnoxious" (studies from Acts).

- 10th May: the Social, at Donvale Presbyterian Church Hall, from 7:30pm-11pm. Cost is \$5,

with supper provided. Theme: "from rags to riches". RSVP 6th May, which can be done online (www.pyv.org.au).

- OS-08 in April – a team is planning an overseas trip to the Middle East, to help out at an orphanage. Please be praying for this trip, for safety, and for a time of growth and encouragement for all involved.
- 1st June: "The Big Plug" – promoting PYV within local churches. More details to come.
- 12th July: the inaugural Volleyball Competition, which will again be held at the Ashburton Pool & Recreation Centre.

advance notice for events later in the year (more details to come):

- 2nd August: Girls Day Out.
- 25th-28th September: Junior Camp.
- 29th-30th December: Train 24 – Summer Camp training weekend for PYV leaders.
- 27th December-1st January: Annual Summer Camp.

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memories, friendships and challenges

From the 27th December- 1st January, nearly 100 campers and over 50 leaders joined together at the Lady Northcote Campsite for the annual PYV Summer Camp. The daily talks were given by John Stasse on the thought-provoking topic of the "one-another" verses. This included receiving, admonishing, bearing with, forgiving and loving one another as well as bearing one another's burdens.

While the morning gave interesting talks and studies, the afternoon was when the action happened. Activities on this 'Aussie Outback' camp consisted of an Iron Man Contest, where every team ran, ate, hopped and swam for the victory; a cardboard-car Bathurst race, involving a lot of cardboard, masking tape, and paint racing around a track for a champagne finish; and a Mini-Olympics, which gave a chance to throw a boomerang and thong, run around in 40 degree heat, and enjoy a game of pool volleyball.

The New Year's Eve celebrations would have to be the highlight of the

camp with nearly everyone dressing up as something to do with the Aussie Outback, featuring many Steve Irwins, flies and even the First Fleet! Beginning with an Aussie banquet the night flew past with each group giving a play, followed by ballroom-dancing on the oval!

Celebrating 2008 lasted long after the countdown with a great disco following the mid-night cheer! Although camp is long over, the memories, knowledge and friends gathered on camp will last forever!

LAUREN WALLEY

making the most of every opportunity

On the day after Boxing Day, kids from all over Victoria made their way to lady Northcote Bacchus Marsh campsite for another PYV summer camp.

I found the talks really interesting and useful, which were about getting along with other Christians. The studies were also great: the questions were good and made you think about the talk. Most of all I loved the singing at the start of the talks. The musicians were great and I loved the songs which were really modern and created a

great atmosphere.

The days were planned out really well. It was good how we didn't have to wake up too early, and waking up to the radio show was awesome! After breakfast was quiet time, which I loved. It might have been better if the quiet time pages had questions on them like the ones of past years to make it easier. The workshops were a change from the talks. I went to the girl's one, and the "making the most of every opportunity" one, which were both really good.

New Year's Eve was a really fun night. The costumes were great and the dinner was really nice. The skits were a great idea. It was hilarious watching all the funny and creative ways people performed. We went down to the oval where we began the ballroom dancing! It was so much fun and it was cool how practically everyone joined in and had a great time.

Overall Summer Camp 07/08 was one of the best camps I've been on so far and I can't wait to go to the next one.

EMILY JAMES

where there's a will...

While attending the Annual General Meeting of *Mission Partners* APWM in Sydney last week, I was approached by a keen mission supporter from the Presbyterian Church in New South Wales, who wanted to know, 'just how it was that we Victorians always seem to have so much money to help out

our missionaries – especially when they come home?' My initial thought was to respond along the lines of, 'Well, you know, we Victorians are just so much more generous and organized and mission-focused and generally a cut above our immediate northern neighbours', but very quickly realised it would be better to tell her the truth....that we can do all that we do for our missionaries, because God has richly blessed us with trust funds that can be applied for that very purpose. It was interesting to note the look of disappointment that spread across her face as she heard that reply. She had been hoping, of course, that she could 'learn our secret' and then take that secret back to her State Committee and follow similar tactics... but I gave her none at all to take home – just the bare facts, that as far as we have been concerned, we are doing what we can do because of the generous gifts of others.


