

“The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer.” Psalm 18:2



The Presbyterian Banner



November 2025

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From the Editor



My wife and I recently celebrated our 37th wedding anniversary. Sounds like a lengthy marriage, but honestly, it doesn't really feel like it's been that long.

I like to tell young couples that my wife and I have an arranged marriage (an idea I borrowed). I don't mean it was arranged by God, although of course, ultimately it was. But he worked his purpose for us through people.

Our marriage was not arranged by our parents, or friends, or anyone else we knew. Nor was it arranged by the producers of a TV show, like the current Australian show that's been running for a decade now, “Married at First Sight.” Yeah, right, like nothing can go wrong with that idea! Although, admittedly, I've never watched it, and have no intention of ever doing so.

No, with Julie and I, our marriage was arranged by two young, naïve adults, one 23 years old at the time, the other 22. We still have their picture on our wall. One of them, you'd hardly recognize. The other, she still looks just as beautiful as she did back then, if not more so. Both of them, however, were very different people from who they are today.

The point of telling young couples this is to remind them that years down the road, they are going to be very different people than they are today.

And yet, the promise, ‘till death do us part, it remains. And the hope, the prayer, is that by the grace of God, with much effort, through many trials, as they change, as they grow, they ultimately grow closer together in the Lord.

Jim Klazinga

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The Blessed Cement of the Family

by Rev Robin Tso

The following is an abridged and edited transcript of the first part of second talk given by Rev Tso at the 2025 PCEA Family Camp.

Readings: Genesis 2:15-25, Ephesians 5:22-32.

What is the cement that holds the bricks of the family together?

Marriage—marriage as God defines it, not as the world redefines it. Marriage is the God-ordained bond that unites the husband and wife in a covenant of love and faithfulness. It is the glue that holds the family together, the bond that provides stability for children, and the picture that reflects Christ and His Church.

Sadly though, God’s truth about marriage is constantly attacked, ridiculed and despised.

Truths that were once thought of as solid and objective are now considered fluid and always changing, in this post-modern, post-truth society.

In our society and in the laws of our land, there have been repeated redefinitions of marriage. Many politicians and activists would say that such redefinitions are good for our society. But are they?

What we see with all of these changes is not enrichment but brokenness in the home, breakdown in marriages, unfaithfulness, lack of commitment with many scars and many wounds

And even the Church of Christ on earth is not exempt from this. Some statistics show that as high as

40% of Christian marriages end in divorce. In some studies in America, divorce rates among Christians are higher in the Bible Belt region.

It is interesting to note that during the days of Charles Spurgeon, in the Victorian era, he never preached a sermon on the text that we just read this morning.

Why not? Not because he didn’t get the opportunity to deal with these verses on marriage.

It was rather, during that time, he and his congregation were in agreement with the teaching of the word of God on marriage. He thought it would be rather more profitable and useful to deal with other subjects in the word of God that were under attack.

Just over a century later, this is no longer the case. The subject of marriage is truly under attack, both within and outside the church of Christ.

It is indeed so very sobering, because, as much as we don’t like to think about it, many of us are affected either directly or indirectly by the repercussions of the breaking up of marriages.

Who would have thought, boys and girls, if you are blessed with a mum and a dad, in a happy loving marital relationship, you are in a minority!?

Not only that, we see the honour of marriage greatly despised and rejected.

Think about it, the notion of marriage, in the eyes of the world, is compared to being in prison,

being in a ditch that one cannot get out of, some kind of oppressive tyranny, and slavery.

The world around us paints a picture that those who have got themselves into it cannot wait to get out.

Not only that, there are so many jokes and memes about marriage. And the entertainment world promotes finding pleasure in marital unfaithfulness, adultery, and divorce.

Friends, with all of these negative connotations, mockery of marriage, no wonder why many, even some in Christendom, would think that marriage must be a curse. Or some would say: a necessary evil.

Does it not grieve us? I must confess, as a minister, it grieves my heart, to hear jokes about marriage from the lips of believers.

Furthermore, the submission of the wife to her husband is considered a kind of slavery, bondage, or, to use more modern lingo, misogynistic and against women’s rights.

Maybe this is how some of us may think. We cringe to hear the words of Ephesians 5.

But remember, in Ephesians 5, Paul deals with the implications of the gospel. He is writing about what it means to be a spirit filled believer. Those who have come to know the grace of God by the sovereign power of the Holy Spirit are called to walk and live as children of light, including in how they lived their lives in the home,

Meditation

“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.” Proverbs 9:10

and in their marriages.

