

"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



July 2026

This Issue

“But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Galatians 6:14

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From the Editor



What happens after you die? Life after death, do you think about it much?

If you do, join the club. Throughout the centuries, this matter has fascinated (and perplexed) people all around the world, from many different religious persuasions.

As you get older, you realize more acutely how, humanly speaking, the number of years you have left in this life is decreasing. So the question of what happens on the other side of the grave becomes, well, a bit more personal.

Of course, you don’t have to be old like me to reflect on this. It is a fascinating subject for all of us. Though I suppose, when you are younger and healthier, you tend to think about such things in a more abstract, intellectual sort of way.

Still, whether you’re young or old, it’s important to think about what happens after you die. Not in a morbid sort of way. Not because you are scared of death, and fear of death has become your operating principle, as it seems to be for so many people.

For the Christian, thinking about the afterlife is not about trying to find a way to make ourselves feel better about the harsh reality of death.

Rather, our reflection on life after death focusses on Christ. “God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him.” (1 Thes. 5:9-10)

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.

Great Is Thy Faithfulness, Part 2

by Rev Robin Tso

The following is the second half of the incoming moderator's address to Synod 2026, given during the evening session on Tuesday 5th of May, the first day of the 178th annual meeting of synod. The first half was printed in last month's issue.

Reading: Lament. 3:1-33

...Even in challenging times, they were looking to the Lord, seeking to honour Him according to His word.

Like Jeremiah, but also, in the first part of verse 22 we read, "It is of the LORD's mercies that we are not consumed."

Fathers and brethren, this is one of the three things that we can see concerning the hope that Jeremiah has in the Lord, the mercies of the Lord. This is the word, hesed, the word for covenant love, "steadfast love". There is that idea and notion of loyalty and commitment. It is abiding, it doesn't fluctuate over time, or decrease due to the change of situations.

We can see this kind of love in a small measure in the love between husband and wife, in marriage. Yes, when sickness, difficulties and when trials come, this dedicated loyal love says, "I am committed to you, I will not give up on you, I will not walk away."



How much greater, is the loyal love that God has for his people—this covenant mercy, this dedicated love.

Don't we need this love, this covenant mercy of the Lord, ourselves, and indeed as a denomination? Isn't it true that in those times we can be jumping to the conclusion that God must not care for us, and we can be coming with complaints, just like Jeremiah here, in the first 20 verses?

What lifts Jeremiah is not thoughts about his own faithfulness, but this faithful covenant love — God's mercy. As he looks up, he realises that he and the people of God are still alive, though scattered. He knows they should have been completely

wiped out, cut off from the land of the living, for they have sinned against God. The reason why they are still alive, they are still spared, is because of God's mercies.

Fathers and brethren, although we may have experienced trials and troubles in times past as a denomination, as we gathered here from all over the eastern seaboard, we have been spared, not only as individuals, not only as congregations, but as a denomination!

Perhaps, some of us, a few years ago, wondered if there would be a southern presbytery ever again. At

one point, three of our remaining congregations were vacant. Some of us had concerns about the future of the Geelong congregation, especially after well over a decade of vacancy. But now, the southern presbytery is the only one of the three that is completely filled, as of the beginning of this year. It is not because of anything of our own, but God's mercies.

Do you notice that it is in the plural in our text? This dedicated, constant, committed love of God is so great, so abundant, it is not a wee stream, but a mighty river.

As we gather at this Synod, can we not confess, after all the trials, difficulties, challenges and threats, we have been preserved? "It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not

consumed.” How encouraging it is, despite our own failings, our unfaithfulness, God’s covenant mercies would not let us go.

The 2nd thing we see here in Jeremiah's declaration of hope is God's compassions. We can read the second half of verse 22, to the first half of 23, "Because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning." Here, when this word is used, we are given another notion of the love of God. As mentioned earlier, the mercies of God speak of his dedicated, committed love. But here, compassion speaks of the emotion of love. What is the difference?

Think for example, of a relationship between parents and children. The parents are committed to love and care for the children. They can be very faithful in their parental responsibilities: feeding them, giving them a home to live, providing education, clothing. But it is possible to have these necessities met, without the emotion of love? The parent could be giving the child a meal, without showing affection.

But in here, there is this compassion, the same word to describe the emotion of love, the affection that Joseph has for his long lost brother, Benjamin, in Genesis 43:30. He was moved with compassion as his heart yearned for his brother.

Or in another place, this word is used in Isaiah 49:15, to describe the love of a mother for her nursing child.

