

**"For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified." 1 Corinthians 2:2**

# **The Presbyterian Banner**



**March 2024**

## This Issue

“And Moses built an altar and called the name of it, The LORD Is My Banner.” Exodus 17:15

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### From the Editor



I was chatting with some young men in our congregation recently about arguments they’d heard against the doctrine of election, such as: “What about the person who really, really, wants to be saved, he calls on God for salvation, but God says to him, ‘Sorry, you haven’t been pre-approved, you’re not on my list. It doesn’t matter how badly you want to be saved, it’s off to hell you go.’ Election teaches that he doesn’t have a chance.”

Of course, the person who genuinely calls on the name of the Lord, but God won’t listen to him because he’s not elect, such a person simply does not exist. Never has, never will.

The Jesus who tenderly calls us, “Come to Me, all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest,” that same Jesus taught, “No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.”

You respond to the call of God in repentance and faith, and the only one you have to thank for this is the heavenly Father who has loved you since eternity and worked in your heart by his Holy Spirit. He brings you from spiritual death to spiritual life. It is only then that you, not you as a robot, not you as a puppet, but you, by your own free will, your freed will, you then can and will repent and believe. And you will rejoice in how “whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved” (Romans 10:13). And you will praise God, saying, “Thank you Lord, before I loved you, you loved me.”

Jim Klazinga

The Presbyterian Banner [ISSN 0729-3542] is the official magazine of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia.

The PCEA was founded in 1846 and adheres to the Westminster Confession of Faith (1647) as a correct summary of the teaching of the Holy Scriptures.

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

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The magazine is available as a pdf file for free download on the Church website: [www.pcea.org.au](http://www.pcea.org.au)

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



## Life of Rev. William Nathaniel Wilson, 1857-1922 (Part 3)

by Tom Reeve and John Audet

Last month we ended with William Wilson's ordination and his induction to the Upper Hunter.

While a student-catechist on the Bellinger, William N. Wilson had met Helen Greer whose father was a trustee of the PCEA church property. On 7th July 1885, during the year between William's licensing and ordination, William and Helen were married at Fernmount, Bellinger Valley with Rev. John Davis officiating. Helen was eminently suitable to support her husband in the remote places where he was to labour and to keep the home fires burning during his absences. Six daughters were born to the Wilsons during their time in the Upper Hunter.

Wilson's ministry in the Upper Hunter was centred on the scattered farming community of the Rouchel valley, east of Aberdeen.

About 1886, a German immigrant named Andreas Adam donated land for a church and manse, conveniently located near Main Camp, and fund raising for the construction of a church commenced immediately.

The family resided briefly at Lower Rouchel. Afterwards, a Mr Fraser offered the family the use of his beautifully furnished home and orchard at remote 'Steeplands' in the upper Davis Creek area. In 1897 the family moved into a manse which had been built on the land given by Mr. Adam.

Preaching places included Glen Ora, Main Camp, Scrumlo, Stewarts Brook, Back Creek, Middle Falbrook, Westbrook, Tanilbah, Davis Creek, Glen Erne



**REVD. W. N. AND MRS WILSON**

and Glen Nevis. These were mainly private properties, some of them difficult to reach.

According to newspaper notices, a Sabbath School class was held before the service, regardless of location. Reports of annual prize-giving events suggest these classes were taught by Wilson himself.

Wilson's charge also included Singleton, over 70 kilometres away, where a PCEA church building had existed for many years. It was unfit for use when Wilson arrived, and services were held in the Temperance Hall. The building was set in order and used regularly for a period in the mid-1890s before again falling into near disuse.

Relatively little is known of the congregation, but some of the more prominent family names were Kennedy, McPhee, Cumming, Cameron and Fraser. It does not appear that Wilson had any local elders to assist him. Rev.

John McPherson and elder John Cameron, both from Raymond Terrace, were in the area from time to time, maybe as assessors.

The Wilsons left Rouchel for Raymond Terrace in August 1904 following the translation of Rev. John McPherson to South Australia. He preached farewell sermons at Rouchel and Scrumlo on 14 August.

A 'valedictory picnic' was held on the following Tuesday at Davis Creek. The attendance of about 200 people was an indication of the regard in which he was held. Testimony was made to Wilson's valued services in the district over a period of 20 years. Wilson expressed the hope that their friendship would continue while life lasted, and that it would be renewed in eternity.

