# The Presbyterian Banner



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### From the Editor



When you consider your life, can you say, "I am where I should be"?

In one sense, you are exactly where you should be. Since God has led you along the path you have followed, then today you are going to be at the point

along that path where he intended you to be. Since you know by faith that God meant you to be where you are, where else could you possibly be?

And yet, there is also a sense in how we are not where we are meant to be.

We were created to be in a state of fellowship with God. We understand this by faith. But our faith also tells us that something happened that separated us from our creator. The sinful nature we were born with, and the sin we continually commit, it has caused us to not be where we should be, not be who we should be.

Thanks be to God, though, "But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ." (Ephesians 2:13)

Still, while in a very real way we have come home, we haven't quite arrived at the final destination, have There yet remains a freedom that we look forward to, a home we have not yet arrived at. That home awaits us in everlasting glory.

We know the way to go home. Jesus promised, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also... I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." (John 14:3,6)

Jim Klazinga

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# Life of Rev. William Nathaniel Wilson, 1857-1922 (Part 4)

by Tom Reeve and John Audet

The Wilsons moved to the Lower Hunter August 1904. Up to this point William Wilson had belonged to the Reconstituted Synod; the had been which body formed as a reaction to the division in the PCEA Synod in the 1880s, and which had ordained him in 1886. Wilson had never indulged bitterness in the of characteristic some members of that Synod, and

began to think about seeking admission to the PCEA. By 1904 Reconstituted Synod practically defunct in any case. At a meeting of the PCEA Synod In February 1906, Wilson applied for admission to the Synod. His admission was moved by Rev. Duncan McInnes, seconded by Rev. William Grant, and carried unanimously. In the very next item of business, he was appointed Clerk of Synod. Later that same month, he was appointed Clerk of the Presbytery of Sydney and Maitland. When the wounds of division began to heal, they healed quickly.

Wilson had difficulty maintaining a session during his ministry on the Lower Hunter, even though ordinations of elders took place fairly regularly. In 1906, 1910 and 1918, following the deaths ofelders Calman, Matthewson and Galloway, Wilson was obliged to report to Presbytery that he was unable to form a quorum. The only congregation



This photo of Rev. & Mrs. Wilson in later life is from the Ferguson Memorial Library. They have kindly granted permission to reproduce it.

in the Presbytery which could provide assessor elders to make up the numbers was St. George's, but it sometimes had the same problem. Wilson was appointed an assessor to the St. George's session in 1914. It seems that maintaining a session has never been easy.

His skill in dealing with those with whom he differed remarked upon. One instance has been preserved. At the conclusion of a service at Anna Bay a preacher of the Latter Day Saints jumped up and asked whether Wilson was willing to declare that the PCEA was the only true Church. Wilson replied that the true Church consists of all who believe in Christ in all the Churches. The visitor declared that the Church of the Latter Day Saints was the only true Church, and challenged Wilson to debate the point with him. reply was, "Archbishop Kelly is the right man for you to debate with, because he makes the same claim for his Church."

But it was as a pastor that

Wilson was best remembered and most appreciated. Margaret McQueen, the grandmother of the late Margaret Huckett, died in 1929. Her obituary lists some visiting preachers she had appreciated. Others are merely named, but Wilson is described as "the much beloved Rev. W.N. Wilson". Samuel McQueen, later an elder at Raymond Terrace, wrote of Wilson as

one who never wearied of doing all in his power to help those in need, and that "every family in the congregation who were called to pass under the rod can bear testimony that his friendship never wavered, his devotion did not vacillate, nor his affections fluctuate in the days of adversity or the days of prosperity."

28th May, 1922 was the Lord's Day. Wilson preached at East Maitland at 11 a m, and at Raymond Terrace 10 miles distant at 3 p m. He returned to his home at East Maitland, and was preparing to retire for the night, when he died suddenly of a brain haemorrhage.