This exhortation would have been quite revolutionary for the Ephesians believers, especially the Gentile Christians. Why? Because for many of them, they come out of the grip of paganism, especially from the worship of Diana. In that culture, part of their pagan worship was sexual immorality. Marriage was not only despised, but it was only seen as a matter of convenience.

So, to hear such detailed exhortations and instructions reminded them that to be God-fearing Christians was not just a public matter, but impacted their private home life as well. How much we need to hear this truth declared to us, dear people of God, especially as we live in similar days of spiritual darkness.

But have you ever asked why there is such a strong emphasis on marriage, especially for the believers?

It is far beyond just for the good of our children and the benefit of our society.

Ultimately, it is ordained by God, instituted by him even back in his perfect creation. As we briefly touched on in the last talk, marriage is one of the ordinances before the fall of mankind, just like the sabbath day.

In our world of many political debates on marriage, we might think that the authority of marriage comes from politicians, political parties, people's decisions, or the marriage act in the federal parliament, and nowadays, from educators.

But no, the authority of marriage comes not from man, nor

our decisions, but from the God who created all things. As early as in the second chapter of the first book of the Bible, we see marriage.

Remember, when we come to Genesis chapter 2, it was still God's perfect creation. Everything was very good, everything was well with the world. There was no disease and no death.

In that perfect creation, God created Adam in his image, and God put him in the garden of Eden, to be a manager, to attend and to keep it in his name.

And as he carried out his duty and authority over the living creatures, no one was like Adam, there was not another one like him to share his life with, to have companionship with. As we are told in the end of verse 20 of Genesis 2, "but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him."

Indeed, God saw it, and he said, in his authoritative word, in verse 18, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him." And this is why, in verses 21 and the first half of 22, we are told that, "And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; 22 and the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman".

But not only do we see the creation of Eve, but also the marriage of Adam and Eve. We are told in the end of verse 22, of how God "brought her to the man."

God was the first celebrant and Minister of the marriage ceremony, for he himself is the one who has

instituted marriage. As the Puritan George Swinnock, said, "God married the first couple that ever were in the world. Their maker was their minister to join them together."

Then in verse 23, we read the first wedding speech from the bridegroom, "And Adam said, "This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.""

For Adam, there is this great delight in God for his wife, for she is his God-given, God made, companion, the helpmate he needed in marriage. In this wedding speech, Adam is essentially saying that out of all the creatures God has created, there is no one suitable for him in marriage other than his wife Eve.

God is indeed the great matchmaker, for he is the author of marriage.

This is why we read in verse 24, "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh."

Here is the conjunction of the two individuals that God has joined together.

In other words, in the marriage that is ordained by God, it is not a man with his wives, or a woman with her husbands. Therefore, polygamy is not marriage ordained by God.

Nor is it, a man with a man, nor, a woman with a woman. No, there is no such thing as gay marriage, in the sight of God. Any deviation from the arrangement ordained by God corrupts the ideal and perverts God's sovereign institution of

Meditation

“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.” Proverbs 9:10

marriage.

Because they are contrary to nature, they should be considered as the acid to the cement of the Family.

I know, many in the world will fiercely, bitterly disagree. Sadly, this is how our government and many governments in the West have defined it.

But that is not the marriage ordained and instituted by God, even back in his perfect creation. God has designed it to be a gift to mankind, and it is between one man and one woman, in that bond and gift of marriage, as the foundation of the gift of the family.

There is more we can see in this institution of marriage in Genesis. We are also told about the duration. How long is it going to be? For a short time, as long as we feel like? No, for we are told in the end of verse 24, there is no expiry clause. "And they shall be one flesh." In other words, it is for life, as long as they dwell in the body of flesh in this life. God has ordained marriage for life.

God has never ever ordained divorce in his perfect creation. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

You may be reminded of the Pharisees, questioning the Lord Jesus about the lawfulness of divorce upon any and all grounds.

How did the Lord Jesus respond to them? Rather than directly answering the question concerning the dissolution of marriage, the Lord brings these Pharisees to see the divine institution of marriage back in Genesis chapter 2. This is why the Lord Jesus says in Matthew 19:6. "Wherefore they are

no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." No longer two, but one flesh.

Yes, it is true that through Moses, in Deuteronomy 24, there is the permission of divorce. It was given as a protection to women, in some circumstances, to escape the unspeakable violence and the rage, the harshness of their husbands.

