

fellow workers

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

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contribute

Fellow Workers is seeking your contribution for the February edition! Please email copy, pictures and enquiries to Chiara Bilyj at ed.fellowworkers@gmail.com before **1st February 2010**.

thank you letter from black saturday survivors

Dear The Hume Presbyterian Church,

It has been several months now since the 'Black Saturday' bushfires came through and turned our world upside down. It has been an experience we won't forget: both the physical and emotional battle that Anthony went through, fighting without success to save our home, and then having no equipment, but hardest of all, the loss of David, Anthony's father. It really has caused us to stop and re-evaluate what we make our priorities in life. Matthew 6:19-21 was a reminder to us at a time when we needed to hear it the most that we are to

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(above)
Anthony, Leanne
and Isaac

meet the new editor of FW



Fellow Workers has a new editor. Yes, it's me: Chiara Bilyj, or as I have heard myself referred to recently, Mrs Bilyj. I've been married only three years and I'm still not used to the 'Mrs' part.

Why am I the new Fellow Workers editor? Is it because of my vast experience in similar publications and editing? Possibly not – you may have already concluded this, probably about the same time you read the word 'editing'.

My Dad forwarded the ad to me. At that time, quite a few friends were forwarding job ads to me; paid and volunteer. I'm really not certain why

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No easy task

In the past, a major focus of the Church and Nation Committee was producing a range of excellent booklets on a broad range of topical, ethical and bioethical issues.

Recently we have given more attention to that part of its remit requiring it to 'keep under critical surveillance contemporary trends, movements and controversial issues in public life', including the requirement to 'acquaint the Government or other relevant authorities of the church's attitude and the revealed Will of God on such matters'.

This is no easy task.

Since 2000, we have been active in making presentations to the Victorian and Federal Governments on a huge range of issues including

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new pyv operations manager

Hi, my name is Brad Haughey and I am Operations Manager for Presbyterian Youth Victoria. My role is to assist our leaders as they put together camps and events, and also to look after the day-to-day organisation of PYV.



I am a member of Donvale Presbyterian Church, and serve in the music team, as a youth group leader, and as secretary of the Donvale Presbyterian Soccer Club. During my downtime I like to watch motorsport, particularly V8 Supercars and Formula One, and I love to go for long relaxing drives, especially down the Great Ocean Road and through the Mornington Peninsula.

The best part of my job is seeing the youth having fun while learning about the Gospel at PYV's camps and events. My highlights from PYV so far this year were the combined Junior and Senior Camp Sunday morning worship service at PYV's Winter Camp, and seeing so many youth relaxing at our inaugural Trivia Night.

I'm really excited about this year's Summer Camp. We have some great things planned and thanks to a generous gift of \$50,000 from the PCV General Assembly, PYV is able to have 250 campers and leaders come along.

PYV praises God for:

- Largest Summer Camp in 2008/09 with 200 attending
- Successful implementation of new camping model, with in excess of 250 campers and leaders at inaugural Winter Camp
- Provision of a new office in the house at Heathmont Presbyterian Church

Please pray for PYV:

- That God will provide PYV Council wisdom as it seeks additional financial support for our camping ministry, Heathmont House and full time staff
- We thank God for his faithfulness and that he continues to strengthen PYV leaders and attendees
- That local congregational members become more involved in senior leadership PYV roles such as Camp Parents, Leader's Chaplains/Mentors and First Aid Officers.

BRAD HAUGHEY
PYV OPERATIONS MANAGER

apwm vic releases new missionary poster

The missionary poster is a good 'visual aid' to help us remember a couple of things we can easily forget!

The Victorian Committee of the Australian Presbyterian World Mission is pleased to release of its new missionary poster featuring (mostly) up-to-date 'mug shots' of our growing missionary team from within the congregations of the PCV.



First, the poster is a reminder of **'who is serving where'**. Our APWM team has grown in the past few years and continues to grow! Given that, it can be fairly easy to lose track of those who are newer to the team or even the movements of those with whom we are more familiar. The poster helps match 'faces with places'.

Second, the poster is a reminder of **why the missionaries are serving where they are**. The poster is about our missionaries – men and women who have responded to the call of our Lord and Saviour to 'make disciples of all nations'.