To the unnamed writer of his obituary, the suddenness of Rev. Wilson's death suggested two lines of thought. He thought it should be a reminder to his ministerial brethren that "the night cometh when no man can work." To other readers he put the question: "Would sudden death be sudden glory to you?"

# Visit to Chhapara, Lakhnadon, and Nagpur - November 2023

by Elizabeth Muldoon



The historic first Synod of the PFC-CI at Jabalpur ended on Thursday evening. It was a time of great encouragement and fellowship.

After the evening meal, with rain pouring down and a cold wind blowing, a small contingent left Jabalpur to drive to Chhapara: my husband, Dennis Muldoon, and I, as well as two visitors from Scotland, Ian Meredith and Alistair Wilson.

We arrived in Chhapara at about 11.00 pm and were warmly welcomed by Pradeep's brother, Michael, and his wife. We sat in their pretty little lounge room and drank hot chocolate and talked for a while. Pradeep then took us next door to his home where we stayed for our time there.

Pradeep and his wife looked after us all with kindness and graciousness. It was a joy and a blessing to be in their home. Dennis remembered the Mission Awareness tour in 2016 and how all the members of that tour were also lovingly cared for by this family.



The next morning Pradeep took us all to visit the school where he has been faithfully teaching for many years. It was an amazing and delightful experience. We were

greeted as honoured guests.

The school band played for us as we walked into the gate and flower petals were thrown over us, as well as beautiful garlands being given to each of us.

There was a wonderful programme prepared for us: many different traditional Indian dances and songs were beautifully performed.

One little boy was incredible. He must have only been about 6 years old, all dressed up in traditional Indian clothing for that region, and he danced with such talent and skill that everyone was delighted.

The children had also made projects to display the work they had been doing in class models of the water cycle, how renewable energy can be used



in farming, how the human heart works and many other things. The standard of these displays was very impressive.

We walked around the playground genuinely admiring the work they had done and recognizing how much time and effort and skill goes into putting together functioning models. The local press was present and our visit was favourably reported in the press the next day.

One of the senior girls was the MC of the procedures and she led the programme very capably and with excellent English. Later Pradeep told us that this girl was one of the top students of the school and that she had won a government scholarship to study at a prestigious university. The school is growing and the results it is achieving are very pleasing.

In the afternoon we drove out to Lakhnadon. Now I had heard of Lakhnadon and the work that has been going on there for many years, and briefly visited about thirty years ago (!), but it was very interesting to actually be there again and see it afresh.

Lakhnadon and Chhapara are both typical Indian towns, narrow streets, little shops lining the roads selling fruit and vegetables and ready-made food, stray dogs and cows wandering around, chaotic traffic, rubbish and dirt, brightly dressed women, lots of energy and friendliness and curiosity.

The school in Lakhnadon is a Hindi medium school but since covid they have been struggling to build up their numbers. More and more Indian families prefer to send their children to English medium schools as they feel their children will have better opportunities in the future. The school board was re-evaluating future pathways for this school.

The Lakhnadon congregation is having a new building constructed on the same site as the old one, so we saw that work in progress.

We went to the hospital, once a thriving and important building in

the centre of the town, but now quite rundown and in need of new equipment and many repairs. EHA (The Emmanuel Hospital Association) manages the hospital and is hoping to build it up so that it can be a place of help and healing once again.

We were able to visit the Director of EHA in Delhi, Dr Sarah Matthews, and hear about the plans to reconstruct the hospital. Two young doctors worked there - practically on call all the time! One night one would be on duty, and the next night the other. It was quite moving to see their commitment to their work in very difficult circumstances.

At the end of our visit to these places we came back and had afternoon tea with Samit and his lovely family. They shared some of their struggles and challenges and joys with us.

We went home to Pradeep's house where we had family prayers with his family and his brother's family, sitting on chairs in the lounge room and enjoying a time of fellowship together. Pradeep's family do this every day -what a lovely custom it is.