This is why the wife would be given a certificate of divorce, and she would be free to remarry. That indicates the poor woman is not at fault for sin, in sending her away.

Friends, I know, marriage being for life, this is a notion that our society ignores and despises, with the rise of no-fault divorce, with the rise of unfaithfulness in marriage.

But divorce is never part of God's intention and ordination in his perfect creation. Marriage is meant for life. In fact, divorce is always the breaking of the seventh commandment whether it be the ground for divorce, or the divorce itself.

The Lord Jesus reminds us that such permission was because of hardness of heart. It was because of sin.

Think of a strong slab of cement holding a building together. It looks solid, immovable. But introduce a strong acid—slowly, drop by drop—and the chemical reaction begins. The cement starts to weaken from within. That's what sin does in marriage.

But divorce is never supposed to be the way out. Where there are differences in marriage, where there are no more sparks in the relationship, no more feelings and

emotions for the other spouse, divorce is not the way out.

Rather, those occasions serve as reminders to us of how much we need the grace of God, and how we need to repent and seek the Lord's blessing upon our marriages. This is a solemn call, to you and to me, those who have been blessed with Christian marriage as we bear the name of Christian.

Dear believers, the world is watching us. Our children and even grandchildren are watching us.

When we experience trials, difficulties, arguments in our marriage, we should seek to be faithful to the word of God by humble repentance, seeking God's grace, asking for forbearance, for understanding, for patience, seeking reconciliation with our spouses, begging that healing from the wounds of Christ, even in the midst of pain, hurt and grief.

Those of us who have been married for some time would know that the marriages of believers are not exempt from the many trials and difficulties that unbelieving married couples face. We are never promised a bed of roses.

One retired minister used to say to every engaged couple at the start of premarital counselling, "you know that you're marrying a sinner, right?"

There is no greater human relationship than that of the marriage bond. This only serves to highlight how in marriage we so much need the grace unto repentance.

* * * * *

Brisbane

[Report by Jim Klazinga]



We rejoice with Stephen and Jessie and their families on the birth of their daughter Lilah Rose Smith on 29 October. Because of previous health issues concerning Jessie’s heart, Lilah was born by c-section a couple of weeks before her due date. We give thanks that both mother and daughter are doing well.

On Sunday 26 October we had the privilege of witnessing the



sacrament of baptism being administered to a covenant child, Peter John Klazinga, infant son of Micah and Lauren.

Please pray for former member Chris, who in the past year or so has been regularly worshipping with us again. He is currently in Melbourne supporting a couple of his children who recently had friends of theirs viciously murdered. He is hoping to work there and earn enough money to help them move back to Queensland with him.

Also in Victoria are Joe and Gail Henderson, who have been working on a house they own down there for the last few months. They hope to return to Queensland in Early December.

We anticipate Hainian and Naomi Yu returning to Brisbane next March or April. They are expecting the birth of their first child, Lord willing, early next February. Pastor Jim and Julie will be taking a few days of leave later this month to visit them up in Rockhampton.

Also expecting a child are Weylin and Irene Morrison, whose second child is due to be born, Lord willing, next June.

We have received into membership Eloise Bosveld, formerly a member of the Southern Presbyterian congregation in Hobart. Please pray for her and her fiancé Isaac Klazinga, whose wedding is scheduled for 6 December in Hobart.

Continue to pray also for our other engaged couples:

Karl Kay and Lottie Gourley (17 January) and Caleb Klazinga and Robyn Bosveld (25 January).

Pray also for our older members, some of whom continue to struggle with health issues. For instance, Jill Abbott was recently hospitalized with ANCA Vasculitis, which was complicated by health issues that she has had to deal with most of her life. Jean Busch has also recently spent a couple of days in the hospital.

Having John Forbes leave the Northern Presbytery will have an impact on our session. Elder Stewart Carswell will begin serving as clerk of presbytery, and upon John’s induction in Geelong, Pastor Jim will cease being the interim moderator for the Geelong congregation and will begin taking on this role for the Hastings congregation.

* * * * *

Geelong

[Report by Donald Ramsay]

After more than 13 years of vacancy and waiting patiently upon the Lord, the prayers of the Geelong congregation have been graciously answered with Rev. John Forbes accepting a call to Geelong. John has been on the Southern Presbytery since 2020 and has come to know the Geelong congregation during Presbytery visits in 2022 and more recently in July this year, when he preached on two Lord’s Days and led a mid-week Bible study organised at short notice. The congregation met in early September to unanimously elect John Forbes to be their minister. Southern Presbytery moderated a

closed call at the end of September, where again there was harmonious and unanimous support in calling John. After representations by Geelong and Wauchope at Northern Presbytery, John immediately accepted the call and he will be inducted on 7 January, 2026.