Third, the poster is a reminder of **the responsibilities that we all share as the sending church of our missionary team....** and these responsibilities include the following;

- **Prayer support** is absolutely vital. It needs to be regular, informed and committed if the members of our missionary team are going to remain faithful to their calling despite the many obstacles they face from day to day. Consider these obstacles and pray: cross-cultural differences, dealing with government authorities, concern for family back home or abroad, learning a new language, extreme heat or cold, raising financial support, time management, children's education needs, and just simply being at the forefront of the enemies' attacks!
- **Financial support.** Not one of our missionaries on the poster is paid to be on the mission field. While the APWM Vic Committee is able to make grants to some of our Partner Church and Associate Missionaries, all the members of our missionary team are responsible for the raising of their own support and rely upon the generosity of God's people. This is the 'untold' story that we all need to hear, because as our missionaries come and go from congregation to congregation they will not normally raise financial matters unless asked!
- **Personal support.** I.e. taking an interest in their work, writing letters and emails of encouragement (remember to take great care when writing to sensitive locations), contributing towards their settling in when they come back for home assignment, etc.

In short, we hope that you will appreciate the new missionary poster, and hope it will encourage you to consider that you are a part of the PCV's missionary team. You have a vital part to play in the process of sending gospel workers 'to the ends of the earth' (Acts 1:8).

REV PHILIP BURNS
CONVENER APWM VIC

P.S. If you haven't yet seen a copy of the new poster – talk to your Minister! If you still haven't received one much later this year, please let me know (54436189) and I will arrange one to be sent to you or your church.
P.P.S. We wish to acknowledge the fantastic efforts of Meagan Oglesby from St Andrew's Clayton, who designed and prepared the poster.

news from around the church

new moderator for the presbyterian church of victoria

The Reverend Andrew Bray was installed as the new Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria on Monday evening 5th October within the Ebenezer St. Johns Presbyterian Church Armstrong Street, Ballarat. Andrew succeeds the Reverend Douglas Robertson, Minister at Scots' Church Melbourne. The Presbyterian General Assembly meets annually at Assembly Hall Collins Street Melbourne, but every four years travels to a Victorian regional centre to conduct Assembly business. The Assembly agreed to meet this year in Ballarat.

Until Andrew's retirement earlier this year, he was the minister of the Parish of Moorabool, which consists of three congregations: Anakie, Bannockburn, and Batesford, located on the north-western edge of Geelong.

Andrew has given valuable service to the Presbyterian Church over a considerable period of time as an Elder and as a representative Elder to the Assembly. As a former Branch and Investment Services Bank Manager, Andrew performed a valuable role in serving on finance committees of the Church. Before being called to the ministry in later life, Andrew had also served as a lay preacher in the Frankston and Cranbourne areas.

Andrew is married to Joy, and they have three adult daughters together with six grandchildren. Andrew and Joy have settled in Bannockburn.

Both Andrew and Joy are looking forward to the opportunities, challenges and responsibilities that this position of Moderator offers, together with the privilege of meeting many people from a wide cross-section of backgrounds, as they move around Victoria.

**REV. GRAEME WEBER CONVENER,
MODERATOR'S COMMITTEE**

the gathering

The Hume Presbyterian Church has been hosting a series of meetings called "The Gathering" each quarter of this year. The first one was 19th April with Rev. Andrew Venn speaking to about 60+ young people. The second meeting was held 19th July and featured "The Backyard Bard" doing the Gospel of Luke. This was very entertaining and encouraging. October 4th had the PCV's Training Officer, Rev. Nello Barbieri, speak on "One Stormy

Night", presenting a gospel reflection of Jesus' response to his disciples in calming the seas. These three "Gatherings" had some combination of a really hot band, games, and great food.

The final "Gathering" for the year will be 13th December will be outdoors... and our style of Carols by Candlelight. Comedian and entertainer Rev. Bill Medley will be speaking to what we hope will be a huge crowd. So all you young people and youth groups, please plan a night of fun, fellowship and music! Phone 9333 4264 for more information, or contact Scott Kroeger: info@hume.pc.vic.org.au.

**REV. SCOTT KROEGER
MINISTER, HUME PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

the ministry family camp

For four days in late September, PCV Ministry families and several of our missionaries gathered together for the time of fellowship, learning and fun at the Annual PCV Ministry Family Camp.