At the same meeting I also talked with a fellow minister who is now called to a parish that I once served in, and he asked me if a certain story (that he had heard had happened during our time in the parish) was true. I told him it was. This is the story. When faced with an urgent need to extend our facilities, a certain lady of the parish was quite keen that the Board of Management should begin an extended program of fundraising. When told that would not be the way it was done and that we would instead be trusting God for our needs, her response was something like, 'well then, you won't be getting any of

mine!' Not too much later, the lady died and in her will left just what was needed to meet the expenses of the building program!

That story is not earth shattering in any sense, but it reinforces the point that I shared with the lady above. We all know that none of us can take our money with us when we go and while we also share a natural concern that our families will be well provided for after our departure, we should not forget that Jesus taught, 'make the Kingdom of God your primary concern.' (Matthew 6:33, NLT). And so we should – recognizing that in recent years we have seen many open doors set before us as a church. Apart from the gospel ministry among indigenous people in our own backyard, at a state level we have now entered partner relationships with Malawi, Sudan and now Zambia. Other states are partnering with Bangladesh and Myanmar. As an Australian church we also have a wider interest in Vanuatu and Japan. The opportunities seem to be endless - but so are the needs and so are the needed finances. Yes, leaving a will is just one way of supporting gospel ministry, but from experience, I can say that it certainly helps it to happen! All this means that the saying 'where there's a will' should not be followed by 'there's a way', but by, 'there's been much blessing that's followed!'

REV PHILIP BURNS

Convenor of Australian
Presbyterian World Mission: Mission
Partners



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helping orphans in malawi – orbus

A new mission enterprise was established in July 2007 as a joint venture between Australian and Malawian Presbyterians (although it is a non-denominational organisation) called Orbus Development and Aid in Central Africa Ltd. Orbus is currently in the process of acquiring a 1.5ha (approx) piece of land in Blantyre. Plans have been drawn up to build a purpose built Orbus Community Development Centre including a boarding school for 100 children, a general primary and secondary school for approx 200 children and a technical training facility. Additionally, as part of an ongoing orphan care program, Orbus has recently identified thirteen orphaned children in particular need of assistance and has funded school fees for the thirteen, boarding fees for two, and the provision of uniforms to enable these children to attend school this year. It is planned that these children will join the Orbus School upon its establishment. Please pray for this project and for these children. For Colin Mbawa's full March update and photos of these children, please visit www.OrbusAfrica.org

CRAIG MANNERS

around the Church

new lecturer at PTC

The Rev Jared Hood has been appointed as Lecturer in Theological Studies at the Presbyterian Theological College, Victoria. Jared, his wife Cassie and five children are formerly from the parish of Moe/Yarram in Gippsland. Jared began his ministry in Moe/Yarram in January 1998 and spent 10 years in the parish. In that period, he began lecturing part-time at the college.

A farewell luncheon was held at Moe on December 9, 2007 following the morning service. Visitors from a number of other churches in the region attended, including the Rev Gary Stephens, the moderator of the Presbytery of Gippsland, and the Rev Robert Boan, the recently retired minister of Morwell. Jared and Cassie were loved and respected throughout the Presbytery, and will be missed.

Jared was formally inducted as a full-time Lecturer of the Presbyterian Theological College at the College Commencement Service, which was held at the Canterbury Presbyterian Church on Monday 11 February 2008. The occasional sermon was preached by the Rev Dr Bruce Winter, principal of the Queensland Theological College. May Jared, Cassie and the children enjoy every blessing and success in their future ministry.

MRS SABINE BRUCE

new beginnings at drouin

After almost 8 years at Drouin, first as continuous supply and then as the inducted minister, the Rev. Ken Brown has resigned from the Drouin parish, his resignation becoming effective on the 13th January, 2007. Ken and his wife Gianna will continue to live in Drouin, and Ken has begun teaching at the Southcoast Christian College in Leongatha. A celebration of his 25 years in the ministry is planned for the 3rd February, 2008.

