

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

The Presbyterian Banner



September 2025

This Issue

“And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.” Philippians 1:6

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Meditation: God is Most Free



The Westminster Confession of Faith says of God that He is “most free.” (II.1)

Put simply, His freedom, and His alone, is unlimited. He has no bounds in being able to do whatever He wants to do. As Psalm 115:3 puts it, “But our God is in heaven; He does whatever He pleases.”

By the way, these two are not unrelated: being in heaven, and doing whatever He pleases.

The Psalmist in this verse is responding to mockers asking, “where is your God?” But it’s not like he’s saying, “Our God is in heaven, but just because He’s up there, that doesn’t mean he is unable to do whatever He wants down here.”

Rather, the psalmist essentially declares with confidence: because God is in heaven, He can do whatever he wants to do.

Consider this: in contrast to the one true God in heaven, you have the false gods, the pagan idols. Psalm 115 speaks of them as well.

Yes, the pagan is able to see and touch his gods. He has his idols of silver and gold right there beside him. But does their proximity somehow give these idols more power than the God of heaven? Of course not. It makes them less powerful.

In fact, it could be said that they are less ‘free’ even than the men who make and worship them. Idols don’t have the freedom to speak, or see, or hear, or walk around, or do anything.

And they certainly don’t have the freedom to

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stand over all of creation with power and authority. Only the God who is in heaven has total freedom to do whatever He wants with His creation.

This brings up another important truth. God being most free is tied to the fact that God has unlimited authority.

God is in charge of everything. He is the God who, as Paul puts it in Ephesians 1, works all things according to the counsel of His will. He is most free to do His will, because He has the power and authority to be able to do it.

In light of this, we can't help but ask: if God is 'most free,' what does this say about us? Can we ever say we are truly free?

Many Christians will try to argue that God's sovereignty is limited by our freedom.

They'll admit that God is in control. How could they not say this, since the Bible emphasizes this over and over and over again?

Still, they want to put more emphasis on our freedom. So they resolve this by saying that God willingly chooses to put limits on His sovereignty because He wants us today to be free to make our own choices and go our own way.

But a God who willingly limits his sovereign power is not truly sovereign. A God who limits His own freedom so that we can be more free is not a God who is most free.

The Bible does not say that God will do whatever He pleases, as long as this does not happen to get in the way of our doing whatever pleases us. The Bible does not portray a God who is captive to the

limits imposed on him by our choices.

Does this mean we have no freedom? Are we merely puppets dangling along with no wills, moving at the whim of our divine puppet-master?

Of course not. We have a will, we are given the ability to make decisions.

The problem is: our wills are fallen. So yes, we are free to make choices, but the will that is making those choices is enslaved, inclined toward evil, and left to itself, it keeps going in that direction.

But thanks be to God, He frees us from the power of sin. By the power of the Holy Spirit, we have freed wills. Freed to want to do what we were created to do. Freed to repent and believe. Freed to want to serve the God who loves us and has given us new life.

Still, even having been freed by God, there is always going to be a sense in which we can never be as free as God. We are never going to be most free in the sense that God is most free.

R.C. Sproul writes, “Some say that God's sovereignty is limited by human freedom. If that is the case, then man is sovereign, not God. The Reformed faith teaches that human freedom is real, but limited by God's sovereignty. We cannot overrule the sovereign decisions of God with our freedom, because God's freedom is greater than ours.”

God's freedom is greater than ours. God's freedom always will be greater than ours.

And what is He free to do? Whatever he pleases.

But this brings up another issue: how does He decide what pleases Him?

His pleasure is determined by His righteous, perfectly holy character.

God's will, his actions, these are not based on any sort of external law or force outside of Himself, higher than himself. No, it is determined by who He is.

We might think that true freedom would consist of the ability to go against our character. If God were truly free, He'd be free to go against his character and sin.