The Health and Community Chaplaincy Committee organised the camp at a new time and in an exciting new venue: the Phillip Island Adventure Resort, during the September school holidays.

This meant that everyone could be on the same site and eat in the same dining area. Over 200 people attended including ministers, home missionaries, missionaries, candidates, and their families.

PYV provided seventeen workers to run the creche, children's program, youth program, and sound equipment. With about 95 children at the camp, this was a huge ministry for them and they did a fantastic job. The kids thoroughly enjoyed their programs.

Rt. Rev Robert Benn (Moderator General of the General Assembly of Australia) gave five talks to the adults on "The Pains, Pleas and Passions of the Prophets," encouraging those in ministry to have the heart of the prophets for the world around us and to strive to maintain a passionate relationship with God. Robert's attendance at the camp with his wife



Laurel was a wonderful blessing to all.

Several missionaries were able to join us on the camp and one morning was devoted to hearing about their work in so many different environments. This was a true highlight for all.

Free time each afternoon was filled with various activities such as the giant swing, the annual soccer game, indoor rock climbing, and afternoon tea in Cowes. It was great to see so many families enjoying the time together.

The camp is always a great time and a real opportunity for the denomination to care pastorally for our own ministry families. We look forward to Ministry Family Camp again in 2010!

**ANNE ELLIOT
HEALTH AND COMMUNITY
CHAPLAINCY COMMITTEE**

new deaf chaplaincy development worker

Rev. Tony Salisbury is a profoundly deaf Presbyterian minister who currently has a special ministry to deaf students at Forest Hill Secondary College in Melbourne. He's keen to expand his work into other educational institutions.

On Thursday, 8th October, 2009 the Convener of the Health and Community Chaplaincy Committee (HCCC), Mrs Kathy James, along with Rev. Tony and Mrs Anne Salisbury, met to ratify an exciting new appointment – the employment of Mrs Veena Sen to work with the Salisburys in the development of Tony's chaplaincy work in schools and tertiary institutions in Victoria.

The position was previously held by Miss Laura Noble whose excellent work last year laid a foundation for expanding our opportunities to make use of Tony as a unique resource within the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

Mrs Veena Sen attends Surrey Hills Presbyterian Church and has strong qualifications in business and management with an emphasis on project coordination and marketing.

Veena will meet regularly with the Salisburys to pray and plan for the expansion of their work and



(from left) Kathy James, Veena Sen, Anne and Rev. Tony Salisbury

will be responsible for contacting and liaising with schools and other groups and government agencies in the development of Tony's chaplaincy ministry.

Funding for this position is continuing this year from the proceeds of the HCCC Good Friday Appeal in 2008 – made on behalf of Deaf Chaplaincy Work. We again give thanks to God for the generous participation of Presbyterian congregations around our state. We hope the news of the continuation of this work is a great blessing to all who have given towards it. Please pray for Veena as she moves into the role in the coming weeks and for God's mighty hand to direct this important work in the months ahead.

KATHY JAMES
HEALTH & COMMUNITY CHAPLAINCY
COMMITTEE

pioneers church 150th anniversary celebrations

It was our prayer that in our celebratory events the gospel would be faithfully commended to all. We thank God that this was the case.

Last October 10th a large enthusiastic crowd attended a celebration dinner at Kingswood Golf Club. Our own *Heavens' Harmony* girls trio entertained us with their music, and our Session Clerk Neil Hamilton gave us glimpses of bygone days at Pioneers Presbyterian Church, Cheltenham. Our local parliamentarian Murray Thompson also spoke.

Then on October 18th, our minister, the Rev. David Brown, arranged a concert at our church. It featured many new Christian songs for use in worship that were beautifully presented by musicians from Pioneers and other churches, especially from St Stephen's Surrey Hills.

On the 26th, our worship service was well attended, when the Moderator Rev. Douglas Robertson preached on the example of St. Paul. Holding fast to the faith despite the opposition of worldly voices was emphasised. During the service, a former organist played the original organ, and afterwards Mrs M. Gibson and Mrs

J. Hamilton organised a hot sit down lunch for the one hundred and forty guests. Floral arrangements graced the tables, while families of church members kindly waited on tables. Renovations in our hall and meeting



140 people enjoyed a hot lunch at Pioneers

room were admired, as was our new sound system and screen for church services.