Mr. Mark Smith, exit student and licentiate, has been appointed to the parish. Mark and his family moved into the manse in mid-December, and began his pastoral duties on the 14th January. A special luncheon to welcome the family to Drouin was held on the 20th January. The luncheon was well attended with ministers from other local churches joining the congregation. It was a time of new beginnings and warm fellowship. The congregation and parish looks forward to Mark, Danielle and the children enjoying a blessed and fruitful ministry in Drouin for many years to come.

MRS SABINE BRUCE

a burning desire to be salt and light

The parish of Sorrento/Rye, on the beautiful Mornington Peninsula, has changed its status from a Home Mission Station to a Full Charge. The Rev John Brennan was inducted as minister of the parish on 2nd November 2007.

With the sale of the old manse for over \$3 million, the parish, through the grace of God, is now in a healthy financial position. The congregations at both Sorrento and Rye have a heart for missions, and over the next months, will be giving prayerful consideration as to which missions and missionaries their finances will support.

A new manse has been purchased, with John and Michelle Brennan taking up residence in early December last year. Again, the church can testify to God's wonderful provision in bringing this acquisition about. The new manse - beautiful, modern and spacious, is ideally located near the Rye/Blairgowrie boundary - between the Sorrento and Rye churches.

A new roof for the Rye church has just been completed and plans are being considered for building up-grades at both Sorrento and Rye.

We all feel truly blessed as we face the future in the confident assurance that the Lord will guide us each step of the way. The parish has a burning desire to be salt and light to the surrounding community, and we trust in the Lord for growth in both numbers and maturity.

The parish would like to thank Rev Dr Michael Wishart for his role as Moderator during the transition from Home Mission Station to Full Charge. Our continuing close links with the Dromana/Mornington parish are a great blessing to us.

REV JOHN BRENNAN

Minister, Sorrento/Rye Presbyterian Church

shingle rattling, congregational singing

It was with great pleasure that the Presbytery of Kilnoorat joined with approximately 350 of God's people in St John's Presbyterian Church, Warrnambool, for the induction of the Rev Ben Johnson on Friday the 15th of February 2008, into the Warrnambool Charge. The occasional sermon was preached by the Rev Neil Chambers of Bundoora PCV. The text for the sermon was taken from 1 Corinthians 1:17-2:5. The service was closed with the shingle rattling, congregational singing of 'O for

a Thousand Tongues to Sing.' Following the service the Warrnambool ladies put on a delightful supper while welcome speeches took place.

Ben and his wife Louise, along with their three children have been well received by the Church and wider community and are looking forward to a long and fruitful ministry in Warrnambool.

REV IAN LEACH

Clerk, Presbytery of Kilnoorat

new shepherd, new charge

It was indeed a joyous and celebratory occasion on 21 December 2007 at Caulfield Presbyterian Church. The Presbytery of Melbourne East, led by the Moderator, the Very Rev Bob Thomas, inducted the Rev Phillip Chang into the pastoral charge of Caulfield/Elwood PC. The Occasional Preacher was the Rev Peter Orchard who gave the sermon and solemn charge based on 1 Peter 5:1-10.

The service was well attended by nearly 60 persons comprising of church members, friends, visitors and the members of Presbytery. We are thankful and grateful to God's provision of a minister who will shepherd and love the flock, as well as help them to be more like Jesus. It is Philip's desire and the desire of the congregation to be effective witnesses for our Master.

A special thanks to our past Interim Moderators and especially our current one, Rev. Dr. Botros Botrosdief, for his guidance, encouragement and constant pastoral attention to the congregations over the last 12 months.

We wish to express our gratitude to the Rev Dr Robert Carner, for his friendship, care and concern over the duration of the vacancy. However, all glory and honour alone goes to our LORD who has sustained and encouraged the congregation during our vacancy period. Throughout our vacancy we were reminded time and again to fix our eyes upon Him, the Author and Perfector of our faith.