But aside from bordering on blasphemy, that's just plain nonsense. That's like saying God can't be completely free because he can't choose to not exist. He does exist, and perfect freedom comes from the perfect ability to do what He as God wants to do, because of who He is.

Let me conclude with this thought: because of who He is, He wants to forgive us and join us to Christ. He has freely chosen to live in fellowship with us. He wants to be our God, and have us be His people.

And because God is who He is, you can be most assured that He will always be a loving God. He will never decide, “Hey, I'm most free, so I don't have to save these people anymore. Today, I've freely chosen to send them to hell instead.” That is not who He is. That would be chaos, not freedom.

And thanks be to God, He is not chaotic. He is the God of heaven. He is the God who does whatever He pleases, and he is pleased to save us. Hallelujah!

Jesus’ Instruction on How to Pray

from MERF’s Augustine Programme, by Rev Timothy Burden

Tim and Rosalind Burden from the UK recently visited a couple of our congregations. Tim is the developer of Middle East Reformed Fellowship’s Augustine Biblical Training program. This program was developed to help train church leaders in countries where MERF operates, especially in Africa and Indonesia, so that these leaders may then be better equipped to teach their people.

Tim gave us permission to reprint samples of material from MERF’s Augustine Programme, Section 1 of Unit 1.

Section 1 is entitled “Learning From Jesus,” and covers: ‘Serving as Jesus Served,’ ‘Jesus’ Use of Time,’ ‘Jesus and Money,’ and ‘Jesus and Prayer.’ The following is a portion from the sub-section ‘Jesus and Prayer.’

The Lord’s prayer.

Matt.6:9-13

• **Remember to whom you are speaking.** “Our Father”

The first thing to do in prayer is to focus your mind and heart on the One to whom you are coming. You are coming to God as your Father. We are to shut everyone and everything else out and direct our hearts and minds to Him. As the Lord Jesus taught, we are to get alone with God as our Father (Matt.6:6). Even when leading prayer in public worship or a public prayer meeting, we must focus on God in prayer not on those

gathered with us.

Draw near to God as Father (Heb.10:19-22). Prayer is not a long-distance call that leaves a voice message, it is meant to be communion with God so begin with the awe of calling on God as Father and speak to Him.

• **Remember where He dwells.** “Who is in Heaven”

Sometimes when the Gospels record Jesus praying it says He lifted up His eyes to heaven. It is right when we start our prayers to lift up our hearts towards heaven, to elevate our minds beyond this world and know that we are engaging in spiritual heavenly reality. Paul says in 1 Timothy 2:8 that men everywhere are to pray lifting up holy hands. Prayer is to be a soul elevating meeting with God.

• **Have a desire for God’s glory above everything else.** “Hallowed be Your Name.”

Often we only have to mention a name and we think of quality, high standards, excellence and top of the range supremacy. When we mention God’s name, every quality, excellence, supremacy, glory, beauty and majesty of God’s being can begin to fill our thoughts.

In making this request “hallowed be your Name,” we are asking that every attribute of God should be held in the highest reverence by ourselves and by all people, a reverence for God in His

fullness among our congregations, families and communities. We want the God we worship to be held in the highest reverence by all.

• **Seek first the Kingdom of God** – “Your Kingdom come”

When the Lord Jesus was encouraging us not to be anxious about food, drink and clothes he said “Seek first the kingdom of God and all these things will be added to you” (Matt.6:31-33). Seeking God’s Kingdom is to be a priority in our living and certainly in our praying. It is put as a request here before “give us this day our daily bread.”

The Kingdom of God can come in three ways:

1. By people being born again by the Spirit through the Word of God. (By this the Kingdom comes extensively, extending its reach) John 3:3-5.
2. By Christians experiencing greater righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. (By this the Kingdom of God comes intensively, as the Holy Spirit intensifies the believer’s life in the Kingdom) Rom.14:17.
3. By the return of Christ. (By this the Kingdom comes in its final eschatological glory) 1 Cor.15:22-26.

