

"From the end of the earth I call to you when my heart is faint. Lead me to the rock that is higher than I." Psalm 61:2

The Presbyterian Banner



December 2023

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Meditation

Note: the following is an edited version of a sermon preached at the graveside ceremony for Mrs. Eleanor Hanna, held on the 16th of November. Eleanor asked that the text for the message be 1 Corinthians 15:55, “O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?”

Gathering in a cemetery for a graveside ceremony, the Christian family of a deceased believer focus on the casket in front of them, knowing it contains the body of their recently departed loved one. They know they are about to experience the pain of witnessing the body being lowered into the ground.

To be sure, they know that even as they commit the body to the earth, the soul has already returned to God. Their loved one is with the Lord and Savior.

Still, seeing the body lowered into the grave, there is something final about that, a concluding statement, a visible reminder that their beloved is no longer with them, and is not coming back. That hurts.

And yet, at the same time, this is not the end of the matter. The grave has not won the day. Death does not have the final say.

During the time before the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, a friend of his died, Lazurus. Jesus loved Lazurus. But he did not make the effort to be there to heal him, to prevent his death, as he had done for so many others.

Lazarus’ sisters, Mary and Martha, they grieved their brother’s death. And they both were confused

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There are congregations in Kalinga in QLD; Maclean, Wauchope, Kindee, Taree, Cardiff, Raymond Terrace, Sydney CBD, and Mt Druitt in NSW; Wantirna, Mulgrave, Narre Warren, Carrum Downs, and Geelong in VIC; Ulverstone in TAS.

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why Jesus did not come earlier. When he finally did arrive, they both independently said to him, “Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.”

Martha, though, she added, “But even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You.”

Jesus responded to Martha’s faith, “Your brother will rise again.”

Marth then confessed, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.”

What a beautiful confession. What a glorious hope Martha had with respect to her brother. It is a confession we can make regarding our loved ones who die in the Lord. We know they will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.

But is that all that removes the sting of death, here and now? Well, Jesus doesn’t leave it there. He goes on to declare something incredible to Martha, something about himself, something about how it is that she could truly know that her brother would rise again.

He proclaims, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die.”

A short time later, as a testimony to this truth, a testimony to Martha and Mary, to his disciples, a testimony to us, he proved that he is the resurrection and the life by raising Lazarus from the dead.

And then, not long afterward, he would prove it in an even greater way, in the ultimate way, by himself rising from the dead.

Lazarus was brought back to

life, only to die again later. And of course, so many other followers of Christ, then and now, are not brought back to life after physically dying, as Lazarus was. But Jesus, he rose physically from the grave, never to die again. And he now lives at the right hand of God, Lord over all, now and forever the resurrection and the life, for Martha, Mary, Lazarus, and for all who look to him in faith, finding their life in him.

“He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die.” Our brothers and sisters in Christ, though they die, they now live, living a life that will never end.

And the thing is also, they would have experienced a taste of that life even while they were yet here with us, in this life.

In my years of ministry, I have been so privileged to spend time with numerous terminally ill brothers and sisters who, even as they were struggling with the illness that would eventually kill them, they trusted in Christ, looking to him in faith, professing the beautiful truth of 1 Corinthians 15:55, “O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?” They knew that death would not have the final victory.

They didn’t have to wait for the final resurrection of the dead, when the dead shall be raised incorruptible, when the mortal will put on immortality, they didn’t have to wait for that to know that death had lost its sting.

Oh, they knew it would be hard for their loved ones left behind, who would grieve their death. But

they prayed that their family and friends would look to Christ and find strength in the hope that comes from knowing that death will not have the final victory, because Christ was victorious over sin and death and hell.

He offered himself as the perfect sacrifice for sin with his death, and then he showed he had defeated death, removing its sting, by rising from the grave. This is the hope that believers can have, looking to Jesus, that death has lost its sting.

You know, the word ‘sting,’ it might suggest a number of things, including the sting of a poisonous animal, piercing through our skin, filling us with venom. And that’s how death can make us feel, the death of a loved one, or anticipating our own death. It’s like feeling the hurt of a poison about to kill us, knowing that there’s nothing we can do about it.

And there is nothing we can do about it. But Christ did everything. He absorbed the venom of death, took it on himself, and robbed it of its power. O death, where is thy sting? Christ took it away! O grave, where is thy victory? Christ took it away!