The anniversary cake was cut by our longest church member, Mrs Jean Jordan, and booklets about our history were distributed alongside memorial placemats. Some of our Sudanese friends joined in the celebrations, and we all enjoyed the memorabilia display arranged by Mr and Mrs Jordan and helpers.

Altogether it was a richly blessed occasion with all our congregation working together for the extension of God's kingdom in Cheltenham.

MRS JOAN CROOK
ELDER, PIONEERS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

preparation is underway for pyv's biggest event: summer camp 2009-10

Hi all, I am Nic Bilyj, and I'll be the Convenor for PYV Summer Camp 2009-10. It'll be on the usual dates, from December 27th 2009 – Friday January 1st 2010 but at a brand new fantastic location: Phillip Island Adventure Resort! I have been very blessed to be supported by a great team of

dedicated planners working close by to create what will hopefully be the BEST Summer Camp yet!

These people include Joe Dunning organizing studies, Sonja Brown in charge of sessions, Chiara Bilyj organising the program, Dean Carrol coordinating Pastoral Care, Brad Haughey handling registrations, and last but definitely not least, our enthralling speaker Peter Owen. Please go ahead and pray for these people, and

all the leaders, as we prepare for PYV's biggest camp to date.

We all long for freedom! Peter Owen, the minister at Brimbank Presbyterian Church, will be speaking on the topic of Freedom in Christ.



Enjoying the displays

He'll explain the gospel from the book of Romans, emphasizing how understanding, believing and applying the gospel in your life brings true freedom in Christ. Last time Peter spoke at PYV Summer Camp, God truly changed people's lives for his glory. We pray that this will happen again.

There will be so many amazing activities on this camp including bungee jumping ... Only joking! There are giant swings (which are a bit like bungee jumping, honestly), massive flying foxes, a beach within walking distance, optional surfing lessons and much more. The food and young, friendly staff are guaranteed to be spectacular.

What an exciting camp this is going to be! Registrations close soon:

it's such a cheap camp (\$55) that positions are filling extremely fast and registrations will need to close early, so if you're interested (which I know you are) please hurry!

For more information go to pyv.org.au or contact PYV Operations Manager Brad Haughey on (03) 9017 4676.

NIC BILYJ
PYV SUMMER CAMP CONVENOR

pyv volleyball day 2009

Volleyball day brings the youth of the Presbyterian Churches in Victoria together for a day of fun, fellowship and learning. It is a great day for the youth to make new friends, catch up with old ones, and to bring along unsaved friends to hear the Gospel and connect with Christian kids.

This year it was held Saturday March 28th at the State Volleyball Centre in Dandenong, and over 330 people came.

The most exciting part was seeing so young people in the same stadium, many of whom want to serve Christ with all their hearts. They all heard the gospel presented by a mystery speaker who turned out to be a car racing chaplain (he's still a mystery: his name escapes me). He creatively shared the gospel by telling the story of how he shared the gospel with a racing car driver who then decided to pray then and there. If I remember correctly, the man's microphone was accidentally switched on at the very moment he began praying and his prayer was broadcast around the track!

And there were some really tight volleyball games too!

MATT WHELAN
PYV VOLLEYBALL ORGANISER



All the PYV Winter Campers

amazing races, squelchy mud and glorifying god: pyv's first winter camp

This year PYV tried something different. Senior Camp and Junior Camp were combined into one huge camp. It was fantastic: everyone was at the same location, on the same July weekend, but with different speakers and activities. We stayed on opposite sides of the lake at Campaspe Downs, in Kyneton, coming together for meals and the special Sunday service.

Junior Camp, for grade 6 to year 9 students, was all about *The Amazing Race: Journey with the Israelites*. It was great: I know, I was there! Ben Johnson delivered exciting and compelling talks on Exodus, encouraging campers to identify with the Israelites. They were slaves to the Egyptians, and we were slaves to sin. God delivered them from slavery because he loved them... and he is doing the same for his people today through Jesus.

The studies were memorable. We'll always remember that God and sin don't mix, because vinegar and bi-carb soda don't mix: they explode. All over the grass.