The next day my husband and I left Chhapara and continued our travels in India. Brothers Vishal and Santosh kindly accompanied us to Nagpur airport. On the way we visited a new building that has just been constructed on the outskirts of the city where Rev Anand Sayyam teaches and pastors a small group of people who have joined the PFC-CI.

Our trip to Chhapara and Lakhnadon and Nagpur was certainly one of the highlights of our time in India.

### Brisbane

[Report by Jim Klazinga]

On Sunday 21 January, we were privileged to witness the sacrament of baptism being administered to Nathan Oliver Klazinga, infant son of Ben and Claire.



Nathan and his brother Samuel hope to be joined by cousins in this congregation soon. The arrival of Micah and Lauren Klazinga's baby (announced at a recent baby shower to be a boy) is imminent, and Weylin and Irene Morrison's baby is due in a couple of months.

A significant portion of our congregation are currently residing some distance away from the SE Queensland region: Jim and Jean Busch (Melbourne); Taylor and Bonnie-Anne Richards and their eight children (Charters Towers in Northern QLD); Joel and Anca Scot and their three children

(Europe); Stephen and Jessie Smith (Sydney). Please pray that they may be a blessing to God's people in the areas where they currently live.

One member who for many years had worshipped with us via phone from Central Queensland is now attending in person each

week. Jessie Carswell moved to Brisbane to reside with family here. Please pray for her, as she recently had to undergo an operation after a fall.

Ernest Ong worshipped with us for a few months last year before heading home to

the Philippines. He is back with us, having returned to Brisbane earlier this year on a two year work visa. His smiling presence is a great encouragement to us.

We are also encouraged to have Chris Maduok again regularly attending. Chris was a member of our congregation some years ago before moving to Caboolture, north of Brisbane. After recently spending some time in Victoria and in his native South Sudan, he is back in Caboolture, but drives to Brisbane every other Sunday to worship with us.

A number of participants in our

church community are currently dealing with or recovering from serious health issues. Please pray for God's sustaining mercies. We have recently begun having Adult Sunday School every other Sunday after the morning service. Pastor Jim was originally intending to teach the Westminster Confession, but since a number of our young adults were already meeting together to study this on their own, the pastor was asked to teach the Heidelberg Catechism, a request with which he was more than happy to comply.

For some years now our midweek Bible study has made use of online courses offered by Ligonier Ministries. While these have been a blessing, we have recently shifted to another online ministry, Reformed Forum, starting with their course on 2 Peter, taught by Daniel Ragusa, pastor of Messiah's Reformed Fellowship (URCNA) in New York City.

### **Carrum Downs**

[Report by George Ball]

The Balls (who arrived with a suitcase) give thanks for the wonderful provision of furniture for the manse. They received generous donations as well as making many purchases from the Op shop. We are now able to host you if you're considering a visit to Melbourne.

We have been having an afternoon service though we have plans to begin a morning service. It has given us the opportunity to visit other churches as well as attending the Belgrave Heights Convention over the Easter weekend.

We would appreciate your prayers for the little work here that we might see spiritual and numerical growth. Pray too for the





pulpit supplies during May and June while the Balls are in Newcastle.

# Geelong

[Report by Donald Ramsay]

We are continuing to be blessed by sound teachings from God's Word each week. The pulpit has been supplied both from within the congregation and by ministers from local reformed churches.

Preaching series from The Sermon on the Mount, the book of Judges, and 1 John have kept our focus on Christ in both the Old and New Testaments. These have led to discussions over morning tea after each worship service as we wrestle with the implications of the teaching for our daily walk with Christ.

Our Interim Moderator, Rev. Andres Miranda, took the worship service when we celebrated the Lord's Supper at the end of March. The sermon, as always, was both insightful and helpful as it explored the depth of God's wisdom and knowledge.

Our recent annual congregational meeting was notable in the desire of the members to support the work of the PCEA both locally and in the other congregations. There is a real sense of hope and expectation that God will build up His church.

There remain many health needs within the congregation but God continues to provide in our times of need.