Though Rev. Wilson arrived in Raymond Terrace in 1904, it does not appear that William was inducted to the lower Hunter charge. The Presbytery of Sydney and Maitland (as it was then called) held no meetings between February 1903 and February 1906. When it finally did meet, in 1906, it appointed Wilson as interim-moderator of the Raymond Terrace and East Maitland charge, and instructed him to declare the charge vacant.

A year later, on the occasion of Wilson's election as Synod moderator, a local newspaper described him as "at present supplying" the charge. It seems very likely that Wilson served as a non-inducted minister for the remainder of his life.

## First Synod of the Presbyterian Free Church - Central India

by Dennis Muldoon



I was privileged and blessed to be part of the first synod of the Presbyterian Free Church of Central India (PFC-CI) held in Jabalpur 29-30 November 2023. I attended as a delegate of the PCEA, and my wife, Elizabeth, was also welcomed by the synod.

We first heard of this synod when brothers Samit and Pradeep were at our PCEA synod in May 2023. They spoke of the opening of a new centre in a village called Kahani, and of four Reformed Presbyterian centres in Maharashtra wanting to join the PFC-CI. Moreover, men who gained a Hindi Diploma in Theology some years ago were sent out to make disciples; PCEA awareness tour participants met these men in 2016.

So it was that, in answer to the prayers of many, God in his grace gathered some thirty pastors and elders for this inaugural synod of the PFC-CI. The venue was the XIDAS, a Roman Catholic college

in Jabalpur. Elizabeth and I were comfortably accommodated, after working out the hot-water system! The food was tasty Indian fare: rice, chapatti, dahl, and curry. At the close of the synod we continued on the road to visit Chhapara, Lakhnadon, and Nagpur.

I was asked to preach the opening message of the synod, a message from 1 Thessalonians 5:12-15, in which I highlighted: 'leaders and their duties', 'members and their duties', and 'a functioning fellowship'. Brother Pradeep Kumar led in the singing of Psalms 100 and 133 in Hindi. Pradeep has been busy translating the Psalms into Hindi, and adopting new tunes such that 'the Psalms become more meaningful to modern worshippers'.

Pradeep spoke of the history of the PFC-CI, extending back to 1846 when Rev Stephen Hislop came from the Church of Scotland. The mission school in Chhapara

began in 1895, and medical work in 1925. The hospital in Lakhnadon began in 1936. Dr Helen Ramsay came from Australia in 1955, and Nurse Heather Beaton soon after. 'Adopted Aussies' Flora Neil and Barbara Schmidt also served in these centres. Rev Ian McKenzie established work in the city of Jabalpur, where two congregations are now flourishing. Rev Prakash Kumar was the first Indian pastor; he laboured with great love for the Lord and for the people from 1959 to 2003.

Pradeep unveiled a new logo for the PFC-CI featuring a shield, a burning bush, and olive leaves, symbols of God's protection, presence, peace, and promises. He also welcomed two delegates from the Free Church of Scotland, three from the Reformed Churches in South Africa, and myself from the PCEA. Two ethnic Indian brothers, Samuel Christian and Rajesh Kumar, were welcomed as

ministers sent to India by the PCA in Melbourne and the Reformed Churches in South Africa respectively.

I was asked to be presiding officer, and called the role of the synod. Members came from the three presbyteries that had been established: Central Presbytery including Jabalpur, Lakhnadon and Chhapara, Eastern Presbytery including Kahani, Khurpar, and Mungatola, and Southern Presbytery, taking in Nagpur and Deori from the state of Maharashtra. Of the 31 members, two were not present.

As presiding officer I called for nominations for moderator. Rev Samit Mishra was nominated and elected as the first moderator. Rev Vishal Praveen was elected secretary, and Rev Arpan Bali treasurer. Rev Bali was a member of the Presbyterian Reformed Church of India (PRCI) +., which is led by Rev Hiralal Solanki. Discussion continues with regard to the relationship between these two bodies, but it was wonderful to see brothers from this organisation welcomed and included in this synod. It is hoped that they will soon make up a fourth presbytery of the PFC-CI.

