

"You are my rock and my fortress; and for your name's sake you lead me and guide me" Psalm 31:3

The Presbyterian Banner



February 2026

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From the Editor



1 Thes. 5:18 tells us how we must "give thanks in all circumstances." Really?

When the weather is nice, your family is healthy, work is going well, there's plenty of food on the table, then it's not all that hard to be thankful.

But when members of our family are seriously ill, when we don't have a steady job or enough money for necessities, how can we be thankful?

Being thankful is a response to having something good done for us, isn't it? But if what is happening to us is not good, how can we be thankful?

Well, sometimes being thankful is a struggle.

Now that might sound strange. Thankfulness is something we struggle with? But isn't gratitude an emotional response you either feel or you don't?

The thing is, though, if our focus for thanksgiving simply focuses on what is happening to us, because our needs are being met, then our focus is wrong.

Of course, when things are going well, we can and should give thanks.

But before anything else, the thankful heart focuses on God. The thankful heart does not focus first on itself, but it focuses on Him who is the great King, the sovereign Lord, the Almighty creator, and our loving heavenly Father.

So, when we give thanks to God for what He has done in our lives, it's not so much a matter of saying, "I have this warm, fuzzy, positive feeling inside about what you have done for me." It's first a matter of confessing He is good, and all that He has done is good, and praising Him for it.

Jim Klazinga

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

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

Assistant Editor: Julie Klazinga.

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

A Pastor's Portrait

by George Ball

The following are notes of a sermon preached by Rev George Ball, Moderator of the Southern Presbytery, at the induction of Rev John Forbes on the 7th of January in the Geelong PCEA.

Reading: 1 Thessalonians 2: 1-12

After many years the perfect pastor has, at last, been found.

- He is a man who will please everyone.
- He preaches exactly 20 minutes and then sits down.
- He condemns sin but never steps on anybody's toes.
- He works from 8 in the morning to 10 at night, doing everything from preparing and preaching sermons, to cleaning the church.
- He is 37 years old and has been preaching for 40 years.
- He is tall on the short side, heavy-set in a thin sort of way, and handsome.
- He has eyes of blue or brown (to fit the occasion) and wears his hair parted in the middle - left side, dark and straight - right side, brown and wavy.
- He has a burning desire to work with the youth and spends all his time with the seniors.
- He smiles all the time while keeping a straight face, because he has a keen sense of humour that finds him seriously dedicated.
- He visits church members daily, spends all his time evangelizing non-members, and is always found in his study if he is needed.

• Unfortunately, he burnt himself out and died at the age of 32.

We smile. It's a parody of course. But it makes a point. We expect a lot from the pastor.

But, we know, there's no perfect pastor – and no perfect church.

But the Thessalonian church was perhaps as good as it gets. It was a model in many ways. Their lives had been turned upside down by the gospel of the Lord Jesus (1: 9 -10). They sounded forth the gospel in Macedonia, Achaia, and in every place (1: 8).

Paul's ministry in Thessalonica was an effective ministry – one that was pleasing to God.

There is much helpful advice on the work of ministry here.

Ligon Duncan writes, 'Paul is actually providing us with a philosophy of ministry: principles for how it is supposed to be done and why. There is rich material here for reflection on what we're supposed to be doing as we minister in the church. This doesn't apply only to church leaders – it applies to anyone who serves in the church in any way'.

His visit to Thessalonica is recorded in Acts 17:1-10. He (and presumably Silas and Timothy) preached in the synagogue over three Sabbaths. He preached Jesus' death and His resurrection from the OT Scriptures, proving that 'This Jesus . . . is the Christ' (Acts 17:4).

A number of Jews and Greeks, including men and some prominent women believed, and a

church was formed. But the (unbelieving) Jews were extremely annoyed and jealous by these defections. They stirred up a rabble and started a riot . . . that resulted in Paul and Silas having to be smuggled out of the city under cover of darkness for their own safety.

Because of the success of his ministry and the sudden nature of his departure, Paul had his critics who were seeking to undermine his integrity and credibility – and that of the gospel.

John Stott describes the situation this way. 'Paul's critics took full advantage of his sudden disappearance. In order to undermine his authority and his gospel, they determined to discredit him, so they launched a malicious smear campaign. By studying his self-defence, it is possible for us to reconstruct their slanders'.

Reading between the lines we learn that:

1. Paul was Under Relentless Attack.

Verse 1. The first accusation against Paul (and his companions) was that their work was in vain (kenos) – it was empty, pointless, fruitless, a failure, a waste of time.

