

"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



September 2023

This Issue

"You are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God." Ephesians 2:19

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From the Editor



When my wife and I first bought our professional grade coffee machine, our relationship with it got off to a rocky start. Our rather expensive machine was so sensitive, the impurities in our tap water caused it to break down. Since then, we've only used purified water. Pure water goes in, pure, delicious coffee comes out.

There's a spiritual principle illustrated here. You take in that which is impure, and your heart is going to get all clogged up with that impurity.

What sort of fruit will such a heart produce?

Garbage in, garbage out. We allow ourselves to take in rubbish, absorbing impurity, in what holds our attention, in where we find our entertainment, in our sources of news, in the fellowship we keep, we absorb impurity without really questioning it, well, impurity in, impurity out.

To be sure, it's impossible to avoid impurity in this world. And since we can't run away from the world, it's that much more important to take in that which is pure, in order to inoculate ourselves against the world's impurity. So, rather than finding our pleasure in it, we see it for what it is.

Set your eyes on the pure Savior, and meditate on his truth. "Whatever is pure... if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things." Philippians 4:8

Jim Klazinga

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Editor: Jim Klazinga, 3 Padua Place, Boondall, QLD 4034

Mobile: 0466 213 763 Email: editor@pcea.org.au

Assistant Editors: Ben Klazinga and Julie Klazinga

The editor is grateful for the assistance of an informal network of Banner liaisons from various PCEA congregations.

Letters of Rev. William Nathaniel Wilson (Part 2)

Introduced by Tom Reeve and John Audet

The four letters in this series, written to prospective ministerial student Herbert Ramsay over a century ago, reveal the hardships of those times. This letter shows again the difficulty ministers had with finances. Rev. W N Wilson [Lower Hunter] served as Clerk of Synod from 1906 until his death in 1922, at the same time as his good friend Rev. William McDonald [St. George's] was the Synod Treasurer.

John Audet adds a comment on this particular letter: "I wonder how easy it would have been for Herbert to obtain the books recommended by Wilson. In 1910, Flora Neil's grandfather, Rev. Donald Maclean, visited Australia, and his experiences appeared in a book called *Travels in Sunny Lands*. He visited the General Assembly of the PCA, and was struck by an incident at the Assembly. He recorded, "In the discussion I was somewhat astounded by a statement made by one of the speakers, to the effect that he could not get a copy of the Westminster Confession of Faith in any of the bookshops in Sydney."

Letter 2

W.N. Wilson to H.W. Ramsay
Raymond Terrace,
28th Oct. 1908

Dear Mr Ramsay,

I brought the matter of your desire to study for the ministry before the Church Extension



*Mrs Emily Ramsay, first wife of
H W Ramsay with their youngest child Ivan,
c. 1913, not long before her death.*

Committee. The members were pleased to hear of your desire and have every confidence in you. It was thought a good plan to propose that you come to Sydney to be examined by the Committee and if the exam was satisfactory, you might then start as an acknowledged student of the church. The examination would not be severe, and such as we think you could manage.

One consideration is the expense the trip would be to you; but this might be met in this way. I have been appointed by the Synod to give five Sabbaths on the Clarence River and I am wanting supply for my preaching station here. If you could arrange to take the services for me here for two or three Sabbaths, I could guarantee at least your travelling expenses.

You would find my congregation here easy to preach to and not inclined to be critical, because they come together to worship God no matter who preaches.

Let me know whether you are prepared to undertake this soon. I wish to leave for the Clarence on the 10th November next.

The books you should look up in preparation for an examination are Hodge's 'Outlines of Theology,' the 'Westminster Confession of Faith,' 'Free Church Principles' and 'Free Church History.'

Suppose you came here about the end of November and remained here until the 14th December, you could be examined in Sydney about the 16th December and afterwards return home as a student of the Church. Then as soon as you were able to take up Home Mission work we could give you an appointment.

I would like to know what salary you think you could manage on! [At that time Mr Ramsay had a wife and four young children]. If you proved acceptable and worked the field wisely, your salary would increase. But it would be unwise for us to send you to a field where there was no prospect of the people being able to pay you sufficient for you to manage on. Hoping you are well and praying for the King of Zion to lead you to do what will be for His glory and your good.

I am yours truly
W. N. Wilson

True Friends

The Moderator's Fourth Address at Synod 2023, by Andres Miranda

Friendship is a tricky word. We use it in everyday language, but sometimes it takes a lifetime to realise its true meaning. People are under the impression that friendship is the easiest thing in the world because we use the word so flippantly. We call every one we know a friend or we claim to be a friend of someone who hardly knows us. This happens a lot in social media.