It’s like death is being taunted in the word of 1 Corinthians 15:55. Death you have no ultimate power. Grave, you have no ultimate victory. Christ is victorious, having all the power.

May this truth strengthen you. When you know the sorrow that comes from loss, may you also know the hope of faith. May you look to Jesus, and so be able to declare with joy, “O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?”

Life of Rev. William Nathaniel Wilson, 1857-1922 (Part 1)

By Tom Reeve and John Audet

William N. Wilson was born in present-day Leppington in the Parish of Minto, NSW on 25th November 1857. The family then lived on Cowpastures Road where his father was employed as a labourer, probably on the large 700-acre property of the Cordeaux family.¹ His father Thomas Wilson (born c. 1826) had migrated from County Fermanagh, Northern Ireland around 1853.²

On the neighbouring property of Denham Court, a Church of England chapel had been built and consecrated in 1838 and it remains a place of worship to the present. In this building, on the 19th February 1857, Thomas Wilson aged 31 married Eliza Jane Purnell, who had come from Gloucestershire, England. The father of the bride, Nathaniel Purnell, gave consent for his 20-year-old daughter to marry Wilson. There is no further mention of Nathaniel in the family history records, but his wife Eliza Purnell, it seems, remained with the young family. She died in 1880.

By 1862, when their third son was born, the Wilson family, had moved to nearby Liverpool where Thomas set up business as a store keeper.

Tragedy came to the young family when William was aged



Wesleyan Church, Hay Street Sydney where William N. Wilson worshipped during his school years in the 1860s and early 1870s. Courtesy: Uniting Church Archives.

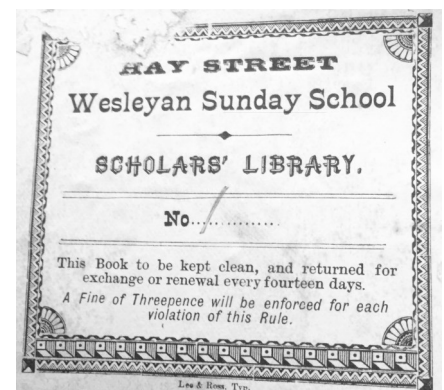
four. His father, who suffered from a heart disease, died on 11th September 1862 in Liverpool, at the age of thirty-six. There were three young boys (William, Edwin and George), all under five and there is evidence that Mrs. Eliza Wilson continued to operate the mercery business for a time. The early loss of his father and consequent hardships of his mother and her children would have been a formative experience for William and likely prepared him with skills and insights for his pastoral vocation as a Christian minister in the Hunter valley.

The other thing we learn from the death certificate for Thomas, is that the Wilsons belonged to the Wesleyan Methodist denomination.³ Northern Ireland had become a strong centre for Methodism following the visits of the Wesley brothers in the 1700s. As the population later grew and

opportunities for employment were limited, migration brought many of these godly families to Australia, as well as to North America. *The Scone and Upper Hunter Historical Society Journal* (1973)⁴ states that USA President Woodrow Wilson was also a descendant of the same Irish Wilsons.

William Wilson moved from Liverpool to the centre of Sydney when he was young, most likely to attend a good school.⁵ Perhaps he boarded with another family from the Northern Irish diaspora. The McCoys were one such family, attending the Hay Street Wesleyan Chapel, as well as the Chippendale Church.

William continued under the sound of the Gospel at the Hay Street Chapel and the significant



influence of the Sunday School, which was then a large teaching and outreach movement in the Wesleyan churches. They met on

the Sabbath afternoons at 3 pm.⁶

Reformed Influences: The superintendent of the Hay Street Sabbath School for many years was Mr Thomas Parker Reeve, a city businessman who had set up his ironmongery shop and premises at the Haymarket end of George Street in 1853. It was continued by his son Harry who was born in the same year as William. During the 1860s William became firm friends of the Reeve boys and of the whole family. Three of the group were to become Christian ministers.⁷

T.P. Reeve had been converted in a Baptist Chapel at Norwich, England and sat under the ministry of Dr William Brock, a reformed pastor who was a friend of Spurgeon's and preached for him occasionally. Reeve became a British Schoolmaster at St Ives where he found a good Wesleyan wife, Lydia. When the young family came to Sydney in 1853, they threw their lot in with the Wesleyan Church, and being a Schoolmaster, his focus was on the Sunday School ministry.