That's got a contemporary ring to it.

The man in the street (or in the pub) can't see any point in the work of ministry. We are irrelevant. Pointless. A waste of time and space. Why can't we get a

proper job – be a doctor, a lawyer, or a teacher? Do something useful.

So long as we don't push our religion – they are happy to ignore us.

Verse 2. He and his colleagues were accused of cowardly behaviour. It was said, when they found themselves in danger they took to their heels and fled - proof they really didn't care. Proof they were hirelings. Proof they were fly-by-night preachers.

Paul denies the charge. His CV proves the point. Look what he suffered in Philippi before arriving in Thessalonica (Acts 16: 20-24). Falsely accused, condemned, stripped, beaten, tossed into prison, feet fastened in stocks. If they were cowards, they would never have come near Thessalonica knowing full well what awaited them. Yet he says, 'We were bold to speak the gospel of God in much conflict – as you know'. That's not how cowards behave.

Verse 3. He was accused of being a deceiver. In defence he writes, 'For our appeal does not spring from error, or impurity, or any attempt to deceive'. This too has a contemporary ring.

'Error'? . . . 'The Bible is full of mistakes and contradictions.'

'Impurity' (uncleanness)? He was a womaniser. A sexual predator. You couldn't trust him with your children.

'Deceiver'? He's a conman, a fraud. Don't trust him.

Verses 5-6. He was accused of flattery. A people-pleaser. A charmer. A smooth-talking preacher seeking to gain the approval of others for his own selfish reasons.

He sought 'glory from men'. He liked being the centre of attention. He courted the admiration, compliments, and praise from others.

Verse 9. He was accused of being a scammer – in it for the money - in it for what he can get out of it. Does this not have a familiar ring? 'Religion is a racket – they're just after your money'.

The attacks were relentless. No doubt it hurt. He wouldn't be human if it didn't.

What's the lesson? Ministry is costly. It's hard. Don't expect it to be easy.

Anyone who rattles Satan's cage and threatens his kingdom will be attacked, criticised, and maligned (often times from unexpected quarters).

Jesus warned, 'A servant is not greater than his master. If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you' (John 15:20).

He was constantly attacked and criticised. He was called a glutton, a drunkard, a lawbreaker, a blasphemer, a seditious, demon-possessed, and a madman.

We should, however, make sure that any criticism is for the gospel's sake.

There is criticism which is valid (constructive criticism) which may be painful to receive – yet Scripture reminds us, 'Faithful are the wounds of a friend' (Prov. 27:6). And 'Let a righteous man strike me - it is a kindness; let him rebuke me - it is oil for my head; let my head not refuse it' (Ps. 141:5).

2. Paul's Life Was an Open Book.

How did Paul refute these accusations? Not only did he refute

these criticisms – but he also appealed to their knowledge and observation of him. Note the recurrence of the phrase, 'You know' and 'You remember'. It occurs 6 times.

His life and ministry were an open book. His behaviour was transparent, authentic, genuine. What you saw was what you got. There was no pretence or deception. No charade or façade. He lived before the face of God.

Verse 10. He claims to have lived blamelessly while among them. Not that he was perfect. But he lived out his message consistently.

Stott writes, 'Happy are those Christian leaders today who hate hypocrisy and love integrity, who have nothing to conceal or be ashamed of, who are well known for who and what they are, and who are able to appeal without fear to God and the public as their witnesses. We need more transparency and openness of this kind today'.

3. Paul Understood Himself As Accountable to God.

He understood himself to be a man entrusted with the gospel of God - and therefore accountable to God. The gospel wasn't a message he made up, or concocted. But was entrusted to him. It wasn't 'good views from man - but good news from God'.

Note how he describes it as 'the gospel of God' (vs. 2b, 8a, and 9b).

He writes in Gal. 1:11-12, 'For I would have you know, brothers, that the gospel that was preached by me is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from any man, nor

was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ’.

What was at the heart of the message? He writes in 1 Cor. 15: 3-4. ‘For I delivered that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that He was buried and that He rose again, according to the Scriptures’.

He was not at liberty to chop and change the message or tailor it to please his audience.

Ligon Duncan writes, ‘Hopefully, his words will please the men and women who hear him. His goal, after all, is that they will hear the truth and be transformed. But it is God’s opinion that matters most . . . It is tempting in ministry, and in all of life, to say what other people want us to say. It’s hard to stand up for truth when the truth is awkward, or painful, or difficult to hear . . . it’s particularly tempting to leave out parts about God’s judgement and His wrath against sin. But it’s God’s opinion that matters.’