The synod agreed to have the Westminster documents as their subordinate standard, and to draw up a handbook of orders and procedures. All members took a pledge to abide by these standards. The moderator of each presbytery presented a report to the synod. Central Presbytery is the largest, but the others are growing with

their help and guidance. The Eastern Presbytery recently opened a new centre in Kahani, and hopes to construct a prayer hall on land purchased at Mungatola. Being in the adjoining state of Maharashtra, the Southern Presbytery asked for help to register the PFC-CI in this state;



Rev Anand Sayyam from Nagpur is their moderator. Rev Solanki gave a report on the PRCI, telling of centres established in Bilha, Pune, Vasai, Jaipur and Nagpur. He is active in training and sending out workers to the harvest. I went to visit one such worker in Goa.

Samit gave a paper on Psalm singing and led in a discussion. Members who recently joined the PFC-CI were not very familiar with Psalm singing. Vishal presented a paper on LGBTQA+ and led in discussion. The treasurer presented his report, and there was also a report from the property committee.

A highlight of the synod was the diaconal ministry report, presented by the leaders of the Women for Mission group. Five women from this group spoke of identifying 70 disabled people in Chhapara and Lakhnadon, visiting

these people and helping them avail of government benefits: five were able to get a wheelchair. Disabled people are usually hidden away in India, so the friendship and help of these women comes as a great blessing — and a spiritual blessing, it is hoped. Local government leaders and the press have seen and reported on this work.

Women for Mission hope to extend their ministry into income generation activities, for women in particular. So far, training has been given in soap making. Training in other income generation activities is planned, with help from the synod. Elizabeth had good fellowship with

these women during the synod, and was asked to pray for them. Diaconal ministry like that of this women's group is encouraging to the women themselves, and to the whole church. It is a wonderful way to reach out to the community in the name of Jesus. Knowing the history of this church in India and the involvement of the PCEA over many years, we rejoice with our brothers and sisters in the PFC-CI on the occasion of their first synod, and pray for the Lord to bless them with strength in the face of opposition, with knowledge and unity in the Lord Jesus Christ, and with the necessary resources to establish more and more centres across the great land of India. As was said at the close of the synod, we pray that the PFC-CI will soon become the PFC of all India!

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### **Carrum Downs**

[Report by George Ball]

George and Rhoda Ball arrived in Carrum Downs at the end of February. At the time of this report he has conducted services over two Lords Days. Numbers are small. Men are few. The need is great. The Lord has wonderfully provided furnishing for the house for which we are thankful. We are able to welcome guests. You are welcome to come and visit with us and discover the sights of Melbourne.

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### **Hunter**

[Report by Ian Miller]

Recently Rev Tso baptised the infants Esther Tamata, daughter of Elle and David Tamata; and Mirian O'Dell, youngest daughter of Amelia and Nic O'Dell.

Our mid-week Bible study/prayer meetings and the Cardiff Sunday School resumed last month. The mid-week Bible study is focused on the book of Deuteronomy and led by Rev Tso. The adults' Sunday School class continues with a very helpful series of studies regarding 'Scotland's Forgotten Foundations'. The packaged study series comprises videos and question sheets. At the conclusion of the series, another series, 'Federal Vision Theology', is to commence led by Mr Miller.

Our fervent prayers continue to the Throne of Grace for a number of people and matters such as our persecuted brethren worldwide, the furtherance of the glorious gospel through our sister congregations, and various missions.

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### **Hawkesbury Nepean**

[Report by Elizabeth Muldoon]

This month we celebrated Henry Fihaki's eleventh birthday with a delicious lunch after church and a beautiful cake. Henry was born unexpectedly prematurely eleven years ago, and has spent many weeks in hospital during his young life, so it was a real joy to give thanks for him and to rejoice in the bright, loveable and courteous boy he has grown to be.

Winnie, a talented and charming lady in our church, has started a craft club in the church hall on Saturday afternoons. All the ladies are enjoying it so much: fellowship, fun, and learning new skills. Some of the things that have been made - quilts and bedspreads - are quite beautiful.