Sunday School teaching was carried out thoroughly and scholars were encouraged to read good books. Remarkably one of the authors of this paper (JA) found in a second-hand bookshop in Paddington an 1840s edition of *History of the Reformation* by J.H. Merle D'Aubigne, a worthy volume for the Hay Street Scholars' Library. It was Book Number 1, and the lending rule shows the strict standard expected by a British Schoolmaster!

The work at Hay Street had declined by the early 1870s and the congregation was not able to

support a full-time married minister.⁸ Probably from about 1873, William now in his late teens would have attended other churches and came into contact with the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia. Maybe he had met with children from PCEA families at his school. More research is needed.

Good seeds had been sown in William's heart and mind during his youth and he liked what he saw and heard at St George's, Castlereagh Street. The Lord was drawing him into a fuller understanding of the Gospel and into full-time Christian service as a minister of our church. But for now, we must bow to the Editor and continue the journey next time.⁹

Notes:

¹ William Cordeaux's widow Mrs Anne Cordeaux, a Christian lady and sister to benefactor Thomas Moore J. P. of Liverpool, was then at the helm of their large farm named Leppington and other properties at Berrima.

² The Wilsons were descended from Protestant Scots who had fought in the Battle of the Boyne (1690) and were given land in Northern Ireland.

³ The work of God under the Methodist banner had flourished in several parts of Ireland following the many visits of John Wesley (also George Whitfield and Charles Wesley) in the 1700s.

⁴ Spencer, H.C. (1973) in *Scone and Upper Hunter Historical Society Journal* 4 (1): pp. 24-27, Early Rouchel Settlement (section on Rev'd W. N. and Mrs Wilson,

with photo).

⁵ Cleveland Street Public School was the leading Government school in the area, whilst Christ Church School in George Street was a popular institution at that time.

⁶ The Hay Street Wesleyan Chapel commenced in 1846. Unfortunately, most of the records of this congregation were not preserved.

⁷ Rev. George Reeve (Methodist who was minister resident at Raymond Terrace when the new PCEA Church was opened in 1905, and spoke on this occasion - ref. Cromarty, J. 2005 *The Centenary of the Raymond Terrace Building, Free Presbyterian Church*), Rev. Fred Reeve (Church of England) and Rev. William N. Wilson (PCEA). Miss Annie Reeve married Rev. Robert Bellhouse (Methodist). Rev. William Dyer (Methodist) was younger and taught by Mrs Lydia Reeve in the Sunday School, probably at Stanmore.

⁸ Thomas and Lydia Reeve decided to purchase a new home away from their business in Haymarket and moved out to Stanmore in mid 1873. This further weakened the work at the Hay Street Church which finally closed by the 1880s. The new 'Wesley Church' at nearby Chippendale opened in 1871 and became the leading Methodist congregation in that part of Sydney. At one stage there were 600 pupils on the roll of their Sunday School.

⁹ The first extant PCEA record of William Wilson appears in the November 1879 Synod Minutes where he is listed as a student-catechist at Barrington.

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Brisbane

[Report by Jim Klazinga]

Mrs. Elizabeth Eleanor Hanna was called home to be with the Lord on Friday, 10 November. A graveside ceremony was held for Eleanor on the 16th of November.



Please continue to pray for her husband Wes, retired minister of the congregation and current elder, and for the rest of the family.

The congregation experienced quite a scare on Sunday, 19 November. Shortly after the morning service, Mrs. Jessie Smith, 23, experienced what appeared to be a seizure, losing consciousness for several minutes. In fact, she was having a cardiac arrest due to abnormal heart rhythms. She was taken by ambulance to the hospital, and the next day she underwent surgery to receive an Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillator. She was able to return home from the hospital on Friday, and she managed to make



it to church on Sunday. Give thanks that the Lord spared her life, and pray for her as she continues to recover over the next number of months. Pray for her and her husband

Stephen as they adjust after this life-altering experience, and pray for them as they prepare to move to Sydney in the new year, where Stephen has been assigned to continue his military service.

Nathan Klazinga, born on 3 November to Ben and Claire, has also had to spend time in the hospital, dealing with a severe infection. Give thanks for his recovery and pray for continuing health. It is hoped that he will be able to be baptized sometime in

January.

Please pray for the two young couples in our congregation who are each expecting their first child at some point in 2024: Micah and Lauren Klazinga and Weylin and Irene Morrison. Pray for healthy pregnancies, and give thanks for the Lord continuing to call to himself a people from generation to generation.