4. Paul Loved the People.

Verse 6. Even though Paul was an apostle he could have asserted his authority – but didn’t. Verse 7. Instead, he was like a nursing mother – gentle, caring, tender, affectionate, patient, understanding, and self-sacrificing. (No aloofness, remoteness, or coldness).

He was like his Saviour, ‘a bruised reed He will not break, and a smoking flax He will not put out’ . . . How we need gentleness and patience and affection in our ministry.

Paul was a gentle-man who really loved his people and was willing to sacrifice himself for them. When a man loves like that, the church is happy to submit to his leadership and instruction.

Verse 8. ‘He kept nothing back of the whole purpose of God: he kept nothing back of himself’ (Denney). To love to preach is one thing, to love those to whom we preach is quite another. The trouble with some of us is that we love preaching, but we’re not always careful to make sure we love the people to whom we are actually preaching. We lack ‘pathos’ – compassion. Some pastors are keen to share the Word but not themselves. Perhaps because of the risk of hurt – or afraid of having his flaws exposed.

Stott concludes, ‘Some Christian leaders become both self-centred and autocratic. The more their authority is challenged, the more they assert it. We all need to cultivate more, in our pastoral ministry, the gentleness, love, and self-sacrifice of a mother’.

We can do that only with the Lord’s help – of course!

5. Paul Cared for the People.

Paul continues the family theme. Not only did he liken himself to a nursing mother (7), and a brother (9), but describes himself as a caring father (11). What are the duties of a father? A good father cares for his children, he provides for them, he warns them of the dangers in life, he disciplines them. He wants only the best for them. He will teach them in language they can understand. He will teach them the Word of

God.

Verse 10. He will set before them a godly example.

Verse 11. He will encourage them when they need it. He will comfort them in all their distresses. He will exhort them not to give up.

Verse 12. The great aim and desire of any father is that his children will bring honour to the family name. Likewise, the aim and desire of any good pastor is to ‘present every man mature in Christ’ (Col. 1:28), so that they will ‘live a life worthy of God’. John writes, ‘I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth’ (3 John 4).

These are the marks of Paul’s ministry in Thessalonica. He was willing to suffer for the sake of the gospel. His life and ministry were conducted before the face of God. He spoke as a man entrusted with the most valuable treasure. He was a man with a heart of love and concern for his people – like a nursing mother and a caring father.

Paul asks, ‘Who is sufficient for these things?’ (2 Cor. 2: 16). He answers his own question. ‘Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God, who has made us sufficient to be ministers of the new covenant’ (2 Cor. 3: 5-6). We are not sufficient of ourselves for the great demands of ministry. But we do, nevertheless, have a sufficiency. It comes from God. He makes us competent. He gives us adequacy. He supplies sufficient grace. He supplies what He commands. He provides what He demands.

Church News

“Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.” Galatians 6:2



* * * * *

Brisbane

[Report by Jim Klazinga]

On 17 January, Karl and Charlotte Kay had their wedding ceremony held in our church building. Karl and Lottie have been regular visitors to our worship services for a number of months now. It was a joy to witness their

vows and celebrate their commitment to serve the Lord together as husband and wife. The above photo pictures the happy couple with Karl’s family to the right and his grandparents to the left. Karl’s grandfather, Rev Guido Kettmiss, officiated the wedding.

One week later, on 24 January, we celebrated another wedding,

for Caleb and Robyn Klazinga. Since Caleb’s brother Isaac and Robyn’s sister Eloise had their December wedding in Hobart, Caleb and Robyn decided to get married in Brisbane. Their wedding was held at the St. John’s Presbyterian church in Annerley.

On 6 February, the session met



with Andrew Ashby to discuss with him his desire to become a communicant member of our congregation. It was a joy to listen to him testify to his faith and the



Lord’s work in his life. He publicly professed his faith during the morning worship service on the 8th of February. The Lord’s Supper was celebrated later during that service.

That same service we were pleased to welcome back Ernest Ong, who returned to Brisbane after spending a couple of months at home in the Philippines. Ernest is working on getting an Australian permanent resident visa.

The session has granted disjunction certificates to Micah and Lauren Klazinga in anticipation of their move to Geelong with their two children in the near future. At a recent Deacons’ Court meeting, Micah was thanked for his faithful service as a deacon.