We continue to pray for people with health problems in our congregation. Allan and Julie are trusting in the Lord and living life one day at a time. Allan is quite frail and has lost a considerable amount of weight but when they are able to, they come to church and we love seeing them. Some weeks are very busy for them with tests, chemotherapy, bone marrow transfusions and so on, so they spend large portions of the week travelling up and down to Nepean Hospital and different doctors. In between are weeks of no treatment when they can rest and enjoy being at home. They love visits from their son and his wife and the two little granddaughters. Finau, the other dear lady who was diagnosed with cancer, is doing well - she still has chemotherapy, but the doctors were able to remove the tumour and feel confident that it is completely

gone. It's wonderful to see her brightness and energy returning after months of sickness.

Tom, our faithful elder, is not well. He has decided to take some time off to rest and recover. We pray that the Lord will be kind and gracious to him, heal him, and give him peace. In the meantime, Tevita and Lepetti, our deacons, are graciously doing as much as they can to help in all matters in the church.

Our minister, Dennis, has been quite busy with various responsibilities. He has preached in Taree and at St Georges. We are very grateful that our dear friend, Arthur Adams, has been able to preach at our church while the minister is away, and we have enjoyed his ministry to us.

\* \* \* \* \*

### **Manning**

[Report by Leanne Smith]

On the 31st of January 2024, CMIAID Mission from Moldova came for a Missionary Gift Afternoon at the Manning PCEA. It was represented by Matthew Hillier, his wife Ruth, and their three boys Samuel, Benjamin, and Joshua. CMIAID had its beginnings in 1998 when Matthew was a year 8 student at Pacific Hills Christian School. He was invited to write letters to Christians who were in prison in the Soviet Union by one of the bus drivers who regularly drove the students to and from school. Matthew started writing letters to the Christian prisoners. Not long after, the prisoners were writing back to Matthew, asking for Bibles and literature and other types of needs. A shipping container ministry began and over 80

containers were sent from Australia. As time went on, in 2009, a new type of ministry in Moldova began. This ministry became primarily focused on the little country of Moldova, which they had been working in since 2000. One of the ministries that had been established in Moldova prior to setting up a base was the postal bible school work. Seeing that there were many opportunities in Moldova and much need, they were enabled by the Lord to purchase a five-storey apartment block from the local council in 2012. It is now called the Bethesda Centre. They run a soup kitchen, a schoolteachers' resource centre and a children's ministry, which is a large part of the work in Moldova. The Lord provided teams of volunteers from Northern Ireland, Scotland, England, Germany and Australia. CMAID's desire was also to establish a local church in the village of Zirnesti. Many villagers heard the gospel and the Lord has worked in their lives. The population of Moldova is 3,500,000. The capital is Chisinau, and the main languages are Romanian and Russian. Independence from the USSR was gained in 1991. Moldova is officially the poorest country in Europe. The centre in Zirnesti has had refugees from Ukraine since the war started. Matthew was saying that the war is a tragedy, but the Lord has brought people to hear the gospel and that has been a great blessing. Matthew has been giving Bibles to the fire brigade and police in Moldova and thousands of John's gospels have gone to soldiers in neighbouring Ukraine.

\* \* \* \* \*

### Narre Warren

[Report by Andres Miranda]

On February 25, 2024 we had the joy of witnessing the baptism of little Justin and welcomed brother Peter Beissmann as a member of the church. This was an encouraging event for everyone present.

On the other hand, our financial situation is not ideal, and projects that could have improved the situation were not successful (the Optus communications tower was rejected by the city council).

This year we also had the sad task of saying goodbye to two families who, due to work and distance, had to move to another suburb to begin new experiences of Christian worship and fellowship in other churches in the Reformed tradition. Nevertheless, we thank God for his generosity in financial support from our denomination, and for the wonderful ways in which he continues to bless the congregation with membership commitments and mutual support in faith.

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### Northern Rivers

[Report by Beth Sonter]

It has been many years since a deacon has been nominated for our congregation. We are very pleased that during February two men have been nominated for this position. Voting has now closed and shortly we will know if Peter van den Burg and/or Raff Laurens are to be made deacons.

Our church lunches have resumed again this year. These are generally held on the first Sunday of the month. Good food and great

fellowship are enjoyed on these occasions. Thank you to the young people who place the food out on the table after the morning service and also, special thanks to those who prepare the food.