We are to hunger and thirst after righteousness and pray for it. Praying for all the characteristics of the subjects of God’s Kingdom to

develop in us more and more (Matt. 5:2-10).

• **Glad submission and obedience to the will of God.** “Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”

Sometimes God allows hard things to come our way. Think of Job in the Old Testament. He at first submitted to the dark providence, (Job 1:20-22). The Apostle Peter urges us to submit ourselves under the mighty hand of God and await His time for lifting us out of trouble, 1 Peter 5:6-7. When we pray “Your will be done...” we are yielding to that sovereign ordering of things by God. There is another more positive part to the prayer. God’s will is obeyed in heaven with full willingness and immediately. It is done completely. Our prayer is that we would be able to obey God here on earth with willing hearts that do not delay. We are also asking that we would be given help to fully obey His will.

We might think of Abraham and Joseph as examples of people who were ready to obey God’s will straightaway, even though obedience was challenging (Gen.22:1-3, Matt. 2:13-15).

• **Ask for daily needs.** “Give us today our daily bread.”

This is not a request limited to our daily food, “Our daily bread” stands for everything we need to sustain our lives here on earth. The need of clothes, shelter, food and drink. Strength to work, work to do or the means of support when we cannot work.

Notice the Lord Jesus does not teach us to pray for luxuries but necessities. Paul teaches us that godliness with contentment is great gain (1 Tim.6:6) and if we have food and clothing let us be content. (1 Tim.6:8). He himself had learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. He encouraged the Philippians “my God shall supply every need of yours according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus (Phil.4:12-20).

• **Ask for forgiveness,** “Forgive us our debts.”

It is interesting that this comes later in the prayer than we might think it should. This is perhaps a reminder to us that we should not be absorbed with ourselves and our sinfulness but rather absorbed with God, His Fatherly care, His holiness, the glory of His Name and His kingdom and will.

As we live in fellowship with God, or as John expresses it, as we “walk in the Light as He is in the Light” (1 John 1:7), then we will not sin so much as we used to do (1 John 2:1). We will however still sin, but we have this promise that “If we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us our sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

In adding “as we forgive our debtors” Jesus never meant that we earn God’s forgiveness by forgiving others. He meant that when God is your Father through the Lord Jesus Christ, your experience of mercy will make you merciful. Our forgiving others is evidence that we have understood and appreciated

God’s grace to us. In praying “forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors” we are not saying forgive us because we deserve it since we have forgiven our debtors. Rather it is saying “forgive us our debts, we do appreciate your grace in this as is evidenced by our forgiving our debtors.”

• **Pray to be led in “paths of righteousness” and to be delivered from evil.** “Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.”

Just to be clear, God cannot be tempted with evil and He never tempts anyone to do evil (James 1:13-15). God does allow us to be tempted and it is not a happy experience. Think of Job, Peter and Paul (Job 1:6-12, Luke 22:31-24 and 2 Cor.12:6-16). To fulfill His purposes in our lives God may lead us in ways where we will be exposed to temptation, either from within or from Satan. He led Peter that way as He granted Satan his request (Lk.22:31). He also listened to Jesus’ intercession for Peter and these prayers brought him through the trial.

The Lord Jesus Himself had been led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of Satan. It was a difficult way to be led but it was vital for our salvation. Knowing how challenging it is to be led into situations of temptation, the Lord Jesus says pray “lead us not into temptation.” It is a way of asking to be spared those difficult and challenging events. Our prayer should also be “deliver us from evil.”

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Brisbane

[Report by Jim Klazinga]

For the third month in a row, we are thrilled to announce an



engagement involving participants in our church fellowship. Karl Kay has been a longstanding friend of the congregation, having occasionally visited for a number of years. He has recently begun regularly attending with his girlfriend, now fiancé, Lottie Gourley. They hope to be married 17 January next year, with the ceremony being held in our church building, officiated by Karl's grandfather, recently retired Presbyterian pastor Guido Kettniss.