# Hastings

[Report by John Forbes]

Our annual congregational meeting was held on Saturday, 23rd March and, while we rarely have a large attendance at this meeting, we were delighted that a few of the newer members were present to observe and participate for the first time.

Always well attended is the congregational lunch held in the church hall after the morning service when there is a fifth Sunday in the month.

There have been a couple of new people present at our services in recent weeks. We are hopeful that they may choose to keep coming long term but, regardless, we pray that the Lord may graciously make us a blessing to them and them a blessing to us.

One of our younger members was in hospital recently for over a week requiring surgical intervention due to quinsy. We are thankful to the Lord that prayers were answered and she has made a good recovery.

### Hunter

[Report by Ian Miller]

Preparations continue regarding organization, catering and accommodation of delegates for the 2024 Synod to be held at the Raymond Terrace facilities. We would appreciate your prayers for such preparations as well as for the Lord's wisdom and guidance of all delegates during Synod deliberations.

Rev Tso continues to preach an informative and helpful series of sermons from John 17 and Paul's letter to the Ephesians. The Cardiff All Ages Sunday School work continues faithfully on Lord's day afternoons with classes for children and adults.

Of late Mr Miller has been leading an interesting series of studies on 'Federal Vision

Theology: A
Critique' which
subjects Federal
Vision Theology
doctrines to the
scrutiny of a
R e f o r m e d
understanding of
Scripture and
R e f o r m e d
Confessions.

Session has



recently had the pleasure of admitting to communicant membership the Rev Fred and Mrs Alison Siebbert. It is such a blessing to dwell together in unity with the Siebberts and as a congregation, humbling ourselves before Christ the King and Lord of His Church, thankfully seeking to obey His word by faith (Psalm 133).

Our former Minister Rev Sam Tamata, continues to be quite unwell having undergone operations recently. We request prayer for him, Muriel and the family.

We look forward to the next communion season and the Lord's supper to be held at Cardiff on Lord's day 14 April, followed by a fellowship lunch and a Thanksgiving service.

# Hawkesbury Nepean

[Report by Elizabeth Muldoon]

A young couple have started coming to our church - Caroline and James. James grew up in a Christian family, but as an adult, left the teachings of his childhood behind. Caroline's family were actually atheists, and she knew very little about Jesus or any of the teachings of the Bible.

Now, amazingly, Caroline has become a Christian - and this has brought James back to reevaluating all that he learnt as a child. Caroline wants to go to church every Sunday, and James is happy to go with her. They have asked us a lot of questions.

Now we would love it if they come to our church, but, if not, we really pray that they will go regularly to a Bible believing and



Bible teaching church. We are also thankful for God's gracious hand on their lives.

I am sure that James' parents would have prayed for their son to believe - and how wonderful that God continues to work in his life and draw him back to himself. I guess it reminds us to persevere in praying that those we love will come to know Jesus. You never know how God will answer your prayers.

Losa, a gracious and gentle elderly lady in our church, turned 80. Her family had a wonderful party for her. A Tongan party is full of happiness and beauty and generosity: beautiful clothes, and flowers, and dancing and music, not to mention delicious food.

Many of her children and grandchildren gave speeches of appreciation and love for their grandmother. One of them said that Losa brings the gift of a grateful heart to God. It is always encouraging when someone elderly can testify to God's love

and faithfulness to them over many years, through the good times and the times of suffering and pain.

A trainee minister, Timothy Siu, preached at our church last Sunday and we all enjoyed his message - not to give up, but to persevere to the end, pressing on to the goal of eternal life with Jesus. "Therefore brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord, my beloved."

# Manning

[Report by Joyce Bennett]

It has been a bit of a traumatic time in the Manning Congregation this past month. Paul Dyson, one of our Deacons, has been diagnosed with cancer. Paul and Tracey would value your prayers.

Pamela Leggott was having a lovely game of tennis until she forgot to keep standing on her feet. Oops! down she went and a fractured forearm was the consequence. Pamela is still in a lot of pain, although now that she has a full cast on, hopefully her pain will decrease. She also would value your prayers.