Our mid-week meetings are a great source of encouragement for those who attend. The Wednesday morning Bible Study and the Thursday evening Westminster Confession of Faith class are both well attended and some very interesting and valuable discussion comes up during these meetings.

We hope to hold our first Lord's Supper for this year on Sunday 31st March during the morning service, followed by luncheon and then the thanksgiving service in the early afternoon. We pray that this is a season of growth and rejuvenation for our congregation.

We are ever mindful and prayerful of our dear friends and members who are in the local nursing homes. Denise Campbell, Barbara Wallace, Ken Weeks and Ernie Reilly are usually found joining with services via electronic means on each Lord's day. Please remember them in your prayers.

\* \* \* \* \*

### Ulverstone

[Report by Ian Hamilton]

We give thanks for the Gowrie Park Fellowship camp held on Friday the 23rd of February and Saturday the 24th, with families enjoying it from the NW coast and Launceston. Following a windy night, daytime brought a warm sunny day and opportunity for bushwalking and relaxing at the camp.

## End of an Era: Betty Hand and the Narre Warren Women's Bible Study

by Heather Fiedler

The Narre Warren Women's fortnightly bible study has been led and run by Betty Hand (Simpson) for over twenty years. At 93 years of age, Betty believes it is time for her to step down from this particular ministry.

### Background:

As was common practice in decades past, most children were routinely sent off to Sunday school each Sunday morning to learn about God, and Betty was one of those young children. As the years went by she began to question the existence and relevance of God. She felt an emptiness within herself and a sense of not being good enough to approach God.

By her early twenties, church attendance was a regular part of Betty's life. It was during this time that she met and married Jim Simpson. They would go on to have five sons. However, a restlessness remained in her heart regarding God and her future. In the providence of God while attending church one Sunday, God's Spirit convicted her of her own sin before God, and she saw that Christ had died in her place. She now was reading the bible daily and gleaning truths constantly from God's word. There was now meaning to her life. After prayer and by God's mercy, Betty's husband Jim



also came to faith in Christ.

As the years moved on, their faith and understanding of God's word increased. This led them to hunger more for the truths of God. Again God in His providence led them to a group of men from 'Evangelical Action'. Here they learnt of the doctrines of grace, and biblical reformed theology. These teachings and truths of God deepened and nourished their faith and service for God.



The St. Kilda congregation of the P.C.E.A. church was to become their spiritual home, and Jim became an Elder there. This was a time of faithful worship to God, godly fellowship and a deeper appreciation for the Lord's Day. When it came time for retirement, Betty and Jim moved to Berwick, and from there God led them to the Narre Warren PCEA in the late 1990s.

### Women's Bible Study:

During the time of George and Rhoda Ball's ministry at Narre Warren, Betty and Rhoda began a children's playgroup, though all the while Betty had had in her mind the need for a Women's Bible Study. By God's promptings and leading, Betty began a study for the women at Narre Warren in the early 2000s. They have been faithfully meeting ever since, on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday morning of each month.

The studies began with a core group of 4-5 women, with sometimes as many as 10 women attending. The numbers fluctuated over the years as people re-located, succumbed to sickness, etc. The first studies began with studying the Catechism. In time the Matthais Bible study booklets became foundational as the basis of



## Getting to Know Each Other

"For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building." 1 Corinthians 3:9

their fortnightly studies. Betty led and guided the discussions and questions that arose out of each study. A variety of Christian backgrounds were represented amongst the group, from Pentecostalism and

legalism to liberal theology. This all engendered much discussion across a breadth of subjects.

### Spiritual growth:

Betty witnessed God's work of grace in the women over the years. There were different personalities to minister to and be sensitive toward. Those that were hesitant to pray in the early years grew in confidence to join in the prayer



### Final thoughts:

As Betty has been reflecting on these years of leading the Women's Bible Study, her greatest blessing has been to see the growth of the women, both spiritually and in their knowledge of God. For

times at the end of each study, and those reluctant to share their own walk with God gradually began to share their own personal spiritual experiences. An emphasis was placed on relating God's word through the studies to the women, always ensuring the relevance of scripture to their everyday lives and circumstances.

herself, she is keenly aware of the blessings that God has given her through all these years of leadership and study, and grateful to be used of God in His service. She concludes her ministry with feelings of sadness that her time of leading the study is coming to an end, but she knows that God is sovereign, and she looks forward to further service for Him.