Our mid-week Bible Study will be undergoing dramatic changes. For a few years, we had been meeting online via zoom, making use of a series of Ligonier courses. We plan to begin meeting at the church every other Wednesday, beginning on 11 February. Distant members will still be able to join in by zoom. Pastor Jim will be giving talks on the teachings contained in “Biblical Theology, Old and New Testaments” by Geerhardus Vos, with time also given for Psalm singing, Bible readings, and prayer.

* * * * *

Hunter

[Report by Ian Miller]

Central Presbytery met recently and appointed Rev George Ball as Interim Moderator and Rev Robin Tso as an “Assessor Elder” of our congregation. Please pray for these men as they replace Rev Muldoon

and Mr Steel respectively.

Our gratitude is extended to the Lord for the valued contributions of Rev Dennis Muldoon and Mr Alex Steel in supporting the gospel work of the Hunter Congregation.

During the Summer and Autumn months the Wednesday Bible study/Prayer meeting has been moved to a Wednesday morning meeting in the Cardiff Hall (with online facility to participate from home). Morning tea at 10.45 am will be available. Studies in 1 Peter continue.

The first morning meeting for 2026 will be held on 11 February from 11 am.

The Cardiff All Ages Sunday School resumes on Lord’s Day 15 February at 10 am with Psalm singing followed by infants and primary classes and an adult class focused on the Westminster Confession of Faith.

The Annual Congregation Meeting (ACM) is planned for Saturday 14 March from 2 pm at Cardiff. Online participation will be available.

We continue to pray for our persecuted brethren throughout the world, revival of the true gospel, and our sister congregations.

May 2026 be a year of genuine and sustained growth in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ .

* * * * *

Hawkesbury Nepean

[Report by Elizabeth Muldoon]

We started 2026 with the induction of a new elder, Tom Hallett. The minister preached from 1 Timothy chapter 3, and

then every member of our congregation was given the chance to carefully and prayerfully vote for the man who they felt had these qualifications and who would make a godly leader. We are thankful that Tom was chosen and that he accepted this ministry.

Tom is a young man from England, married to Ashlee, and they have one son, Elijah. We are very grateful to our assessor elders, Donald MacIntosh and Ian Miller, who have helped and advised our church with wisdom and grace over the last couple of years, but it will be nice to have an elder who is part of the congregation every Sunday.

Our other elder, Tom Reeve, has been on sick leave for some years undergoing treatment for cancer, but we are glad that he also is recovering.

The Sunday after Christmas brought some visitors to our church. A family, an extended family, in fact, came to worship with us. There were 21 people in the family! There was a great-grandmother, her son and daughter-in-law, the grandmother and grandfather of the family, their four adult children with their spouses, and their young children.

It was so nice to meet them and have fellowship with them. The family is spread throughout NSW and Queensland, so every second year the whole family meet together at Christmas in a caravan park to enjoy a holiday together. This year they all met in Sydney.

The grandfather, from Inverell, is interested in Reformed doctrines, so they decided to come to our church (they googled it) and

Church News

"Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." Galatians 6:2

it was a delight that they did. Their presence filled several pews in our church.

I also thought what a wonderful blessing to see a whole family who love and follow Jesus: 4 generations worshipping together.

* * * * *

Manning

[Report by Leanne Smith]



Greetings from the Manning PCEA. On the 28th of December the congregation had the blessing of witnessing the baptism of Lilah Rose Smith, daughter of Stephen and Jessie Smith. Rev Trevor Leggott took the sacrament and preached on Matthew 19:13-18, "Let the Little Children Come to Me". Rev Leggott brought out

the requirement for Christ-like humility as a Kingdom principle, and that children have a special place in Jesus' Kingdom.

We have had a number of visitors over the holiday season and are very thankful to the Lord that 2025 was blessed with pulpit supply by faithful and godly men. In 2026 we are earnestly seeking the Lord to supply a

minister for our vacant congregations and look to Him as the head of the church.

* * * * *

Melbourne

[Report by David Lachman]

On New Year's Day we started the year with an informal congregational BBQ at the park

near the newly purchased manse where the Lachman family is now residing. Members from both Narre Warren and Carrum downs were able to come. Everyone enjoyed the food and fellowship as well as a spot of cricket.

Despite many missing from the congregation due to ill health and travel, we had a good number present for the induction of Rev. David Lachman to our congregation on Thursday 8 January at 1pm at Narre Warren. Rev George Ball as Moderator chaired the meeting, preaching from 1 Thessalonians 2:13-14. This was followed by a charge of the minister by Rev Robin Tso, and a charge to the congregation by Rev John Forbes, who had been inducted into the Geelong charge the previous day. Afterwards there was a time of fellowship over afternoon tea, and greetings were extended from a number of churches.