Please continue to pray for our Elders, Deacons and Moderator as they seek to call a new Pastor for us, Lord willing. We are so thankful to our elders and those of you who have been filling the pulpit for us. We are so blessed to have godly men that expound God's Word to us faithfully.

### Northern Rivers

[Report by Beth Sonter]

All has been relatively quiet in the Northern Rivers Congregation over the past month. Regular services and midweek meetings have continued as usual.

Of significance recently has been the celebration of the Lord's Supper on the Sunday of the Easter long weekend. Being Easter in Maclean we, of course, saw the annual Highland Gathering being held in the town.

This weekend usually brings lots of ex-locals home for the Easter break and so our numbers for the Sunday morning service increased somewhat. It was excellent to have these visiting folk with us for this special time. A very delicious luncheon was enjoyed after the service with a wonderful time of fellowship being held.

The communion season was concluded with a thanksgiving service in the early afternoon.

# St Georges

[Report by Alex Steel]

The congregation is appreciative of pulpit supply being given by Rev Kenneth Macdonald, retired minister of the Free Church

of Scotland (Continuing). He and his wife arrived from the Isle of Lewis on 13 March and plan to be with us until 13th May. They were welcomed at a congregational picnic at Central Gardens Nature Reserve, Merrylands on 23rd May.

There are only four residents remaining in the congregations' units at Lindfield as the Deacons' Court prepares the property for sale with settlement expected in June.

### Ulverstone

[Report by Ian Hamilton]

The last month has seen a number away, including some overseas, and yet numerous visitors from many places. The last Lords Day in March received a number of families visiting from Launceston. These always keep the fellowship alive and active.

# 2024 Family Camp

The Youth and Fellowship committee are pleased to announce a family camp for 2024.

Date: Monday 1st to Thursday 4th July 2024

*Venue:* Camp Elim, 4859 The Lakes Way, Forster NSW.

Accommodation: Bunk houses, units and cabins are available. Powered sites also available.

Getting There: Forster is 2 hours north of Newcastle and 40 minutes south of Taree.

Speaker/Topic: TBA

Approx Cost: Adults \$210, Child \$190, Family (parents and school aged children) \$700 (max). This will be a fully catered camp.

The last family camp was held in 2019 and it is hoped that this will be the start of regular camps once again. We ask that you pray for the committee as we organize the camp, and that the Lord will bless the camp, the talks, discussions and fellowship.

More information will be available in the coming weeks. Or contact the committee at yfc@pcea.org.au.

# Senior and Intermediate (Intermediate omit questions 7 and 8)

Ezra 8

- 1. When Ezra had gathered the people to the river what tribe was viewed them, represented?
- 2. Why was Ezra ashamed to require a band of soldiers from the king?
- 3. What was Ezra's charge to the men who carried the holy vessels and the gold and silver? (2 verses)
- 4. In what way was the hand of the Lord upon them on the way to Jerusalem?

Ezra 9

- 5. What did Ezra do when told that the people of Israel had married the heathen?
- 6. How did Ezra begin his prayer? (2 verses only)
- 7. Write out the verse in Deut. 7 that forbade marriage with the people of Canaan.

Ezra 10:1-14

8. What was the answer of all the congregation when Ezra commanded them to make confession

and separate themselves from the people of the land? (1 verse only)

Junior

1 Samuel 9

- 1. What kind of person was Saul the son of Kish?
- 2. What had the Lord told Samuel in his ear the day before Saul came? (2 verses)
- 3. What did Samuel tell Saul about his lost asses [donkeys]?
- 1 Samuel 10:1-8
- 4. What did Samuel say when he poured the oil on Saul's head? (1 verse only)

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.

### **April Prayer Points**

"Without ceasing I mention you always in my prayers." Romans 1:9-10

of the Brisbane congregation.

Monday, 1st: Pray for the ministry work of the Middle East Reformed Sunday, 7th: Pray that our services Fellowship.