The biggest mistake we make in life is to claim that we are friends before we have learned the meaning of friendship.

So why is it so difficult to be a friend? The reason is that we don't want the friendship of God. All the problems in the world like wars, revolutions, fights, competition, selfishness, where do they come from? They come from a lack of friendship with God.

When we develop a friendship with God, things change. People begin to show the same friendship that God has shown to us in Christ. If the foundation of friendship is God, true friendship will be experienced in society.

Now if God is the one who creates and maintains true friendship, we should pay attention to what he says about it. We'll start with Proverbs 20:6:

“Many a man claims to have unfailing love, but a faithful man who can find?”

Another one is Proverbs 17:17:

“A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.”

A friend who loves all the time is a true friend. This type of



friendship is one the best gifts that God can bring to us.

But a faithful man who can find? This personality is rare.

A brother or sister is stuck with you. Brothers are obligated to be some kind of safety net. That's what family is for.

But a friend chooses you. Can you see the difference? When someone loves you all the time, despite our good and bad qualities, and they don't have to, but they choose to, that's a disinterested attitude, that's a friend.

In fact, Proverbs 17:17 tells us a good friend not only loves in prosperity, but also in situations where friends usually abandon us, adversity. For a true friend, adversity is an opportunity to show a selfless attitude.

That's what we need, don't we? When we are friends because we can get some benefit from the “friend,” that's not friendship. That's manipulation.

The problem is that in our superficial and egotistical society few people understand what friendship means. For most people, the first thought about friendship is: What will I gain from this relationship? Can the influence of

this person be useful to me?

Whenever the thought of self-interest gets inside the mind, the friendship is no longer a friendship, it becomes a business relationship. And it's going to last as long as the business relationship lasts. This sort of relationship can never be called a real friendship. It won't produce love and support in adversity.

So where do we find friends that never change their devotion to another person? Well, the answer should be obvious. In the kingdom of God. The gospel creates people who have a desire to give, to be helpful and reliable : no thought of taking, always the thought of giving and holding nothing back, like God himself.

Jesus is the best friend. He loves us with a level of commitment that can't be compared to any friendship in the human world.

John 13:1 says: “Having loved his own who were in the world, he showed them the full extent of his love.”

And not because they deserve it. Take Peter, for example. He promised Jesus that he would never deny him. But when people recognised him in the courtyard and said: “this man was with him!”, Peter denied Jesus three times.

The Lord turned and looked at him. Then Peter remembered what Jesus said to him: “before the rooster crows today, you will disown me three times” (Luke 26:35). Peter went outside and cried and cried.

When Peter saw the Lord

looking right into his face, in that moment of total betrayal, he realised that he wasn't what he thought he was. He knew that Jesus saw his failure, and his incapacity to be a true friend.

But the Lord still loved him. And that friendship overwhelmed his heart.

Even now the risen Lord is touched with the feeling of our weakness. He overlooks our inconsistency, he overlooks our mistakes, he forgives our sins, and helps us to rise above our imperfections. That's friendship. Total acceptance. Total forgiveness. A true friend knows who you really are and doesn't walk away.

But there's more! Look up Proverbs 27:17, “As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.”

And Proverbs 27:6: “Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses.”

This is also part of a true friend, not only an attitude of faithfulness but also an attitude of blunt honesty.

Real friendship is like sharpening the blade of a sword, because the collision of different minds sharpens the edge of the other. In the process of sharpening, in the collision of minds, in the interaction of friendships, we always find useful insights for energising the mind to be sharp for God.

By ourselves we become dull and we lose the edge. That's why we don't want friends who simply lavish on us insincere compliments. We need friends that will refine us. We need friendships that will

stimulate us to walk in the atmosphere of holiness.

By the way, these proverbs are not encouraging a reckless practice of criticizing people because we think we're experts or they need our opinions. These Proverbs are talking about a true friend in your life who is making you better with respectful and loving confrontation.

The Bible says, “let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good deeds” (Hebrews 10:24). A real friend will challenge you to pursue this goal.

We all need a friend that can help us to see ourselves and get sharper for Christ. If you don't have a friend like that, please pray for this relationship. Look for a friend who is worthy of your confidence.

Christian friendship is important. Financially we can thrive without a friend. Socially, we can also survive without a friend. But you can't become wise without a Christian friend who can speak into your life.