Even though we are a very small congregation, we are blessed to have three couples expecting a baby, and three engaged couples.

Our Men's and Women's discussion groups continue to

meet some Sunday evenings. The women have been discussing a book by Dane Ortlund, "Gentle and Lowly." The men have recently begun discussing "Every

Thought Captive: A Study Manual for the Defense of the Christian Faith," by Richard L. Pratt Jr.

We also occasionally have a Pastor's class after the morning services. We have been working through the Heidelberg Catechism. However, this class may need to go on hiatus temporally, as we hope to begin a six-week new members class at some

point in October.

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Hunter

[Report by Ian Miller]

Participants have been blessed through our now completed mid-week Bible study of the prophecy of Hosea. This study has been capably led by Mr Andrew Bajema. Hosea's prophecy highlights the deep offense to God of the unfaithfulness of His covenant people. His everlasting, relentless love for His people shines through with

promises of forgiveness and restoration to the repentant. The group has commenced a new study, that of the prophecy of Obadiah, a timely reminder of God's care for His persecuted people and His triumphant justice.

One of our oldest brethren, Mrs Evelyn Archard recently passed to glory at 97 years of age. Our sympathy and prayers are extended to Mrs Ruth Barnes (daughter), Mr David Barnes and the family.

A well-attended working bee was held recently to address maintenance requirements of the Cardiff hall. Both internal and external work was begun with some larger tasks continuing such as the removal of two trees, a rebuilding of a retaining wall and the construction of a new fence at the rear of the Hall. We are thankful for our Lord's many blessings



including the provision of faithful preaching and teaching during the Ministerial vacancy. Our prayers continue for the gospel work and the brethren of our sister congregations.

* * * * *

Hawkesbury Nepean

[Report by Elizabeth Muldoon]

It is with deep sorrow that we share about the death of a young man, Dylan, from our church. On Sunday, 24th August, after attending the church service at Mt Druitt in the morning, and enjoying fellowship with his church family, Dylan left on his motorbike to go home. He was hit by a car and terribly injured. His injuries were so severe that he was airlifted to Westmead Hospital where the doctors and surgeons tried to save his life, but they were unable to save him. He died a few hours after the accident. He is survived by his wife, Haylee, and his 8 year old son, Levi. Both of them are completely devastated by this accident. Levi, especially, adored his dad, and had a very special relationship with him. He has been asking where his dad is now, and it comforts his little heart to know that his dad is with Jesus.

Dylan was 32 years old, full of love and life and laughter. He had only been a Christian for a few years, but when he joined our church he shared his journey to faith in Jesus. He had been searching for meaning and purpose for some time, and even considered becoming a Muslim, but then he found the teachings of Jesus so attractive and so true that he gave his life to the Lord. We

can see that Dylan was seeking, and Jesus found him.

Our whole church has been shocked and saddened by the unexpected death of such a young husband and father. This is a time when we need to have faith in a loving and compassionate God who is sovereign over all things.

Pastor Dennis and his wife, Elizabeth, are in Kenya at this time. The church and the family are being cared for and comforted by our dear brother, Arthur Adams, who is preaching to the congregation at this time.

Please pray for comfort for Haylee and Levi, and Dylan's mother, and the extended family who are all very close to Dylan. What a comfort to know that he is with Christ, which is far better, and to remember that one day: "God will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or crying or mourning or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

* * * * *

Manning

[Report by Joyce Bennett]

We were very privileged to celebrate Pamela Leggott's 80th birthday before she went to Sydney for a family birthday celebration with 60 members of her family, Pamela said she had a week of celebrations. We are very thankful for her organisational skills, & she is always willing to step in where there is a need.

We are thankful to the Lord, the way Paul Dyson has come through the horrendous 12 hour surgery & is now worshipping once again with us, after a few



short months since his surgery. Please keep Paul & Tracey in your prayers.

Saturday we had a Prayer Morning in view of coming to the Lord's Table on Sunday.