## March Search Work

"May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you!" Psalm 70:4

### Senior and Intermediate (Intermediate omit questions 2 and 3)

#### Ezra 5

1. What happened after Haggai and Zechariah prophesied to the Jews in Judah and Jerusalem?
2. Concerning what decree did Tatnai [Tattenai] the governor request Darius the king to make search?

#### Ezra 6

3. What was Darius' decree concerning the rebuilding of the house of the Lord? How was the cost to be met? (2 verses)
4. When was the house finished?
5. In what spirit was the feast of unleavened bread kept?

#### Ezra 7

6. What was Ezra's profession? What did the king grant him?
7. For what had Ezra prepared his heart?
8. In what words did Ezra bless God for moving the king's heart? (2 verses)

### Junior

#### 1 Samuel 4:1-11

1. In the battle with the Philistines, what did the elders of Israel decide to do with the ark?
2. Who won the battle and what happened to the ark? (2 verses)

#### 1 Samuel 5

3. What happened on two occasions to the god Dagon after the ark was put in his house? (2 verses)

#### 1 Samuel 6:1-16

4. When the Philistines put the ark on the cart, what direction did the cows go?

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](mailto:iesteel@gmail.com)

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

## 2024 PCEA Youth Camp

DATE: 4th to 7th October

WHO: The camp will be restricted those turning 14 (born 2010) to 25 (born 1999) years.

COST: Adults: \$100; Students and unemployed: \$60.

SPEAKER: to be advised.

VENUE: to be advised.

Subsidies and help for some travel costs will be available. More info and registration forms will be available soon. Please contact the convenor at [yfc@pcea.org.au](mailto:yfc@pcea.org.au)

## 2024 Prescribed and Memory Work

### *Psalms:*

Infants: 117 and 100

Junior (1st certificate): 133 and 93:1-5

Senior (2nd certificate): 119:9-16 and 36:5-10

### *Scripture Memorisation:*

Junior (1st certificate): Romans 12:9-18

Senior (2nd certificate): Philippians 4:4-13

### *Certificates for recitation:*

10 Commandments

Books of Bible in order

Shorter Catechism: Certificates for each group of 10 questions. A book voucher will be awarded for correct recitation of all questions.

Certificates and vouchers are available from the Y&F committee. Please contact the convenor at [yfc@pcea.org.au](mailto:yfc@pcea.org.au)

## 2024 Search Work

Search work is a ministry of the Y&F Committee that is coordinated by Mrs Irene Steel of St George's, Sydney. Search work involves monthly questions requiring a searching of various scripture passages. The questions are broken into Junior, Intermediate and Senior categories and answers are submitted for marking.

Search work is printed in each issue of the Banner but the full year can be obtained from Mrs. Steel.

## 2024 Essay Questions - Abraham

*Senior Essay* (age 14 +): Up to 1000 words

Read Genesis 22:1-19

In v5 Abraham said to his servants, “we will come back to you”? Explain the significance of this statement. Your answer should describe the test that God set for Abraham, identify the particular difficulties of it and the outcome intended by God. What lessons can we learn for our own lives about obedience, faith and hope in God?

(These passages may be helpful – Genesis 15:1-5, 17:15-20, Hebrews 11:17-19, James 2:21-24, John 3:16)

*Intermediate Essay* (age 10-13 years): Up to 500 words

Read Genesis 15:1-6

Look at v6, “he believed in the LORD, and He counted it to him as righteousness.”

This is a very important verse of the Bible as it teaches us about salvation by faith alone. Explain what God had promised to Abram and why this may have been difficult for Abram to believe. Explain what righteousness is and how a sinful person can be “counted” as righteous by God?

(These passages may be helpful – Philippians 3:9, Romans 3:9-18)

*Junior Essay* (age up to 9 years)

Read Genesis 12:1-4

What did God ask Abram to do? What promises did God give? What may have been difficult and frightening about God's command, and what may have made Abram joyful?