If we're happy with the way we are right now, if we're happy with our experiences and the absence of a Christian friend, we're living in the past. We're not moving forward. We're not interested in change.

Wise Christians, on the other hand, live in the present. They're not afraid of the wounds of a friend. It's painful but it helps us grow.

Many believers say that they value a true friend, but when that friend speaks into their lives, they secretly resent the comment.

The mark of true wisdom is the

openness to have our faults pointed out, and to be thankful for those who have the courage to be faithful friends. An honest friend is a great help in the Christian journey.

Now, let's focus on the issue of how friendship can go wrong.

Please look up Proverbs 17:9: “He who covers an offence promotes love, but whoever repeats the matter separates close friends.”

Sometimes we disappoint our friends. We don't want to, but we do. So there'll always be offences.

But the wise person covers them with forgiveness, the way God does.

Why doesn't God keep reminding us of our failures? Because he wants our friendship. He covers our sins through Christ. That's what we want also because we love our “imperfect friend”. That's the mind of Christ.

If there's no desire to overlook our friend's offence, it's going to be very difficult to sustain a friendship. Friendships are maintained by the awareness that human beings are imperfect.

So when a person who sinned against us admits that he or she was wrong and asked for forgiveness, what should we do? We have to drop it. Don't repeat the matter. Don't mention it anymore. That's how close friends operate. So be careful. Don't repeat the matter.

That means don't gossip. A gossip can destroy a friendship that has taken years to build through hard times. Gossip creates separation.

So how do we create the relationships we want? Simple.

Meditation

“The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple.” Psalm 119:130

We keep remembering that all our sins have been forgiven by God and forgotten by him forever.

Some people make friends very easily and lose them very quickly. Why? Because their friendship is not built on the foundation of forgiveness. If we practice the advice of Proverbs we'll create new conditions for growth.

Of course, there's a limit to the number of friends we can have. And there are also many false friends who will let us down, even when you need them most.

But remember that we have a

super-friend who sticks closer than a brother.

When the apostle Paul was put on trial before Caesar, all his friends deserted him. But it was okay with Paul. He wasn't even angry or resentful.

Why? He tells us why in 2 Timothy 4.17, “The Lord stood by me and strengthened me”.

Although the Christian community failed to give him support, the apostle says that he didn't lack anything, because he was strengthened by the friendship of the Lord.

Proverbs reminds us that real friends are not found in quantity but quality. And no one offers us higher quality of friendship than Jesus Christ. The friendship of Jesus doesn't have limitations.

No wonder John wrote: “Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends” (John 15:13).

The Lord cares about you. He cares about your future. He understands you. He loves you. You're not alone. Remember: The friendship of Christ is something that even death can never destroy.

Church News

“But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.” Ephesians 4:7

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Brisbane

[Report by Jim Klazinga]

We give thanks for the slow but steady increase in the number of young adults joining our church. At this point, we have two more who have started attending our services and have asked to take a new members class.

The pastor and his wife plan to spend 12 days in September in New Zealand, visiting their oldest son and his wife and their two boys.

Please continue to pray for our older members, most of whom are dealing with ongoing physical struggles.

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Hastings

[Report by John Forbes]

There were 9 baptisms at our service on 27th August as the



Gullick (see photo on the top left corner of the back page), Godden (see cover photo) and Lethbridge families brought their children for baptism. We

welcomed Kate and Brent Lethbridge into communicant membership with their children Scarlett, Mabel and Freddie. We also bade farewell to Nick and Phoebe Soden with their children Julian and Harriet.

Our elder Glen Hamilton had been travelling in Queensland and Northern Territory during his long service leave. He and Sonja returned in mid August



and there was lots to discuss as the Deacons' Court and Session held their first proper meetings since February. It has been an unusual year on the Hastings with the minister and family away in Scotland in March/April and Glen and Sonja (our regular precentor) travelling from May to August.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Hawkesbury Nepean

[Report by Elizabeth Muldoon]

A number of our church members have been able to go back to Tonga to visit family and friends. Lisa and her husband, Moses, and their children were able to go there for Lisa's mother's 80th birthday. They had a



wonderful time celebrating her life and enjoying being with family. Hola went back for a family reunion and also had a joyful time. She comes from a large family with members in America and New Zealand and Tonga as well as Australia. Every few years they have a get together that is full of love and laughter. Vala and Osai went back for the same family

reunion, and as well there was a school reunion for Vala's old school. Dear Grandmother Losa



went back with her daughter Viola to visit her old home and friends and the one daughter who is still in Tonga. She lives happily in Australia with her children here but every now and again gets very homesick for Tonga.