As a leader, it was so encouraging to hear young campers talk about their faith in God. Topics like respect, doing the right thing in the face of pressure, and being committed to praying and reading the Bible were openly discussed in small groups. Campers from non-Christian backgrounds heard the gospel preached and talked about by other campers, and leaders prayed together for the campers every morning, plus in smaller groups at other times.

The lake, in some parts, could also be described as a large expanse of mud. This meant that as part of 'The Amazing Race', everyone not only raced canoes and matched flags with the correct country, but volunteer campers had the privilege of hunting through knee-deep squelchiness for 'special' (read muddy) treasures!



Mud, glorious Winter Camp mud!

Other fun activities involved soccer balls, playdough and lots of guessing, a trampoline and a giant ball, constructing protection for eggs out of straws, and performing hilarious team songs to laughter and applause. There also may or may not have been some impromptu 'mud wrestling'.

On the other side of the lake, Senior Camp, open to year 10 students and above, had the privilege of listening to Douglas Milne on the topic of Man's Chief End. They discussed glorifying God in the workplace and in the church, participated in workshops, enjoyed fellowship and apparently had a brilliant time. Sources tell me that they also may or may not have availed themselves of the opportunity to mud wrestle!

On behalf of all those who attended PYV's first Winter Camp, I want to thank Shady Mehanni and Joy Venning, the Convenors, for all the time, expertise and effort they put in; the speakers, for bringing us faithful and useful teaching; and all the leaders, for giving of themselves to bless others. It truly was a brilliant time of blessing for all who came to Kyneton that weekend.

CHIARA BILYJ
PYV JUNIOR CAMP LEADER

the big move south

The Church here at Wyndham welcomed Peter Stanton from Benalla with open arms! He commenced as "Assistant to the Minister" under Rev. Shane Cassidy here on 1st July 2009. Peter has been a great blessing since coming to the church with his preaching and many pastoral visits to the members of the congregation.

His wife Connie and their three children Samuel, Thomas and Miriam have settled in well and the children are attending the Heathdale Christian College in Werribee. Peter is continuing to study in his chosen field of counseling with the intention of commencing his own counseling service here in the heart of Werribee along with his ministerial duties. We are delighted as a church to have the Stantons among us, and I personally look forward to a long and fruitful ministry with Peter under the guidance of the Presbytery of Melbourne West. Peter is also making himself known to the other local church Ministers in the Fraternal and they too have warmly received him as a Fellow Worker!

REV. SHANE CASSIDY MA
11TH SEPTEMBER 2009



The Stanton Family



4 ways to train an eldership a two part series by nello barbieri, pcv training officer

In a previous article (vol5 no.2 “Together training trainers”) I wrote that training was the key to discipleship and that while teaching imparts knowledge, facts and information – ‘I understand’, training leads to transformation – ‘I can do’. Since then many of you have asked, ‘can give me some examples of how this can be done in the context of eldership training?’

So here is my attempt to answer that question – ‘4 ways to train an eldership.’

1. Train through the observation of the teaching elder in real life situations.

- a. It is important for the teaching elder to demonstrate both his personal walk with the Lord and his ministry. If the session members observe how the teaching elder walks in close fellowship with the Lord and how he can handle various aspects of his ministry then the session members will be more willing to allow their flock to observe them in these same areas.
- b. Close personal interaction in natural settings is vital to build into another person’s life. The teaching elder must seek to build solid personal relationships with the session members outside the session meetings and ‘official’ ministry appointments. The teaching elder should be a friend and co-worker with the other elders. He must minister to the whole person that includes social, physical, intellectual, emotional, and theological. In short, he must apply the principles of discipleship seeking in varying life situations to impart his life.
- c. Lessons on how to have a devotional time, how to do Bible Study, how to witness, how conduct a discipleship group etc. can be taught in a classroom, but people learn more when they see how you live and react to real-life situation. For this reason the teaching elder would try to aim to have a session member

Build solid personal relationships with the session members’

with him in ministry situations as much as possible. The point is demonstration rather than exhortation - that is SHOW THEM HOW.

2. Train through the teaching elder discussing or sharing his personal struggles.

- a. The teaching elder must model an authentic spiritual life to the ruling elders. This involves being transparent and open, not some kind of perfect saint or phantom. This means sharing struggles for discipline in certain areas of life.