A small but appreciative crowd was blessed to attend a psalmody concert held on 25 November at the church. A recording of the concert can be accessed online at <https://www.youtube.com/@PCEAPsalms>.



We eagerly anticipate our annual church camp being held this month at Camp Drewe in Lennox Head NSW, from Friday the 8th to Monday the 11th. Rev Andrew Stewart of the Geelong Reformed Presbyterian Church intends to speak on the theme, "The Healthy Conscience."

We wish Ben and Zara Saljooghi all the best as they move to Maclean this month, and trust that they will be a blessing to the Northern Rivers congregation.

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Geelong

[Report by Donald Ramsay]

The end of the year gives us pause to remember and give thanks for the mercies of God to the Geelong congregation. While small in number, God has sustained and strengthened us in our worship and fellowship. We have been reminded of the constant need to remain humble and faithful in our service of God and one another.

Long-time member of the congregation, Bert Stasse, has decided to step down from his monthly preaching commitment as he turns 93 in late December. Bert has blessed us with his teachings, which are always faithful to God's Word and frequently sprinkled with the wisdom of the great Dutch reformers and theologians. As Bert steps down, others are stepping up to serve the church.

Rev. Nigel Cunningham, who has preached regularly here for well over 10 years, has increased his preaching commitment, as has Rev. Alastair McEwen from the RPC.

As we look forward to our Interim Moderator, Rev. Andres Miranda, conducting the Lord's Supper in a few weeks time, we also give thanks for the anticipated admission of Nigel Cunningham and Greg Cahill into communicant membership. Greg has been very involved with the Geelong PCEA, having been an Elder here many years ago, and drawn back to the PCEA for its Bible-based worship. Both Nigel and Greg are men with a servant's heart and they will

strengthen our fellowship greatly.

There remain challenges ahead for the Geelong congregation as we persevere without a full-time minister and a small congregation, but we have a faithful God to sustain us through these times and a certain hope of His provision and love for those who remain faithful and obedient to Him.

* * * * *

Hastings

[Report by John Forbes]

We held the Lord's Supper on 12th November at which we were delighted to welcome Barbara Pead as a communicant member.

The Lethbridge family, who joined us earlier in the year, have now left to worship elsewhere.

Our annual Sunday School outing was held on Saturday 2nd December at our usual place Pilot Beach, Dunbogan. It was well attended by families and friends. The weather was great and it was a delight to see the young ones participate so enthusiastically in activities, and to play and interact so well together. The Sunday School prize giving followed the morning service the next day with almost 40 young people receiving a book for attendance through the year. Many also received certificates for memorisation of Bible passages, metrical psalms and catechisms.

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Hawkesbury Nepean

[Report by Elizabeth Muldoon]

At the session meeting at the beginning of November we were happy to welcome Tom and Ashlee as members into our

congregation. Both expressed their faith in Jesus and their desire to love and follow him always. We are filled with joy that they have joined us.

Our minister and our elder went up to the church in Taree for a Congregational visitation along with elders from the other churches in the Presbytery. It was good to spend time with our brothers and sisters in Christ in a different congregation.

The minister, Dennis, and his wife, Elizabeth, will be away for a few weeks. They will be spending some time in Indonesia and in India. They look forward to visiting many special friends in these places. While they are away our faithful elder, Tom, and our faithful deacons, Lopetti and Tevita, will care for the congregation. Our brother Arthur Adams will preach on two of the Sundays, and our brother Don Burgess will preach on the third Sunday.

Another thought from 1 Thessalonians: Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing (1 Thes. 5:11).

* * * * *

Hunter

[Report by Ian Miller]

Our Raymond Terrace Hall again served as a collection location for donations from the community and local churches of Samaritan's Purse Shoe boxes. Pray that the donated shoe box gifts may be a blessing for the disadvantaged children who will be receiving them.

The upgrade of the Cardiff hall

kitchen is nearing completion. We are thankful for the hours of voluntary work of our deacons and other helpers in the congregation. Recently we have begun using the new kitchen facilities for fellowship lunches and dinners.

Our final communion season for this year has commenced with Preparatory Services on Wednesday 28 November. The Lord's Supper and Thanksgiving Services were held at Raymond Terrace on Sunday 3 December.

Rev Tso is currently preaching a series of very encouraging sermons based on John 17. This significant chapter forms the latter portion of Christ, the High Priest's farewell discourse and prayer of consecration of His disciples (then and subsequently) prior to the Jewish and Roman trials, His crucifixion, death and resurrection.