This is a time of thankfulness to God and rejoicing for His provision, not only for Geelong but also for the Southern Presbytery, which currently has only one minister and two elders. The recent relocation (from Hobart SPC), and admission of David Lachman as a PCEA minister to provide full-time residential supply to the Melbourne congregation, and the upcoming induction of Rev. John Forbes provides for a revitalisation of the work in Southern Presbytery.

During this time, some members of the congregation have been dealing with significant health issues. In particular, Bert (94) has been unwell in hospital but is now recovering at home, while Greg is undergoing chemotherapy. We give thanks for the work of the men who have laboured over many years to sustain and encourage the Geelong congregation and we value your ongoing prayers for the work of the Gospel in Geelong in the years ahead.

* * * * *

Hunter

[Report by Ian Miller]

The vacant Hunter congregation continues to be thankful for the Lord's gracious

provision of the means of grace including a prayerful and supportive fellowship.

In common with other vacant congregations of our denomination, a dearth of potential ministers to be called at this time presents an ongoing problem.

Please pray the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into His harvest." (Matthew 9:37-38).

The improvement work on the external of Cardiff Church Hall continues. Some internal works are being planned.

We are pleased to welcome our brethren Rev George and Mrs Rhoda Ball on their return to the Hunter following faithful service in Melbourne. Their contribution to the life of the congregation is eagerly anticipated.

A Session meeting is planned for 29 November. Some of our faithful adherents have requested a meeting with a view to acceptance to communicant membership.

* * * * *

Hawkesbury Nepean

[Report by Elizabeth Muldoon]

We had a break from Sunday School and Bible Class over the holidays, but our usual activities have started again.

Our brother, Tom Reeve, invited all the families with young children to his home for a barbecue. The children and their parents had a wonderful time. They played in the park across the road and in his backyard. After the barbecue, everyone sat around a fire outside and roasted marshmallows and joyfully waved sparklers around. The children

sang songs and Psalms and Tom gave a little talk. It was such a happy evening. We remember how Jesus told Peter not only to feed his sheep, but to feed his lambs, and we see in the Bible how Jesus loved little children and gathered them in his arms. Any time we show love and kindness to children, and care for them and encourage them to know and follow Jesus, we are fulfilling the Lord's command.

Our dear friend Allan Stewart continues to be very frail. The leukaemia seems to be in remission, but he has now been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. He cannot get out of bed or walk around unassisted. He has been in hospital for a few weeks but will now go into respite care in a nursing home for one month. Pray for Julie who loves him and cares for him, but is finding it very difficult to manage as his condition deteriorates. She is just praying that the Lord will guide them about Allan's future care.

* * * * *

Manning

[Report by Leanne Smith]

October has been a busy month for the Manning congregation. We had our garage sale on the 19th of October, and we were able to raise \$700 for missions. It amazes us how much money is raised from donated goods.

On Saturday the 25th of October we were privileged to host the Manning Mission Gift Afternoon. Our guest speakers were Christine and Bill Visser from Mission Samburu. Some of the Banner readers may know of



Michael Alley. He is the son of Dianne and Richard Alley from the Hunter PCEA. Michael is the founder of Mission Samburu situated in the Northwest of Kenya. He has tirelessly worked to make Jesus known in Kenya and the Lord has richly blessed the Samburu people with salvation. There is now an active church community engaged in worship, teaching, discipleship, youth Bible seminars, training Samburu warriors in Bible study, adult literacy program and community outreach.

The Samburu are semi-nomadic, proud, colourful people who value cows and goats. They live in an arid and low rainfall region. They are animistic in beliefs but are hungry for the word of God.

Some needs of the mission are sponsorship for nursery to tertiary level education and a building program for school buildings. Reliable vehicles, are needed to cover vast areas of land for medical trips, outreach, and restocking of supplies. Currently, Mission Samburu holds 17 weekly services, separate Bible studies for women

and men, Bible seminars, a Christian school and outreach to local villages. They have 289 volunteers, 100 fulltime staff and 74 casual staff. If you would like to know more about this vital work amongst the Samburu, please visit Mission Samburu on

Facebook.

* * * * *

Melbourne

[Report by Heather Fiedler]

October 2025 has been a month of welcome and goodbyes.