We thank the Lord for giving the work in Melbourne, and indeed the Southern Presbytery, a fresh start, and pray that He will revitalize and revive the work of the Gospel in the community here. The congregation has no local elders or deacons, so please pray for the Lord to raise up faithful men who can serve, as well as for wisdom and strength for the assessor elders who bear the extra burden of helping to care for the congregation until the Lord answers our prayers for local elders.

Please also pray for David Kumnick, who has been in and out of hospital for some months and is now in rehab in Mornington.



congregation, we have been reminded of this reality. We have been praying for increased attendance, and in the new year, the Lord has brought local visitors for the first time in a while. We rejoice in the Lord’s goodness. We are also happy to report that the Keast family, who have previously been members with us, are returning to Tasmania, and we are overjoyed. The Lord is good and faithful to His people. We further ask your continued prayers for us, particularly for our open-air outreach, and of course, that the Lord would grant us conversions. We praise God for His goodness and are very encouraged.

* * * * *

**Notice from the
Southern Presbyterian Church
Hobart Congregation
Camp Committee**

The Hobart congregation of the Southern Presbyterian Church invites you to join us at our annual family camp to be held at Orana Girl Guide Camp, Roches Beach, from Friday 13th to Lord's Day 15th March 2026, Lord willing.

Pastor Ralph Hall from the Kingston Free Presbyterian Church has accepted our invitation to be the camp speaker and we look forward to his studies from the Word of God.

For Camp details and the registration form, contact Dot Pilgrim at dotpilgrim@gmail.com. To assist the camp committee with detailed planning it would be very helpful if you could register as soon as possible, or no later than Monday 23rd February.

* * * * *

Northern Rivers

[Report by Beth Sonter]

It is hard to believe that one month of 2026 has already passed. So, here we are in February with the full range of congregational activities about to recommence. The first week of the month will see the Wednesday morning Bible study and Wednesday evening Westminster Confession of Faith classes recommencing. Sunday School will restart on the 15th of the month.

Some major work is taking place at the church’s Bethesda units at present. Five units are having their roofs replaced and remedial work to their verandas

undertaken. We trust that the residents are not too inconvenienced during this time.

The church hall is currently being used for storage of building gear for the Bethesda work. As a consequence of this the church lunch, usually held on the first Sunday of each month, has been delayed. It is hoped that the lunch will take place later in the month .

* * * * *

Ulverstone

[Report by Zach Dotson]

The prophet Jeremiah in Lamentations 3:22-23 reminds us that the Lord’s mercies are new day by day, and as we have entered into the new year in our

February Search Work

“With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments!” Psalm 119:10

Senior and Intermediate

(Intermediate omit questions 7 and 8)

Acts 26

1. For what hope did Paul say he stood and was judged? (2 verses)
2. For what purpose had the Lord appeared to Paul on the road to Damascus? (3 verses)
3. What truths did Paul say he continued witnessing both to small and great? (2 verses)
4. What was the reply of king Agrippa when Paul asked him: “Do you believe the prophets?”
5. What did Festus and Agrippa say between themselves about Paul? (2 verses)

Acts 27:1-26

6. How was Paul treated by Julius the centurion?
7. What was the centurion’s reaction when Paul said the voyage would be with hurt [end in disaster] and much damage [loss]?
8. How did Paul know there would be no loss of any man’s life? (2 verses)

Junior

Jonah 3

1. What did the people of Nineveh do because they believed God?
2. When God saw their works and that they turned from their evil way, what did he do?

Jonah 4

3. What did God do to deliver Jonah from his grief [misery]?
4. For what reason did God say that he had spared [pitied] Nineveh?

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.

February Prayer Points

“We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers.” 1 Thessalonians 1:2

Sunday, 1st: Wilhelmus a Brakel, reflecting on the attributes of God in “The Christian’s Reasonable Service, writes, “Contemplating the magnificence and glory of God, the dignity and glory of all creatures vanish and are in comparison considered to be lowly, insignificant, and contemptible. [The believer]... bows in all humility before God the most High, rendering Him honour and glory. His heart and tongue are prepared and ready to speak of the honour and glory of His majesty.” Pray that those attending our services today will bow in all humility before God the most High, rendering Him honour and glory.