Some new members have started worshipping with us and we welcome them with great joy – Tom and his wife, Ashley, and their son, Elijah, as well as Eric.

The Director of MERF – The Middle Easter Reformed Fellowship – will be preaching at our church on Sunday 3rd September. He will be sharing about his work amongst Muslim people. We look forward to hearing from him.

We are having a special prayer meeting on Saturday, 2nd September to pray for Allan and Finau as they continue with their cancer treatment. Allan finds himself very, very tired after each treatment, and Julie, too, is finding it quite exhausting, but praise the

Lord he has had some good days. Finau has had two doses of chemotherapy but each time has reacted so badly, with her heart beating wildly, that the doctors had to stop half way through. They are considering other chemotherapy options for her. Finau's whole family, sons and daughters, son-in-laws and nephews had their hair shaved off to express their love and sympathy for Finau as she loses her hair.

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Hunter

[Report by Ian Miller]

Recently a Mission evening was held at Cardiff for the Newcastle supporters of representatives of a Church located in Northern India. We were informed and encouraged regarding the gospel work. Given the increasing Hindu persecution of Christians, prayer for the Lord's intervention is desired.

We are looking forward to a MERF mission presentation by Rev Victor Attalah on the 7th September at the Cardiff Church Hall, commencing at 6.30 pm. Visitors welcome.

The baptism of Esther Tamata, infant daughter of Mrs Elle and Mr David Tamata, is planned for the morning Worship Service at Cardiff on the first Lord's day of September. We plan to provide a photograph for the October edition of this magazine.

The Tso family have now returned from an enjoyable holiday in Malaysia. The Tso family appreciated fellowship with members of Johor Bahru Covenant Fellowship (a church plant in

Malaysia by a Psalm-singing church in Singapore, Pilgrim Covenant Church. See photo on the back cover.)

We regularly include in our prayers the brethren and families of our sister congregations especially those suffering serious illness and other afflictions. Mrs Evelyn Archard 95 years, mother of Mrs Ruth Barnes, suffered serious injury a few weeks ago: a broken hip and a long laceration on her scalp. Your prayers for her, our aged, sick and the progress of the gospel ministry on the Hunter would be appreciated.

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Manning

[Report by Leanne Smith]

On the 12th of August, Ashley Saunders from Barnabas Aid, was invited by the Manning Missionary Society to come to the Manning PCEA and give a talk. Barnabas is celebrating 30 years of operating in 2023. Its mission is to bring hope to suffering Christians in poor marginalised countries. Barnabas' bible verse is Galatians 6:10 - "Do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers."

Persecution of Christians has been the history of the Christian church. In this day and age the situation is getting worse around the world. The western world is no longer the friend of Christians, outside of the bible believing church. Recently countries like the UK and Canada and our own country have said no to Christian refugees. It was interesting to note that in the latest Barnabas magazine, Brazil was featured as a

country that accepted Afghan Christian refugees, fleeing Taliban rule in Afghanistan.

Our suffering brothers and sisters ask that we pray that they may be faithful in the face of persecution. They also ask that we would pray for their persecutors! Barnabas' help is from Christians, through Christians and to Christians. They strengthen the church by helping them through providing basic needs: water, medical care, church buildings, leadership training, disaster relief, convert care, school place sponsorship, victims of violence, help towards self-sufficiency and Christian literature.

Ashley made us aware that there is a global food crisis - Barnabas has been able to help marginalised Christian communities with ePap porridge (a nutrient rich food), in many countries.

What can we do? Ashley said we can open our hearts to our persecuted brothers and sisters by being informed. Pray for them. Speak out about what is happening since western media doesn't necessarily broadcast what happens to Christians. Give to the work and share what we have with those who don't have.

The Manning Missionary Society was able to give a donation to help Barnabas in this vital work.

Also, the Manning Deacons Court, after the visit of Samit Mishra and Pradeep Kumar, determined to send \$5,000 to provide payment for one month of the Chhapara Mission School teachers. Samit and Pradeep were asked how much it would be to

cover the two months where the teacher's were not paid. They answered, \$10,000. The teacher's only receive 10 months wages per year due to the lack of funds. They accept this because of their commitment and love for the school. Perhaps other deacons courts may wish to combine together to provide the other \$5,000 so the whole year is funded.