We thank God for His answer to prayers for a new minister for the Melbourne P.C.E.A church. David Lachman and his family arrived in Melbourne early October. David began his ministry on Sunday 12th October. The congregations are grateful to God for this provision, and our prayers are for blessing and encouragement to the Lachman family as they begin a new ministry, and for the upbuilding of God’s people and His church.

Last Sunday, 26th October, was George and Rhoda Ball’s last day with us. A farewell morning tea and small gift were given to them both. As a congregation, we see God’s providential hand in bringing both George and Rhoda to Melbourne. They have worked tirelessly, serving God in His church spiritually, physically and practically. We thank them for the giving of their time, and energy to

our congregation. Our prayers are with them as they return to their new home and serving God in new ministries.

Last Sunday also saw the welcoming of six people into church membership at Narre Warren. This is a great encouragement to us. We thank God for this blessing to His church, and we pray for God’s Spirit to minister to His people, to build them in their faith and encourage them in their walk with Him.

As a ‘priesthood of believers’ our constant prayer and hope is that we would be sanctified more and more, that our worship would always be faithful and honouring to Him, and we would grow through the preaching and teaching of His word.

* * * * *

Northern Rivers

[Report by Beth Sonter]

We are very pleased to have our elder, John Greensill and his wife Judy back with us safely after their long trip away to Western Australia. From their glowing reports of their trip it appears that they did not overly miss the Lower Clarence for the duration of their travels.

We were very pleased to welcome Mr Ken Dawson into our company on the first Sunday of November. Ken will be taking our services during David Kerridge’s absence while he and Grace travel in Sri Lanka and India over the coming month. It was fortunate that Ken’s first day with us coincided with our regular luncheon and we were able to enjoy a meal and get to know a

little of Ken at the same time.

During David’s absence our mid week Bible studies and study of the Westminster Confession of Faith have been paused until his return.

Ulverstone

[Report by Zach Dotson]

To describe the state of affairs in Ulverstone in one word would be "busy". Many things are happening. There is the normal tenor of church life, including Sabbath services, mid-week meetings, and other church-related duties. Additionally, a newly purchased manse requires various repairs and upgrades, which are being done. Coupled with our elder having to spend a fair amount of time overseas this year for work, with one trip remaining, this presents a challenge.

Though we are pleased to report the Lord has provided, and

how has He done so? With people! Between our Deacon, Robert Hingston; treasurer, Robert Kingston; elder, Martin Pilgrim; Rev. George Ball; and Dr

Donald Ramsay, who augment our session, we have been getting it all done, and the Lord has been kind in providing them all.

The Dotsons are settled into their home, and Pastor Dotson is particularly enjoying his new study.

Wilma Dotson had some trouble in recovering from her C-Section with baby Louisa, but we are pleased to report that both mum and baby are well by God's Grace. On October 19th, Louisa Dotson was baptised, and we



managed to get a congregational photo.

Our Elder, Martin Pilgrim, has continued to update our church's website, and we invite everyone to visit it at www.ulvpcea.org. We are pleased with the progress.

Please pray for our Elder Martin Pilgrim as he has one more trip overseas remaining this year. Please also pray for the manse works, but above all, pray for the continued growth of our church. both spiritually and numerically.



November Search Work

“Blessed are those who keep his testimonies, who seek him with their whole heart.” Psalm 119:2

Senior and Intermediate

(Intermediate omit questions 6 and 8)

Junior

Acts 20

1. In Troas, what did Paul do on the first day of the week?
2. Why did Paul decide not to visit Ephesus, and where did he meet the elders of Ephesus? (2 verses)
3. Why did Paul say he was pure [innocent] of the blood of all men? (2 verses)
4. To whom did Paul commend the brethren?

John 21

5. What did Agabus prophesy concerning Paul, and how did Paul answer when besought [pleaded with] not to go up to Jerusalem? (2 separate verses)
6. In Jerusalem what did the Jews of Asia accuse Paul of doing? (2 verses)
7. What did the chief captain [commander of the garrison] command to be done to Paul?
8. Who did Paul tell the chief captain [commander] he was, and what did he ask permission to do?

John 12:1-18

1. What did Mary do with the pound of ointment [oil] of spikenard?
2. What did Jesus say when Judas complained that the ointment [oil] was not sold and the money given to the poor? (2 verses)
3. What did the people do when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem? (2 verses)
4. On what animal did Jesus ride into Jerusalem?

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.