Monday, 2nd: Pray for the ministry

of the Ulverstone congregation.

Tuesday, 3rd: Pray for the Ulverstone office-bearers: for Rev Zach Dotson, for elder Martin Pilgrim, and for deacon Robert Hingston.

Wednesday, 4th: At last 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 Young Lee and his work with Indigenous children in Taree.

Thursday, 5th: Give thanks that Tom Hallett could be inducted as an elder in the Hawkesbury Nepean

congregation.

Friday, 6th: Pray for George Ball as he takes up the role of Interim Moderator in the Hunter congregation, and for Robin Tso as he serves as an assessor elder.

Saturday, 7th: Give thanks for the January weddings in Brisbane of Karl & Lottie Kay and Caleb & Robyn Klazinga.

Sunday, 8th: WCF 21.1 states: “But the acceptable way of worshipping the true God is instituted by Himself, and so limited by His own revealed will, that He may not be worshipped according to the imaginations and devices of men, or the suggestions of Satan, under any visible representation, or any other

February Prayer Points

“We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers.” 1 Thessalonians 1:2

way not prescribed in the Holy Scripture.” Pray that God may give us wisdom to be able to worship Him in an acceptable way according to His Word.

Monday, 9th: Pray for the ministry of the Geelong congregation.

Tuesday, 10th: Pray for the Geelong office-bearers: for Rev John Forbes, and for elder Donald Ramsay.

Wednesday, 11th: Pray for the work of Dr Dickson in Delhi, India.

Thursday, 12th: Give thanks for the recent baptism of Lilah Rose Smith, daughter of Stephen and Jessie Smith.

Friday, 13th: Give thanks that Andrew Ashby could be admitted to communicant membership in the Brisbane congregation.

Saturday, 14th: Pray for David Kumnick of the Melbourne congregation, who continues to be quite ill and has been in and out of hospital for some months.

Sunday, 15th: Stephen Charnock, in discussing the dominion of God, writes: “If God hath an extensive dominion over the whole world, this ought to be often meditated on, and acknowledged by us. This is the universal duty of mankind: if he be the sovereign of all, we should frequently think of our great prince, and acknowledge ourselves his subjects, and him our Lord. God will be acknowledged the Lord of the whole earth.” Pray that God may grant us a spirit of humility as we gather together today, acknowledging him as our sovereign Lord.

Monday, 16th: Pray for the ministry

of the Melbourne congregation in Narre Warren and Carrum Downs.

Tuesday, 17th: Pray for the Melbourne office-bearers: for Rev David Lachman, and for the assessor elders serving on session.

Wednesday, 18th: Pray for the work of the Middle East Reformed Fellowship.



Thursday, 19th: At last year’s meeting, it was affirmed that synod “gives thanks to God for the churches with whom we have formal fraternal relations and for those churches with whom we have contact and resolve to pray for the Lord’s blessing upon their work and witness.” Please pray for the ministry of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Australia. Pray for our relationship and contact with them.

Friday, 20th: Pray for preparations being made for the upcoming Southern Presbyterian Church camp being held in March (registrations due by 23 February. See page 9).

Saturday, 21st: Pray for the elderly members in our congregations, particularly those dealing with physical struggles.

Sunday, 22nd: From a prayer entitled, ‘Openness’ from ‘The Valley of Vision’ – “Expel from my mind all sinful fear and shame, so that with firmness and courage I may confess the Redeemer before men, go forth with him bearing his reproach, be zealous with his knowledge, be filled with his wisdom, walk with his circumspection, ask counsel of him in all things, repair to the Scriptures for his orders, stay my mind on his peace, knowing that nothing can befall me without his permission, appointment and administration.” Pray that those attending our services today may be strengthened to go forth and serve the Lord with confidence.

Monday, 23rd: Pray for the ministry of the Hawkesbury-Nepean congregation in West Sydney.

Tuesday, 24th: Pray for the Hawkesbury-Nepean office-bearers: for Rev Dennis Muldoon; for elders Tom Hallet and Tom Reeve; and for deacons Tevita Fihaki and Lopeti Latu.

Wednesday, 25th: Pray for the various Bible studies and mid-week meetings put on in our congregations.

Thursday, 26th: Pray for the work of Mark and Rahel Landrum of the International Mission for Jewish People.

Friday, 27th: Pray for the various committees preparing reports for the upcoming synod meeting in May.

Saturday, 28th: Pray for the raising up of men to serve as office-bearers in our congregations.