We continue to remember in prayer each of our sister congregations, in our ministry to one another and to a spiritually lost society.

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Manning

[Report by Joyce Bennett]

On the 23rd of November we had a luncheon for the workers and helpers at our garage sales throughout the year, a wonderful time of fellowship was had. We were even able to sing some Psalms as we were the only ones in the Restaurant. Peter Smith seems to know when to bring the books for us to sing from. We are very thankful to all our helpers. The Lord has blest us richly, and we are able to send money where it is

needed, so a big thank you to all who have helped the Manning Missionary Society.

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Narre Warren

[Report by Andres Miranda]

On 3rd December we celebrated the Lord's Supper, and during our time of Christian fellowship we formally said goodbye to members who for almost four years supported our local ministry with encouragement, and genuine love for all the saints.

Our Bible study group has also benefited greatly from interactive and practical studies on the Doctrine of the Holy Trinity.

We pray for the Lord to continue to bless us with his infinite love, and with the wisdom of the Spirit to grow in our devotion to the Messiah.

* * * * *

Northern Rivers

[Report by Beth Sonter]

We are pleased to have Ben and Zara Saljooghi, from the Brisbane congregation, joining us. Ben and Zara have moved to Maclean and we warmly welcome them to the area and to our congregation.

Zack and Wilma Dotson and their children have now departed from us and are heading back to Ulverston in Tasmania. Zack has been very capably taking some Sunday services and leading some of the Bible Study groups as well as a few Westminster Confession of Faith classes. We were blessed to have had them amongst us. We enjoyed their company and were challenged by Zack's messages.

Sue Ramsay has had a bout of severe ill health recently. A stint in hospital is now being followed up by a stay in rehabilitation. We pray for her continued improvement and return to full strength.

Please pray for those in the congregation who have suffered the loss of family members recently.

Bible study and Westminster Confession of Faith will go into recess over the Christmas holiday period. We will return to these in the new year hopefully refreshed and full of enthusiasm. David Kerridge will be having a couple of weeks leave over the Christmas break as well.

As we round up the year of 2023 I would like to thank Jim Klazinga for his tireless efforts in preparing The Banner faithfully each month. The Banner keeps all congregations closer as we learn about the work and details going on in each area. Thank you Jim for your effort and hard work. .

* * * * *

Ulverstone

[Report by Ian Hamilton]

We enjoyed a visit from Rev David and Katie Lachman and family over the last weekend. It was a joy to meet Moses, the newest arrival in their family.

The Sunday School concluded its work for the year on the same day. It is always a highlight to see the students completing set work, search work and essays.

Mrs Jean Hearps had taken a fall recently and is slowly recovering.

The ladies craft group are planning to enjoy an end of year breakup on the 11th December.

December Search Work

"Oh that my ways may be steadfast in keeping your statutes!" Psalm 119:5

Senior and Intermediate
(Intermediate omit questions 3 and 4)

2 Corinthians 10

1. Why are the weapons of our warfare not carnal?
(2 verses)

2 Corinthians 11

2. In what way were the Corinthians in danger of being beguiled [deceived] as Eve was by the serpent?
3. Why is it no wonder [marvel] if false apostles transform themselves into apostles of Christ?
4. Write out one verse only where Paul describes some of the perils he endured.

2 Corinthians 12

5. What did Paul hear when he was caught up into paradise?
6. What was the Lord's answer when Paul asked

three times to have the thorn in the flesh removed?

2 Corinthians 13

7. Though he was crucified in weakness, how does Christ now live?
8. Write out the benediction with which Paul ends this letter.

Junior

Matthew 28

1. What had happened before the two Marys came to the sepulchre [tomb]?
2. What did the angel say to the women? (3 verses)
3. What lie did the chief priests and elders of the Jews ask the soldiers to tell about Jesus' body?
4. What command did Jesus give his disciples beginning with the words, "Go (ye) therefore...."? (2 verses)

January Search Work

"Oh that my ways may be steadfast in keeping your statutes!" Psalm 119:5

Senior and Intermediate
(Intermediate omit questions 5 and 6)

2 Kings 18:1-12

1. How is king Hezekiah compared to all the other kings of Judah?
2. How many years did it take Shalmeneser to capture Samaria, capital of Israel?
3. For what reason did the Lord cause Israel to be carried away captive?