Our prayer is that the Lord will reveal to our Elders the man of his choice to come & minister to us as our Pastor.

After our prayer time we had a time of Psalmody led by Mark Hamilton learning new tunes which can be challenging, Mark was very encouraging.

* * * * *

Melbourne

[Report by George Ball]

We are rejoicing that the Lord has led David Lachman and his wife Katie to accept our invitation to come and take up the work in Melbourne. We look forward to welcoming them and their children - Elijah, Ketzia, Titus, Reyah, Silas, Moses, and Phoebe. They expect to arrive at the beginning of October. It presents us with a pleasant problem. We need to find

a suitable manse for the larger family. Pray that we will be led to find the right house that will prove to be a happy home for the Lachman family to live in. While we rejoice, we are not unmindful of the vacancy left in the Hobart congregation. We pray that the Lord in His goodness, will also provide them with a new pastor.

The Lord has also answered our prayer for a precentor with the timely arrival of Hugh Marshall, who has come from Grafton, via Wauchope. Pray for Hugh as he seeks more permanent accommodation.

Pray also for Sjirk and Betty-



Ann Bajema We are delighted that



they have found a house in the Narre Warren area.

The Lord's Supper was observed during August. During the service on 17th August in Narre Warren we welcomed Heather Fiedler into membership. Heather was a founding member of Narre Warren. We are delighted she has returned and has been using her gifts for the benefit of the congregation.

We also experienced sorrow in Narre Warren. Derick Hand, who had come into the congregation after his marriage to Betty Holmes - died after a short illness on 15th August. We remember Betty at this sad time and remind her that the Lord upholds the widow and the fatherless (Psalm. 146:9).

Another of our members, Val Phillips, suffered a mini-stroke. We're thankful that the early signs of a full recovery look promising.

'You also must help us by

prayer' (2 Cor. 1:11).

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St Georges

[Report by Alex Steel]

With 35,000 people "surrounding us" in nearby streets and thousands more meeting in CBD parks we were thankful to be able to hold our usual Lord's Day morning service on 30 August with a minimum of disruption by most of the congregation in getting to the church. We were also joined by three overseas couples from Korea, The Philippines and New Zealand.

We continue to have visitors meet with us at most services from other countries/regions who are on holiday or work conferences etc. During the past three months these have numbered 50 – 19 coming from seven different counties and 31 from regional NSW and interstate.

With our church building situated in the middle of the Sydney Commercial Business District we do have circumstances often differing somewhat from other congregations but we are thankful to the Lord for preserving a reformed witness in this location for 164 years.

FAMILY CAMP 2025

Monday 22nd - Thursday 25th September
At Camp Elim, Forster, NSW

Speaker: Rev Robin Tso
Theme: God's Gift of Family

Alexander Kennedy and Late Profession

by John Audet

In 1895 a Geelong member named Alexander Kennedy died. His obituary amounted to just 3 or 4 lines, but a few details concerning him can be found. He was born in the highland village of Lochcarron in 1829.

He entered the teaching profession whilst still in Scotland. Migrating to Australia, he taught in various places in Victoria. His final posting was to Ailsa where he was likely connected with the Wimmera congregation. From Ailsa he retired to Geelong. His brother and two cousins were ministers of the Free Church of Scotland. One of these cousins, Dr John Kennedy, of Dingwall, was arguably the most famous highland minister of his generation.

Alexander, himself, was of little obvious account in church life. In retirement he professed his faith (became a church member) at age 65 and died a year later. Alexander was a highlander, and in professing his faith so late in life he was unremarkable. He was true to type.

During his lifetime, and for years afterwards, there was a marked disparity in attitudes to church membership between Lowland and Highland areas in Scotland. This was seen starkly in the figures published for the 1899 General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland. In the lowlands, it was reported, there were 210 adherents for every 1,000 communicant members, while the opposite prevailed in the highlands with 2,336 adherents for every 1,000 members.