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Narre Warren

[Report by Andres Miranda]

Our pastor has to travel overseas (Chile) for personal reasons, and will be absent from the pulpit from September 14 to October 8 (arrival day). The elders of the Church will be replacing him during these weeks. Please pray that all practical and personal interactions with the family will be blessed.

Pray that God will increase our financial resources to have the blessing of a self-supporting ministry.

Pray also for members of the congregation who are experiencing the challenges of growing old, and that God gives them the wisdom to accept these limitations.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

St Georges

[Report by Alex Steel]

During August the Deacons' Court has arranged the following:

- NBN fibre connected to the church building.
- Security cameras connected to the NBN.
- Dual microphones added to the sound system.

Church News

"But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift." Ephesians 4:7

- Replacement of door locks to the Session room and rear northern door.
- Completion of construction of new steps and landing to the Session room.
- Replacement of steps to the Minister's room.
- Inspection of church roofs by a roofing engineer and a water hydraulic engineer. This is to enable preparation of a Scope of Works by our Project Manager for submission to the City of Sydney Council with a view to replacement of the roofs and commencement of stage 2 of the steeple repairs and restoration.

* * * * *

Ulverstone

[Report by Ian Hamilton]

We recently enjoyed celebrating the birthday of Anna with a special theme cake made by Belinda.

It has also been a rich time of fellowship with Wilma's sister Roseanne

visiting from Canada. She is pictured here with Archie and Jayne.



September Search Work

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

Senior and Intermediate
(Intermediate omit questions 4 and 8)

2 Corinthians Chapter 2

1. Why did Paul write to the Corinthians with many tears?
2. To whom are the preachers of the gospel a savour [aroma] of life, and to whom are they the aroma of death? (2 verses)

Chapter 3

3. Why are Christians called the epistles of Christ? (2 verses)
4. Find the chapter in Exodus where we read that Moses' face shone. When did he put a veil over his face?
5. What happens when we behold as in a glass [mirror] the glory of the Lord?

Chapter 4

6. What has the god of this world [age] done to the minds of unbelievers?
7. What has God who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, done for us?

8. Why do we believers not faint [lose heart] though our outward man is perishing? What is our light affliction working? (2 verses)

Junior

Luke Chapter 22

1. What did Jesus say when he took bread, gave thanks and broke it?
2. What would Peter do three times before the cock [rooster] crowed?
3. What words did Jesus use when he prayed to his Father in the garden?
4. What did Peter do when he remembered the Lord's words? (2 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.

September Prayer Points

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

Friday, 1st: From the Training of Ministry Committee Report for this year’s synod meeting: “Our prayer is that the Lord will continue to send forth labourers to our corner of the vineyard for the glory of His name and the growth of our denomination.”

Saturday, 2nd: Please join in prayer with the Hawkesbury-Nepean congregation, who are having a special prayer meeting today, to pray for members Allan and Finau as they continue with their cancer treatments.

Sunday, 3rd: R.B. Kuiper writes in his book “The Glorious Body of Christ”, “The church is indeed ‘the communion of saints.’ What glory! The church of Christ is the one and only organization in the world which is holy in this sense. This makes it incomparably the most glorious of all earthly societies.” As we gather in our congregations for worship today, give thanks for the privilege of being part of the glorious body of Christ.

Monday, 4th: Pray for the ministry of the Hawkesbury-Nepean congregation in West Sydney.

Tuesday, 5th: Pray for the Hawkesbury-Nepean office-bearers: for Rev Dennis Muldoon; for elders Alec Neil, and Tom Reeve; and for deacons Tevita Fihaki, Lopeti Latu, and Allan Stewart.

Wednesday, 6th: At this year’s meeting, it was resolved: “The Synod gives thanks to the Lord for the opportunity and privilege to be

involved in the work of missions at home and abroad, both in giving, in praying and being directly involved during this past year.” Pray for the work of the Middle East Reformed Fellowship. Give thanks that Rev Victor Attalah could be in Australia, with plans to visit the Hawkesbury-Nepean, the St Georges, and the Hunter congregations.

Thursday, 7th: At this year’s meeting, it was affirmed that synod “gives thanks to God for the



churches with whom we have formal fraternal relations and for those churches with whom we have contact and resolve to pray for the Lord’s blessing upon their work and witness.” Please pray for the ministry of the Associated Presbyterian Churches of Scotland. Pray for our relationship and contact with them. Pray also for churches in the ICRC with us, including the Evangelical Presbyterian Church in England and Wales, and the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (Ireland).