This is what Jeremiah has come to behold, this is what he has been reminded, as he looks up to the Lord: God's compassions fail not.

How humbling it is to us all? God's compassions—they don't end, they don't run out, they don't dry up. Like a mighty river, it keeps flowing, like the Hastings River. Do you remind yourself, "my God's compassions are greater still, His compassions fail not."

We are also told that God's mercies, and his compassions—they are new every morning! There are new mercies, new compassions for tomorrow, that the people of God can look forward to. It is like manna in the wilderness. God provided it fresh each day, and what was kept overnight would spoil. God was teaching his people to trust him for the daily bread.

Yes, even in the life of our denomination, there were many challenging difficult decades, especially before 1900, not only with so much shortage of ministers, and much isolation from the Free Church. Yet, in 1878, our Synod agreed to cooperate with the Free Presbyterian Church of Victoria and of South Australia, in mutual eligibility of ministers, support of periodicals, and joint actions in mission work in China — together, holding to the ancient landmarks of doctrine and worship, to the glory of God. By 1882, there were 18 churches, 40 preaching stations, and 1,950 in attendance, with faithful elders sustaining vacant places.

But also, the post-1900 Free Church did what their predecessors refused to do. They re-established relations with the Australian remnant after 40 years of isolation. That connection brought not only the recognition, but also a source of new ministers coming in.

Between 1900-1963, 20 men entered into the Australian ministry.

Yes, as we come to this juncture of our denomination, with many needs, but at the same time, being reminded of the past, can we not testify to the Lord's daily mercies and compassions towards us, that they are beyond our expectation and comprehension? Does it not give us hope?

It is true, we do not know what challenge, what difficulty, what toil will come upon us, perhaps even in the next few days, and beyond, as a denomination. The one thing, we can count on, not the strength of our will, not the talents of our own, but the mercies and compassions, daily, from the Lord—they are new every morning.

Fresh pardoning mercies, strengthening grace, and comforting compassions, daily from the Lord to his people.

Look at Jeremiah here, in this declaration of hope, he rejoices in the 3rd thing, God's faithfulness, as we can read from verse 23, "Great is thy faithfulness."

Do you see something that is so remarkable!? There is the change of person. Jeremiah has been speaking of God's mercies and compassions from a third person's point of view. But as he ponders upon who God is, he is no longer speaking about the Lord, but to the Lord—great is thy faithfulness!

What a great and humbling reminder, to all of us. The biblical understanding of doctrine, of who God is, should bring us to that true devotion in the heart, to that true doxology. Not being content to speak about God, but to God. As

Meditation

"Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you." 1 John 2:24

ministers and elders, do we know of this doxology in our heart, not just a head full of doctrines?

Look at Jeremiah, though he may be a prophet, used by God, to proclaim the Word of God, but behind that, is a heart of a true child of God. Yes, as he looks back in his life and ministry, there have been so many chaotic times, uncertain situations. Many of you here can testify to that too, in your own life. But Jeremiah is not proclaiming, "great is my faithfulness," no, even he himself admits he has sinned against God—he has not been totally faithful.

But as he thinks upon the Lord, he can see that God is the one who is faithful, dependable, the one who keeps every word of his promise—he has always been faithful—so great.

Is that your confession, even as we gather as a Synod? Even during those times when we experience difficulties, troubles and trials, can we still profess, "great is thy faithfulness."?

This is one of the great tests of the genuineness of our Christianity. Trusting in the Lord's faithfulness, not just on those days of prosperity, but also in adversity.

Thirdly and finally, we see, "the dependency of grace." Yes, it is interesting to see that Jeremiah moves from speaking about God in verse 22, to speaking to God in verse 23, and when we come to verse 24, there is a change also. He is speaking to his own soul. as he says there, "The Lord is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him."

Fathers and brethren, the truth of God's word doesn't just bring us back to God, to think about him, to

look to him, but this truth of God impacts our souls. As he reflects on the grace of God, there is this language of dependency, of childlike reliance.

When we come to this word portion, we are given the picture of the land of Canaan. Maybe the children remember that too. When the children of Israel entered into the promised land, under Joshua, God had allotted the different tribes of Israel different portions of the land. But out of the 12 tribes of Israel, one tribe was not given any territory in the way that the 11 tribes had. Do we remember which one? It was the tribe of Levi. There, in numbers 18:20, we read, "Thou shalt have no inheritance in their land, neither shalt thou have any part among them; I am thy part and thine inheritance among the children of Israel."