November Prayer Points

“I thank God... as without ceasing I remember you in my prayers night and day.” 2 Timothy 1:3

Saturday, 1st: Pray for John and Mary Forbes and their family as they prepare to move to Geelong. John’s induction is scheduled for 7 January. Pray for the Geelong congregation as they prepare to welcome them.

Sunday, 2nd: Pray that God may work penitence in the hearts of those attending our services today.

Monday, 3rd: Pray for Rev David Kerridge and his daughter Grace of the Northern Rivers congregation as they head out today on their trip to Sri Lanka and India. They plan to visit and encourage the Reformed Protestant Mission in Sri

Lanka and the Presbyterian Free Church of Central India, returning on 11 December.

Tuesday, 4th: Pray for the ministry of the Hastings congregation in Wauchope.

Wednesday, 5th: Pray for the Hastings office-bearers: for Rev John Forbes; for elders Doug Hamilton and Glen Hamilton; and for deacon Neil McKinnon.

Thursday, 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 Mark and Rahel Landrum of the International Mission for Jewish People.

Friday, 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.” Pray for churches in the ICRC with us, including the Canadian Reformed Churches, the Free Reformed Churches of North America, and the Reformed Church

November Prayer Points

“I thank God... as without ceasing I remember you in my prayers night and day.” 2 Timothy 1:3

in the United States.

Saturday, 8th: Give thanks with Stephen and Jessie of the Brisbane congregation and their families as they rejoice in the birth of Lilah Rose Smith.

Sunday, 9th: Give thanks that today as congregations we join together in giving praise to the holy God.

Monday, 10th: Pray for the ministry of the Northern Rivers congregation in MacLean.

Tuesday, 11th: 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 and Peter Van den Burg.

Wednesday, 12th: Pray for the continuing ministries of the Presbyterian Free Church of Central India.

Thursday, 13th: Give thanks for the baptism of Louisa Dotson in Ulverstone on 19 October, and the baptism of Peter Klazinga in Brisbane on 26 October.

Friday, 14th: Pray for the retired ministers in our denomination.

Saturday, 15th: Give thanks for George and Rhoda Ball's service in Melbourne. Pray for David Lachman and his family as they continue to settle into Melbourne.

Sunday, 16th: WCF 21.6 states: “God is to be worshipped everywhere, in spirit and truth; as, in private families daily, and in secret, each one by himself; so, more solemnly in the public assemblies, which are not carelessly or willfully to be neglected, or

forsaken, when God, by His Word or providence, calleth thereunto.” Pray that God may work in the hearts of the participants in our congregations, that they may not carelessly or wilfully neglect or forsake our assembling together for worship.

Monday, 17th: Pray for the ministry of the Brisbane congregation.



Tuesday, 18th: Pray for the Brisbane office-bearers: for Rev Jim Klazinga; for elders Stewart Carswell and Wes Hanna; and for deacons Micah Klazinga, Keith Schmidt, and Matthew Schmidt.

Wednesday, 19th: Pray for the ministry of Rev. Shanmugan Partheepan in the Reformed Protestant Mission in Sri Lanka.

Thursday, 20th: Pray for Allan Stewart of the Hawkesbury Nepean congregation, who is very frail, and for his wife Julie as she supports him. (see page 7)

Friday, 21st: Pray for all the older members in our congregations dealing with health struggles.

Saturday, 22nd: Pray for the Hastings congregation, as they anticipate saying farewell to the Forbes family and as they prepare for their upcoming vacancy.

Sunday, 23rd: Give thanks for the privilege of joining with the heavenly hosts in admiring and adoring the one who is our joy and delight.

Monday, 24th: Pray for the ministry of the Ulverstone congregation.

Tuesday, 25th: Pray for the Ulverstone office-bearers: for Rev Zach Dotson, for elder Martin Pilgrim, and for deacon Robert Hingston.

Wednesday, 26th: Pray for the work of the Dumisani Theological Institute in South Africa.

Thursday, 27th: Pray for churches in the ICRC with us, including the Reformed Presbyterian Church of India, the Reformed Presbyterian Church North-East India Synod, the Calvinist Reformed churches in Indonesia, and the Reformed Churches N.T.T. in Indonesia.

Friday, 28th: Pray for growth in our congregations, both spiritually and numerically.

Saturday, 29th: Give thanks that Eloise Bosveld could be welcomed into communicant membership in the Brisbane congregation. Pray for her and her fiancé Isaac as they prepare for their wedding, scheduled for 6 December.

Sunday, 30th: Pray that the Spirit may, by the preaching of the Word, strengthen us for faithful living.