- b. Sharing areas of personal weakness with session members and seeking their advice. As Paul points out in 2 Corinthians 12: 6-10, Christ is not glorified in our self sufficiency but in our dependence on His sufficiency and what He is able to do through our yielded lives.

“Gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am well content with weakness, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ’s sake, for when I am weak, then I am strong”. 2 Cor. 12:9-10.

Sensitivity needs to be exercised here as the depth of sharing must be appropriate to the level of development of the teaching elders’ relationship with and the maturity of the session members. The principle of openness however, is essential. Sharing personal weaknesses is not ‘dumping one’s sins on a person’, but is sincerely seeking advice and encouragement about an area God wants to develop in one’s life. The teaching elder’s transparency will add a dimension of realism to his ministry and will encourage session members and others to approach him with their own faith barriers.

Look out for the next edition of FW to read part 2 of ‘4 ways to train an eldership’.

...new editor of fw

Continued from page 1

they were doing this, since I already had a job that I happily prattled about quite often. Perhaps they were tired of hearing about my work. The adventures of kitchen appliances may not be equally interesting to everyone.

I don’t think I even opened the job ad attachment when I first saw it. I was too busy. Aren’t we all too busy for attachments these days? Later, though, when I was procrastinating in regards to something else, I had a look.

The ad nagged at my mind for the next few days. I guess you could say my conscience, or more likely, the one who created that persistent inner voice, was saying, ‘you should at least find out more about it. You did study editing

and publishing for a reason, right?’

Ideas started flooding in when my brain wasn’t otherwise occupied. I hadn’t read Fellow Workers in a few years, but I remembered wishing for more: more details about the lives and work of the people mentioned, more reports about church outreach efforts around the state, more pictures to put faces to the names...am I the only one who finds it easier to pray for people when I know what they look like?

I’m still wishing for all these things. I envision FW being so encouraging, inspiring and full of compelling news that you’ll eagerly snatch it out of your letterbox and start reading before you reach your front door. Please do watch out for the step though. Reading while walking can be hazardous.

At the risk of sounding melodramatic, would you help

make my dream come true? More importantly, would you ‘consider how we may spur one another on towards love and good deeds’ to the glory of our God through FW? Consider how the story of how your church has grown by God’s grace may encourage a church in a hard time. Consider sending in a story about your Sunday school. What are the kids learning? You might inspire another Sunday school to try something new. Think about sharing the story of how you became a Christian. You never know who God may touch through your words.

I pray that Fellow Workers will continue to be a blessing to the Presbyterian Church of Victoria as we seek to love and serve the awesome God who gave us life.

**CHIARA BILYI
FELLOW WORKERS EDITOR**

new legislation for outlawing religious vilification, establishing relationship registers for same sex and caring couples, destroying embryos in the vain quest for miracle stem cells, establishing new surrogacy arrangements that make it possible for a child to have up to five adults involved in his/her conception and subsequent birth, making IVF available to single women and lesbians and liberalising abortion to the point where no effective restrictions remain.

Our work has involved research, writing submissions to Government agencies, making presentations at hearings, writing articles for newspapers and magazines, lobbying politicians through personal representation, and writing letters. A significant part of our work has been keeping ministers, elders and congregations informed, and requesting visits and/or letter writing to politicians on various issues. We are very grateful that many of you have done this.

We have joined forces with other Christian groups, principally Australian Christian Lobby who have excellent links into the various Parliaments, the Catholics who are solid on all the issues and the conservative Ad Hoc Interfaith group which includes

Catholics, Anglicans, Uniting Church evangelicals, Pentecostals, a Jewish rabbi and an Orthodox priest. This group has been highly effective in gaining support with signatures to submissions from across all denominations. Groups like the Victorian Council of Churches and Heads of Churches have been largely non-players either because of internal divisions or lack of interest.

Whilst we have lost most of the issues, the Parliamentarians certainly know there is a Christian voice, and the votes on abortion, surrogacy and IVF availability were far tighter than the Government expected because of that clearly articulated Christian voice.