DR. SAMUEL LIM

Elder, Caulfield Presbyterian Church

new beginnings at gardendale east

It is not very often that a congregation experiences the joy and excitement of receiving a new pastor to care for and shepherd the flock. It was such an occasion on Friday 14 December, 2008 that the Parish of Gardendale East received her new

minister. On Friday 14 December the Presbytery of Melbourne East inducted the Rev Andrew Satchell into the pastoral charge of St. Andrew's, Gardenvale East Presbyterian Church.

The occasional sermon and charge were delivered by the Rev Tony Johnson. The sermon was taken from Psalm 2 and was titled, "Jesus is the King of kings and the Lord of lords". The sermon and charge focused upon the need to acknowledge King Jesus in every sphere of life, private and public, by all Christians and especially those who are called to the pastoral office as ambassadors of Christ.

The service was well attended by members of the congregation and the members of Presbytery. The local community was represented by the local member of State Parliament, the Honourable Mrs Helen Shardey, who warmly welcomed Andrew and Belinda into the community and wished them

every success in their ministry.

The congregation rejoiced in and received her new pastor and looks forward to many fruitful years of Gospel ministries as Andrew and his wife, Belinda, serve the Lord in Gardenvale.

st. andrew's reservoir - missionary convention

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Reservoir held their 38th annual Convention week from 29th September to 7th October 2007. The theme for the week was "Into All The World". The mission week began with an "Egg & Bacon Prayer Breakfast". After the meal a time of shared prayer was had together, where the seven missionary families that St. Andrew's helps financially support were prayed for individually. Current information had previously been received from the missionaries so that particular needs

or praise points could be prayed for. At the Friday evening Dinner 90 people gathered to share a meal together. The guest speakers were Rev John Wilson and Rev Colin M'Bawa from Malawi, who jointly gave an insight into the work and needs of the church in Blantyre. It was pleasing to have quite a few of the Korean church folk join in the meal and take part in the evening events. As the mission week concluded on Sunday 7th, the Rev Don Elliott from the Eltham Presbyterian Church preached at the morning service, and in the evening, the Rev Keith Bell focused on his chaplaincy work at the Royal Children's Hospital. An excellent time of fellowship was appreciated by all who attended the Convention and we are thankful to God for a successful and profitable time together.

ANNETTE HARRIS

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expressions of God's desire for us. They convey His dream for us, the way any good father dreams of the way he wants his son to turn out. They are "right," rejoicing the heart. Just as we inspect a new-born child to be sure he is properly formed, so we all watch anxiously his later development as a young man, hoping to see his character properly formed. God does no less.

The commandments of the Lord speak of the exertion of His will – and of course God does that, the same as we do with our own children. To keep them from danger, we will them to behave rightly. Our response, says the psalmist, will give "light to the eyes;"

in other words, put a spring in our step and a confident touch in our living.

The "fear of the Lord" or our approach to the Lord in awe or reverence, is an approach too lightly dismissed. A healthy fear/awe/reverence is commanded of us. There are too many folk in our modern society suffering the consequences of their bold decision to tear up God's blueprint for living. We ignore God and His commands and demands at our peril.

"Ordinances" is a blanket word, covering all the others. Taken as a whole, the varied Word of God is able to bring richness and flavour into life, as nothing else ever can. The metaphor of the honey-comb is a very good one!

The final prayer has a challenging

note of humility in it. You'd think that being so sure of God's will for his life, and the benefit of heeding it, that he would sound a note of ringing confidence in his prayer, but he doesn't. "Forgive my hidden faults...Keep your servant also from wilful sins..." as though he isn't really sure of himself at all. And neither he is; sure of his God, yes – of himself, no! And that's the healthiest frame of mind in which you and I can live – completely and utterly dependent upon God Himself in and for all things.

REV ANDREW BRAY

Minister of the Moorabool Charge:
Anakie, Bannockburn, Batesford

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA

PRESBYTERIAN INLAND MISSION

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