2 Kings 21

4. What kind of king was Manasseh?
5. What did God say he would do because of Manasseh's sins? (2 verses only)

2 Kings 23:26--24:20

6. Name the four sons and/or grandsons of good king Josiah of Judah who reigned after him. How long did each reign?

2 Kings 25:1--17

7. Name the king of Babylon who besieged

Jerusalem in Zedekiah's reign. How long did the siege last? (2 verses)

8. What happened to the house of the Lord?

Junior

1 Samuel 1

1. Why did Elkanah give Hannah a worthy [double] portion?
2. What was the vow Hannah vowed to the Lord?
3. Why did Hannah call her son Samuel?
4. What did Hannah say to Eli when she brought Samuel to him? (3 verses)

Find the verse(s) in the Bible that answer the questions, write/type them out, and send to:

Mrs Irene Steel

18/1-55 West Parade, West Ryde NSW 2114

or Email: iesteel@gmail.com

A book voucher is awarded at the end of each year to children who send in the answers.

December Prayer Points

“Keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints.” Ephesians 6:18

- Friday, 1st:** Pray for the vacant congregations in our denomination, and for their interim moderators as they arrange pulpit supply.
- Saturday, 2nd:** Pray for the children and youth in the Church.
- Sunday, 3rd:** Pray for those called to preach the Word to God’s people from our various pulpits on this Lord’s Day
- Monday, 4th:** Pray for the ongoing ministry of the St Georges congregation in Sydney.
- Tuesday, 5th:** Pray for the St Georges office-bearers: for elders Donald McIntosh, and Alex Steel; and for deacons Chris Oakley, Ken Shaw, and Allan Steel.
- Wednesday, 6th:** Pray for the work of Mukti in India. Give thanks that we can support a number of young ladies through this organization.
- Thursday, 7th:** Pray for Brisbane elder Wes Hanna and for his family as they continue to mourn the death of Eleanor Hanna.
- Friday, 8th:** Pray for those travelling to the Brisbane church camp beginning tonight at Camp Drewe in Lennox Head.
- Saturday, 9th:** Pray for Andrew Stewart as he gives talks today and leads the worship tomorrow at the Brisbane church camp.
- Sunday, 10th:** Pray that those attending our services today may come with hearts trusting in God alone, rather than trusting in themselves in any way.
- Monday, 11th:** Pray for the ministry of the Hunter congregation in Cardiff and Raymond Terrace.
- Tuesday, 12th:** Pray for the Hunter office-bearers: for Rev Robin Tso; for elder Ian Miller; and for deacons Richard Alley, David Barnes, John Fluit, Ken George & Ian King.
- Wednesday, 13th:** Pray for the work of the Annie Soper school in Peru.
- Thursday, 14th:** Pray for Ben and Zara Saljooghi as they settle into Maclean and into the Northern Rivers congregation.
- Friday, 15th:** Give thanks for Nigel Cunningham and Greg Cahill becoming communicant members in the Geelong congregation.
- Saturday, 16th:** Pray for Jessie Smith of the Brisbane congregation as she continues to recover after having cardiac arrests last month.
- Sunday, 17th:** Pray that we may have the discernment to recognize apostasy for what it is, and the wisdom to know how to deal with it. Pray that the preaching in our churches may equip us for this.
- Monday, 18th:** Pray for the ministry of the Manning congregation in Taree.
- Tuesday, 19th:** Pray for the Manning office-bearers: for Rev George Ball; for elders Clive Alley, Trevor Leggott, and Peter Smith; and for deacons Paul Dyson, Marshall Reid, Alistair Weber, and David Wilson.
- Wednesday, 20th:** Pray for the work of Mark and Rahel Landrum of the International Mission for Jewish People.
- Thursday, 21st:** Pray for churches in the ICRC with us, including the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, the Heritage Reformed Congregations, and the Reformed Presbyterian Church of North America.
- Friday, 22nd:** Give thanks for the trip that the Muldoons could make to Indonesia and India.
- Saturday, 23rd:** Pray for travelling mercies for those in our congregations away from home during the holiday season.
- Sunday, 24th:** WSC Q&A 90, “That the Word may become effectual to salvation, we must... receive it with faith and love, lay it in our hearts, and practice it in our lives.” Pray that God by His Spirit may enable us to do this.
- Monday, 25th:** Pray that God may enable us to shine the light of his grace and truth to those around us caught in darkness.
- Tuesday, 26th:** Pray for the ministry of the Hastings congregation in Wauchope.
- Wednesday, 27th:** Pray for the Hastings office-bearers: for Rev John Forbes; for elders Doug Hamilton and Glen Hamilton; and for deacon Neil McKinnon.
- Thursday, 28th:** Pray for the Presbyterian Free Church of Central India.
- Friday, 29th:** Give thanks for the time the Dotson family could spend with the Northern Rivers congregation.
- Saturday, 30th:** Give thanks for God’s work during George Ball’s ministry, and pray for a blessing on him and his wife and they continue to serve following his retirement.
- Sunday, 31st:** Pray for today’s final worship services in 2023. Pray that in the worship we offered this year God was glorified and we as His people were built up in our faith.