Tuesday, 2nd: Pray for the Brisbane Thursday, 4th: Give thanks that Rev office-bearers: for Rev Jim Klazinga; Fred and Mrs Alison Siebbert could for elders Stewart Carswell & Wes be Hanna; and for deacons Micah membership Klazinga, Keith Schmidt, Matthew Schmidt.

Wednesday, 3rd: At last year's the Synod gives thanks to the Lord for years old. the opportunity and privilege to be home and abroad, both in giving, in praying and being directly involved congregation. during this past year." Pray for the diagnosed with cancer.

communicant admitted to the Hunter and congregation.

**Friday, 5th:** Give thanks that Losa of Hawkesbury Nepean meeting, it was resolved: "The congregation could recently turn 80 Tuesday, 9th: Pray for the work of

involved in the work of missions at Saturday, 6th: Pray for Paul and Hamilton, Tracey Dyson of the Manning Hingston. Paul has been

today may not merely be about demonstrating the form godliness, but that those attending may truly worship in the power of the Holy Spirit.

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

Dotson. and for Ulverstone office-bearers: elder Ian and deacon Robert Wednesday, 10th: Pray for Australian Indigenous Ministries.

Thursday, 11th: At last 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 Free Church of Scotland, and of the Free Church of Scotland (Continuing). Pray for our relationship and contact with them.

Friday, 12th: Pray for Rev Sam Tamata, former minister in the Hunter congregation, who has been quite unwell and has recently undergone operations. Pray for him, his wife Muriel, and the family.

**Saturday, 13th:** Pray for Pamela Leggott of the Manning congregation as she recovers from a fractured forearm.

**Sunday, 14th:** Give thanks for how we as God's people can gather with confidence, knowing that the God we worship, the truth we proclaim, and the promises we find hope in, are unchanging.

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

**Tuesday, 16th:** Pray for the Geelong elder, Donald Ramsay.

Wednesday, 17th: Please continue to pray for Miriam from India during her studies in Canada.

**Thursday, 18th:** Pray for Caroline and James, a young couple who have started attending the Hawkesbury Nepean worship services.

**Friday, 19th:** Pray for Jessie Carswell of the Brisbane congregation as she recovers from surgery after a recent fall.

Saturday, 20th: Give thanks that Rev Kenneth Macdonald, retired minister of the Free Church of Scotland (Continuing), could be providing pulpit supply for the St Georges congregation.

Sunday, 21st: From the WLC Q&A 155 - "The Spirit of God maketh the reading, but especially the preaching of the word, an effectual means of enlightening, convincing, and humbling sinners; of driving them out of themselves, and drawing them unto Christ; of conforming them to his image, and subduing them to his will; of strengthening them against temptations and corruptions; of building them up in grace, and establishing their hearts in holiness and comfort through faith unto salvation." Pray for the reading and preaching of the Word from our pulpits today.

Monday, 22nd: Pray for the ongoing ministry of the Carrum Downs congregation. Pray for spiritual and numerical growth in

the work there.

Tuesday, 23rd: Pray for the work of George Ball serving as stated supply in Carrum Downs. Pray too for the pulpit supplies during May and June while the Balls are in Newcastle.

Wednesday, 24th: Pray for the work of Mukti in India. Give thanks that we can support a number of young ladies through this organization.

**Thursday, 25th:** Pray for the educational programs and Bible studies being conducted in our congregations.

**Friday, 26th:** Pray for the Hunter congregation as they make final preparations for next month's synod meeting.

**Saturday, 27th:** Pray for preparations being made for the PCEA family camp scheduled to be held at Camp Elim in early July (see page 9).

**Sunday, 28th:** Give thanks that we can assemble with our congregations today because of our mediator Jesus Christ.

**Monday, 29th:** Pray for the ministry of the Narre Warren congregation.

**Tuesday, 30th:** Pray for the Narre Warren office-bearers: for Rev Andres Miranda, and for elders Terry Buck and John Disney.