As many PCEA congregations had a majority highland church community, we find the same attitudes present. The records of some PCEA congregations are not available for the early years, but one congregation for which we have complete records is the long-defunct congregation at Charlton in Victoria. In 1894 there were just 17 members in the Charlton church, and 54 adult adherents.

Because basic biographical details are known for every member in the congregation's history, some further details can be added to the picture. Those who sought membership at Charlton, not having been a member elsewhere previously, did so at an average age of 60, and in the last 15 years of their life. These averages are very unlike what we would be likely to see today. So why did church life look like this?

Perhaps a few were genuinely converted late in life, but these are likely to have been few. Perhaps a few more genuinely lacked opportunity at an earlier time for whatever reason. But what of the rest?

It might be best to consider the words a minister preached to a Scottish highland congregation in the 1930's. In the following extracts he was addressing those thinking of seeking to participate in the Lord's Supper for the first time, a step considered as synonymous with seeking church membership. It is clear that he thought there was too great a reluctance to take this step.

"No doubt to any seriously

thinking person the taking of this for the first time will be no light burden, and there are many temptations, doubts and fears – How dare I separate myself from many who appear better than I am? Can I give an honest and satisfactory reason for the hope that is in me? Am I not deceived? Is there not a danger of my bringing a blot on the fair name of Christ? and many a similar question."

If this was the thinking of some, the concerns expressed seem very plausible. If there were no other considerations perhaps we could let the matter rest. But the preacher continued (and he can close the article):

"Ah, my friend, you are not by any means alone in your apprehensions. These very questions, honestly and sincerely asked, betray the spirit that is in you. Those are some of the very marks peculiar to the flock to which you belong.... It is Christ that calls – "Do this in remembrance of me," calls you to forgetfulness of yourself, your sin, weakness, and fear, in the remembrance of Him – of the glory of His person given for you, of the love with which He loved you, of the blood with which He bought you, of the grace with which He wrought within you, of the hell from which He saved you, of the heaven in which He waits to welcome you. Why have you been thus healed? Is it to hide yourself in obscurity? to give way to Satan's suggestions? No! a thousand times no!"

September 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 5 and 7)

Junior

Acts 16

1. Why did Paul and Silas endeavour to go into Macedonia? (2 verses)
2. In Philippi, whose heart did the Lord open?
3. What did Paul and Silas do at midnight in the prison, and what immediately followed? (2 verses)
4. What was Paul's answer to the jailer's question, "What must I do to be saved?"

Acts 17

5. What did Paul reason out of the Scriptures in the synagogue at Thessalonica? (2 verses)
6. Why were the Bereans more noble [fair-minded] than the Thessalonians?
7. Why did Paul consider the men of Athens too superstitious [very religious]? (2 verses)
8. How did the Athenians respond when Paul spoke of the resurrection?

John 10:7-30

1. What will happen to those who enter [in] by the door, Christ?
2. Write out the two separate verses where Jesus calls himself the good shepherd.
3. What did Jesus say about laying down his life? (2 verses)
4. Why will Christ's sheep never perish? Out of whose hands can they never be plucked [snatched]? (2 verses)

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

Mrs Irene Steel

18/1-55 West Parade, West Ryde NSW 2114
or Email: iesteel@gmail.com

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

September Prayer Points

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

Monday, 1st: Pray for the ministry of the Northern Rivers congregation in MacLean.

Tuesday, 2nd: 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, 3rd: 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 Dr Dickson in Delhi, India.

Thursday, 4th: Pray for the family of

Dylan Gale, especially his wife Haylee and son Levi, and for the members of the Hawkesbury Nepean congregation, as they mourn Dylan's death.

Friday, 5th: Pray for the families in our congregations anticipating the birth of children.

Saturday, 6th: The Geelong congregation is scheduled to have a meeting today to seek the mind of the members on who they desire to call as pastor. Pray for wisdom as they consider this matter.