This year the issues have all been around religious freedom and attempts by our intolerant secular opponents to restrict these freedoms. There have been three separate enquiries at Federal and State level in which we have been major players despite our small size as a denomination. The amount of coordination across the churches, the UCA excepted, has been outstanding. At this point in time we await Government agency reports and Government responses to those reports.

Generally speaking our approach is to perform research and then give clear expression to our confessionally bound convictions informed by this research. At all times we seek to preserve the Church's good name

which means that we listen carefully to the arguments of our opponents and then respond without any attempt to denigrate them.

In order to cope with this change in direction from writing booklets to engagement in the public domain, the composition of the Committee has been reshaped away from ministerial membership to lay persons with specific appropriate skills and experience. This means in addition to our three ministerial members we have two lawyers, a journalist, a magazine editor and an experienced elder with business skills.

Looking ahead and considering the toxic state of the broader Australian society, the Committee wishes to give greater attention to the strengthening of marriage and family life in our own church, but more about this soon.

All our submissions and articles may be accessed by visiting our website:
<http://www.candn.pcvic.org.au/>.

Parliament certainly knows there is a Christian voice'

DAVID PALMER
CHURCH AND NATION COMMITTEE

The **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND NURTURE COMMITTEE (CENC)** of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria is seeing a suitable candidate to fill the position of State Youth Worker.

The Primary purpose of this position is to encourage and equip those in Youth Ministry within the Presbyterian Church of Victoria in the discharge of their duties.

A full position description and other related materials can be downloaded at the CENC website (<http://cenc.org.au>).

Applications Close: 15 November 2009

Return Application to the CENC Secretary:

Rev Andrew Venn, 39 Ford St, Ringwood Vic 3134

Phone: (03) 9870 5182 | Email: secretary@cenc.org.au



HUMEPc
HUME PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
"Getting Serious About God..."

Cnr Section & Somerton Rds Greenvale Victoria

www.humepc.pcvic.org.au
Email: info@humepc.pcvic.org.au
Phone: 0412 681 715 or (03) 9333 4264

store all our treasures in heaven, not here on earth.

We would like to express our deep gratitude for your generous donation to us of \$21,663.20 following the Black Saturday bushfire in February this year.

With this money, we have been able to purchase a tractor to replace the main tractor that we lost in the fire and this has enabled us to continue running and begin to re-establish the orchard.

We know that God is still in control and even in all the difficulty and heartache of the past few months, I hope that we never forget the many miracles we have experienced, both on the day of the fire and in the time since as we have witnessed the way God is providing for us. These are the miracles we want you to hear about and hope that one day you will hear and rejoice with us to God.

We are so thankful and feel humbled and greatly encouraged by the generosity so many people have shown us during this time. And though this letter does not seem enough, we would like to use it to express to you our deepest thanks for the support you have given us through your prayers, your gifts, your time and your practical help and also your sympathy and kind words. We have been absolutely amazed and overwhelmed by your generosity and your support.

On the 20th of March this year, we welcomed our first child, Isaac David into the world. His name 'Isaac' means 'laughter' or 'God smiles' and 'David' is in memory of his grandfather who passed away in the fires. For us, his birth and his life have been a great reminder of the hope that we still have.

As we move on now and rebuild the orchard and adjust to our new family life we know that we are still being upheld by your prayers and we thank you again for these and for the practical support that many of you are giving with help with fencing, tree planting, shed building and money donations. We know that when we trust in God, He will give us the strength to do all that we need to do.

Thanks again and God Bless,
ANTHONY, LEANNE AND ISAAC STOKES



With the donations from the church, the Stokes were able to buy a tractor to replace the one lost in the fire

PRESBYTERIAN THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

The faculty and staff of PTC warmly invite you to attend
the final event of the college year

2009 GRADUATION SERVICE

Friday, 27 November 2009 at 7.30pm

Canterbury Presbyterian Church
146 Canterbury Road, Canterbury

(Melway 46C11)

Guest Preacher:

Rev Tam Loy Lai

Senior Pastor of Evangelical Chinese Church
Blackburn North

- ❖ short interviews with exiting student families
- ❖ presentation of prizes to achieving students
- ❖ review the year and look ahead with the Principal
- ❖ hear God's Word preached by guest speaker
- ❖ share in music and song together

Enjoy supper and fellowship with us afterwards