Friday, 8th: Mrs Evelyn Archard 95 years, mother of Mrs Ruth Barnes, suffered serious injury a few weeks

ago: a broken hip and a long laceration on her scalp. Prayers for her, for the aged and sick of the Hunter congregation, and for the progress of the gospel ministry on the Hunter would be appreciated.

Saturday, 9th: Pray for Jim & Julie Klazinga of the Brisbane congregation, who are planning to be in New Zealand, visiting their son and his family, from the 12th to the 23rd.

Sunday, 10th: From WLC Q&A 108 – “The duties required in the second commandment are, the receiving, observing, and keeping pure and entire, all such religious worship and ordinances as God hath instituted in his word; particularly prayer and thanksgiving in the name of Christ; the reading, preaching, and hearing of the word; the administration and receiving of the sacraments; church government and discipline; the ministry and maintenance thereof; religious fasting; swearing by the name of God; and vowing unto him; as also the disapproving, detesting, opposing all false worship; and, according to each one’s place and calling, removing it, and all monuments of idolatry.” Pray that God by His Spirit may enable us to worship as assembled congregations in a manner in accordance with the second commandment.

Monday, 11th: Pray for the ongoing ministry of the St Georges congregation in Sydney.

Tuesday, 12th: Pray for the St Georges office-bearers: for elders

September Prayer Points

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

Donald McIntosh and Alex Steel; and for deacons Chris Oakley, Ken Shaw, and Allan Steel.

Wednesday, 13th: Pray for Australian Indigenous Ministries. Pray for Peter Smith, who recently retired from his role with AIM.

Thursday, 14th: Pray for Andres Miranda, pastor of the Narre Warren congregation, who is scheduled to travel to Chile today, returning home, Lord willing, on 8 October. Please pray that all practical and personal interactions with his family there will be blessed.

Friday, 15th: Give thanks for the 9 baptisms that could take place during the Hastings worship service on 27 August, with the Gullick, Godden, and Lethbridge families presenting their children for baptism, and that Kate and Brent Lethbridge were welcomed into communicant membership.

Saturday, 16th: Give thanks for the baptism earlier this month of Esther Tamata, infant daughter of Mrs Elle and Mr David Tamata of the Hunter congregation.

Sunday, 17th: Give thanks for the variety of people we have in our denomination, people of different ages, from different cultures and backgrounds, with different talents. Give thanks that together we can be one in Christ, and that tomorrow we can demonstrate this oneness as our congregations gather for worship.

Monday, 18th: Pray for the ministry

of the Hunter congregation in Cardiff and Raymond Terrace.

Tuesday, 19th: 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, 20th: Please continue to pray for Miriam from India during her studies in Canada.

Thursday, 21st: Pray for the elderly in our congregations, many of whom are dealing with difficult physical struggles.

Friday, 22nd: Pray for the work of Barnabas Aid (see the Manning church news report regarding a recent talk given by Barnabas Aid representative Ashly Saunders).

Saturday, 23rd: Give thanks for new attendees at the worship services of a number of our congregations (see the Church News reports).

Sunday, 24th: Stephen Charnock, in ‘Discourse on the Existence and Attributes of God,’ writes: “As men naturally delight to be without God in the world, so they delight to be without any offspring of God in their thoughts. Since the spiritual palate of man is depraved, divine truth is unsavoury and ungrateful to us, till our taste and relish is restored by grace.” Pray that God will work in the hearts of those attending our services today, that we may savor the taste of the divine truth that is read, sung and preached.

Monday, 25th: Pray for the ministry of the Manning congregation in Taree.

Tuesday, 26th: 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, 27th: Pray for the work of Mukti in India. Give thanks that we can support a number of young ladies through this organization.

Thursday, 28th: Pray for churches in the ICRC with us, including the Free Church in Southern Africa, the Free Reformed Churches in South Africa, and the Reformed Churches in South Africa.

Friday, 29th: The PCEA Practice and Procedure book has this as a question to be asked of elders at the time of their admission to office: “Do you promise to perform faithfully all the duties of the office to which you have been called including encouraging the spiritual growth of the church members, seeking to bring others to know Christ, visiting the sick of mind or body, and attending on the meetings associated with your office?” Pray for the elders in our congregations as they perform the duties of this office.

Saturday, 30th: Pray for the Narre Warren congregation, that God will increase their financial resources to have the blessing of a self-supporting ministry.