Sunday, 7th: Pray that the Holy Spirit may work in and through the preaching of the Word from our pulpits today, that more may be enabled to believe and know that

they are partakers of redemption.

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

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

Wednesday, 10th: Pray for the work of the Middle East Reformed Fellowship.

Thursday, 11th: 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

September Prayer Points

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

contact and resolve to pray for the Lord's blessing upon their work and witness." Please pray for the ministry of the Associated Presbyterian Churches of Scotland. Pray for our relationship and contact with them. Pray also for churches in the ICRC with us, including the Evangelical Presbyterian Church in England and Wales, and the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (Ireland).

Friday, 12th: Pray for the family and friends of Mrs Evelyn Archard of the Hunmter congregation, who recently passed to glory at 97 years of age.

Saturday, 13th: Give thanks that Pamela Leggott of the Manning congregation could recently celebrate her 80th birthday.

Sunday, 14th: Wilhelmus a Brakel, reflecting on the attributes of God in "The Christian's Reasonable Service," writes, "The soul, irradiated by the love of God and ignited with reciprocal love, loses itself in this love and is silent in response to it. He stands in amazement of this love, and finds so much in it that all creature-love loses its appeal. He no longer perceives any desirability in the creature except where he perceives something of God in it. Therefore he no longer covets the love of others and is readily weaned from all that appears to be desirable upon earth." Pray that as we worship today, we may do so as those ignited by the love of God.

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

Tuesday, 16th: Pray for the

Ulverstone office-bearers: for Rev Zach Dotson, for elder Martin Pilgrim, and for deacon Robert Hingston.

Wednesday, 17th: Pray for the work of Mark and Rahel Landrum of the International Mission for Jewish People.

Thursday, 18th: Pray for Karl Kay and Lottie Gourley, who have recently begun regularly attending the Brisbane services, and who are engaged to be married next January.

Friday, 19th: Pray for Robin Tso as he prepares to give the talks at next week's church camp.

Saturday, 20th: Pray for David and Katie Lachman and their family as they prepare to arrive in Melbourne at the beginning of October.

Sunday, 21st: From a prayer entitled, 'Spiritual Helps' from "The Valley of Vision" – "Eternal Father, It is amazing love... that thou hast allowed the ministry of angels to wall me round; All heaven subserves the welfare of a poor worm. Permit thy unseen servants to be ever active on my behalf, and to rejoice when grace expands in me. Suffer them never to rest until my conflict is over, and I stand victorious on salvation's shore. Grant that my proneness to evil, deadness to good, resistance to thy Spirit's motions, may never provoke thee to abandon me." Give thanks that today we join with the unseen heavenly hosts in giving praise to God.

Monday, 22nd: Pray for those travelling to the PCEA Family

Camp, which begins today at Camp Elim in Forster, NSW.

Tuesday, 23rd: Pray for the ongoing ministry of the Geelong congregation. Pray for the Geelong elder, Donald Ramsay.

Wednesday, 24th: Pray for the continuing ministries of the Presbyterian Free Church of Central India.

Thursday, 25th: Pray that the church camp at Camp Elim, concluding today, may have been a blessing for everyone participating.

Friday, 26th: Pray for the family and friends of Derick Hand of the Melbourne congregation, especially his wife Betty, as they mourn his death last month.

Saturday, 27th: Pray for the Southern Presbytery, scheduled to meet today. Among other matters, they will moderate a call to John Forbes to serve as pastor of the Geelong congregation.

Sunday, 28th: Pray that God by His Spirit may enable those attending our worship services today to turn their eyes to the power of the resurrection.

Monday, 29th: Pray for the ministry of the Melbourne congregation (formerly Narre Warren and Carrum Downs).

Tuesday, 30th: Pray for the Melbourne Interim session: George Ball as interim moderator and assessor elders Zach Dotson and Donald Ramsay. Pray for David Lachman as he takes up ministry in the congregation.