Essays to be submitted to John Forbes by 30th November 2024: [johnforbes@cantab.net](mailto:johnforbes@cantab.net),  
9 Bindi Close, Crosslands, NSW 2446

Book vouchers are awarded for completed essay:  
\$30 Senior, \$25 Intermediate, \$20 Junior

## Birthday Cards

The Birthday Card ministry of the Y&F committee involves sending cards to children 12 years and younger within our congregations and is coordinated by Nic and Amelia O'Dell of the Hunter-Barrington congregation. Please send updates of children birthdays to [yfc@pcea.org.au](mailto:yfc@pcea.org.au)

## March Prayer Points

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

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**Friday, 1st:** At last year’s meeting, it was resolved, “Synod recognises the distress of those families who have a family member who struggles with their sexual identity. We pray that they may receive the appropriate medical and/or spiritual counsel, so that ultimately, they may affirm their God given gender and come to discover fullness of life in Christ.”

**Saturday, 2nd:** Pray for the pregnant mothers in our congregations and their unborn children.

**Sunday, 3rd:** Pray that God may work in the hearts of those attending our services today, that the worship practices we engage in may be accompanied by hearts that are spiritually alive.

**Monday, 4th:** Pray for the ministry of the Hunter congregation in Cardiff and Raymond Terrace.

**Tuesday, 5th:** 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, 6th:** Pray for the continuing ministry of the Presbyterian Free Church of Central India. Give thanks for their first synod meeting held last year.

**Thursday, 7th:** Give thanks for the recent baptism of Justin in the Narre Warren congregation.

**Friday, 8th:** Pray for Allan and Julie of the Hawkesbury Nepean congregation as Allan continues to struggle with cancer.

**Saturday, 9th:** Give thanks for the recent baptisms of Esther Tamata and Mirian O’Dell in the Hunter congregation.

**Sunday, 10th:** Give thanks that God enables us to gather for worship

today as those who know Him, because He’s revealed Himself to us.

**Monday, 11th:** Pray for the continuing ministry of the Manning congregation in Taree.

**Tuesday, 12th:** Pray for the Manning office-bearers: for elders Clive Alley, Trevor Leggott, and Peter Smith; and for deacons Paul Dyson, Marshall Reid, Alistair Weber, and David Wilson.

**Wednesday, 13th:** Pray for the work of the Dumisani Theological Institute in South Africa.

**Thursday, 14th:** Pray for the election for deacons held recently in the Northern Rivers congregation.

**Friday, 15th:** Give thanks for Betty Hand’s years of service in the Narre Warren congregation.

**Saturday, 16th:** Pray for the ministers providing pulpit supply for our vacant congregations.

**Sunday, 17th:** Give thanks that fellowship with God during our worship services is something we experience together as an assembled people, and pray that those attending our services today may have a sense of how we gather together as one body, not just as isolated individuals.

**Monday, 18th:** Pray for the ministry of the Hastings congregation in Wauchope.

**Tuesday, 19th:** Pray for the Hastings office-bearers: for Rev John Forbes; for elders Doug Hamilton and Glen Hamilton; and for deacon Neil McKinnon.

**Wednesday, 20th:** Pray for the work of the San Andres school in Peru.

**Thursday, 21st:** Please pray for the ministry of the Reformed

Presbyterian Church of Australia, and of the Southern Presbyterian Church of Australia. Pray for our relationship and contact with them.

**Friday, 22nd:** Give thanks that Peter Beissmann could become a member of the Narre Warren congregation.

**Saturday, 23rd:** Pray for the members of our congregations residing in nursing homes.

**Sunday, 24th:** Give thanks for the opportunity and privilege of being able to manifest the communion of saints in our congregations as we gather for worship today.

**Monday, 25th:** Pray for the ministry of the Northern Rivers congregation in MacLean.

**Tuesday, 26th:** 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.

**Wednesday, 27th:** Pray for the work of Dr Dickson in Delhi, India.

**Thursday, 28th:** Pray for the children and young people doing the Prescribed and Memory Work and the Essay Work assigned by the Youth and Fellowship Committee.

**Friday, 29th:** Pray for the preparations being made for October’s PCEA Youth Camp.

**Saturday, 30th:** Give thanks that some members in our congregations unable to attend our worship services in person are able to join in by electronic means.

**Sunday, 31st:** Give thanks that we as God’s people can celebrate creation, redemption and consummation as we gather together today for Sabbath worship.