January Prayer Points

“Keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints.” Ephesians 6:18

Monday, 1st: Pray for the Spirit to strengthen our denomination and give us wisdom as we move forward together in 2024.

Tuesday, 2nd: Pray for the ministry of the Northern Rivers congregation in MacLean.

Wednesday, 3rd: Pray for the Northern Rivers office-bearers: for Rev David Kerridge; for elders Ross Campbell, John Greensill, and John McPhee; and for deacons Gordon Law, Bruce Campbell, and Ernie Really.

Thursday, 4th: Pray for the work of the Dumisani Theological Institute in South Africa.

Friday, 5th: Give thanks for our congregations' Sunday schools, and pray that these ministries may be blessed in 2024.

Saturday, 6th: Pray for good health for Nathan Klazinga, infant son of Ben and Claire of the Brisbane congregation.

Sunday, 7th: Pray that as we assemble for worship today, God by His Spirit may enable us to offer the best of our affections.

Monday, 8th: Pray for the ministry of the Brisbane congregation.

Tuesday, 9th: Pray for the Brisbane office-bearers: for Rev Jim Klazinga; for elders Stewart Carswell & Wes Hanna; and for deacons Micah Klazinga, Keith Schmidt, and Matthew Schmidt.

Wednesday, 10th: Pray for the work of the San Andres school in Peru.

Thursday, 11th: Pray for churches in the ICRC with us, including the

Christian Reformed Churches in The Netherlands, and the Reformed Churches of Spain.

Friday, 12th: Please pray for the two young couples in the Brisbane congregation who are each expecting their first child at some point this year: Micah and Lauren Klazinga and Weylin and Irene Morrison.

Saturday, 13th: Give thanks that the Presbyterian Banner could be published during 2023. Pray for this work as it continues into 2024.

Sunday, 14th: Pray that those attending our services today may come with humility, but also with holy boldness.

Monday, 15th: Pray for the ongoing ministry of the Ulverstone congregation.

Tuesday, 16th: Pray for the work of Zach Dotson; pray for the Ulverstone office-bearers: elder Ian Hamilton and deacon Robert Hingston.

Wednesday, 17th: Pray for the work of Dr Dickson in Delhi, India.

Thursday, 18th: Give thanks that the Hawkesbury Nepean congregation could welcome Tom and Ashlee as members into their congregation.

Friday, 19th: Give thanks that the Hastings congregation could welcome Barbara Pead as a communicant member.

Saturday, 20th: As he steps down from his monthly preaching commitment, give thanks for the years of service to the Geelong congregation provided by Bert Stasse.

Sunday, 21st: Pray that the Holy Spirit may work in the hearts of all PCEA members and adherents to help us understand how important it is that we not neglect the assembling of ourselves together (Heb. 10:25).

Monday, 22nd: Pray for the ongoing ministry of the Geelong congregation.

Tuesday, 23rd: Pray for the Geelong elder, Donald Ramsay.

Wednesday, 24th: Pray for the work of the Middle East Reformed Fellowship.

Thursday, 25th: Give thanks that the Hunter congregation could be completing the upgrade of the Cardiff hall.

Friday, 26th: Pray for Sue Ramsay of the Northern Rivers congregation, after her bout of severe ill health near the end of last year.

Saturday, 27th: Give thanks for the continuing work of the Manning Missionary Society.

Sunday, 28th: Pray that the worship our congregations offer today may be God-focused, obedient, and reverent.

Monday, 29th: Pray for the ongoing ministry of the Carrum Downs congregation.

Tuesday, 30th: Pray for the students and teachers in our congregations as they prepare to begin another school year.

Wednesday, 31st: Pray for Australian Indigenous Ministries.