The reason why they have no land is that God will be their portion. God is saying that he is all that they need. What a great lesson God has taught his people, though other tribes may have the land, but in the eternal sense of the word, they don't have more than what the Levites have.

This is something that Jeremiah has come to know, even in his own soul. He has, in the midst of many losses in this world, of his physical homeland, the physical structure of a temple, and all the earthly blessings and benefits associated with them, "the Lord is my portion." Jeremiah has the Lord. To him his soul is satisfied.

Is that how we continue to go forth, as a Synod of Eastern Australia in 2026? Is that our confidence and dependency,

looking to the Lord? Not only for ourselves, but all of the congregations we represent.

Fathers and brethren, the reason why Jeremiah, the servant of God, and all the people of God down through the ages, may have this hope in the midst of trials and tribulations, to have the Lord as their portion, it is not that somehow Jeremiah was faithful enough to merit it. No, the basis for this confidence and confession of hope, lies with the very servant of the Lord, the suffering servant of the Lord, the true weeping prophet, the man of sorrow—the Lord Jesus Christ. It is he, who is the man truly afflicted, so troubled, ever since he entered into this world, through the incarnation, but increasingly, in the Garden of Gethsemane, and on the cross of Calvary.

Yes, on that cruel cross, the Lord Jesus cried out to his father, "my God my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" That prayer was shut out, ignored as God hid his face from him. As he drank the cup of God's wrath because of the sins of his people. There was not a single thread of mercy, a single bit of compassion offered to the Lord Jesus, on Mount Golgotha, all the way to death itself.

This is why, the child of God can confess, "It is of the LORD's mercies that we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; Great is thy faithfulness. The Lord is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him". Should it not be our confession and confidence as a Synod also? Amen.

Church News

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

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Brisbane

[Report by Jim Klazinga]



We give thanks for the birth of Weylin and Irene Morrison's second daughter, Lydia Grace, born on the 9th of June. Her baptism is scheduled to take place on Sunday, the 19th of July.

In addition to our weekly fellowship meals following our Sunday morning services, we were able to enjoy two congregational evening meals in May. The first was on Wednesday, 20th May, which was followed by a presentation by Rev. Shanmugan Partheepan, who talked about his work for the Free Church Continuing Mission in Sri Lanka. The second was on Friday, 29 May, and was followed by our Annual Congregational Meeting.

Please pray for the oldest member of our congregation, Beth

Anderson. She has had to be hospitalized because of falls, and has now moved into Beaumont Care home. Pray for her as she settles into her new home.

Please also pray for Gail Henderson, who recently suffered a heart attack and has also been on heavy medication due to illness.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Hastings

[Compiled by
the editor]

From the Hastings bulletin for the 10th of May, "Thank you to all who helped with the hosting of

Synod. The Synod thanked the congregation for their hospitality.

From the Hastings bulletin for the 17th of May, "Today we farewell Scott and Sarah along with Micah and Judah as they return to Ireland in the coming weeks. May God bless you in this next chapter of your lives."

The Annual Congregational Meeting was held at the church on Saturday, 30th May, at 4pm.

From the Hastings bulletin for the 31st of May, "Kindee service 7pm, subject to bridge being open. Otherwise evening service at Wauchope. The Lord's Supper will be observed today during the morning service. Congregational luncheon today, all welcome. A time of prayer will be held after lunch."

From the Hastings bulletin for the 21st of June, "From the Session - It is planned to have an election of deacons soon. Please pray for wisdom and guidance as we prepare to have an election of deacons in our congregation. Pray that men would desire the role and would be equipped and recognised as having the gifts for this important role and service in the church. Deacons are to be male communicant members of the congregation meeting, the requirements laid down in the Scriptures (Acts 6:1-7; 1 Timothy 3:8-13)."

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Hawkesbury Nepean

[Report by Elizabeth Muldoon]

We are delighted to announce the birth of two new babies in our congregation:

Jon and Mel had a beautiful little daughter, Mila. Mother and baby are doing well. This is baby number 6, so Mel and Jon are very busy and tired but full of joy to have another child.

Rachel and her husband had a dear little boy, Wepi. He and Rachel are also doing well, but once again, this is baby number 6, so a time of happiness and tiredness.

We pray for both little children, that God will bless them and keep them and watch over them day by day. We pray that he will draw these little ones to himself as they grow up, that they may come to know and love the Lord Jesus.

We, like many other congregations, enjoyed the ministry of our brother, Parthee, from Sri Lanka on the Sunday that

he visited our church. It is always an amazing and wondrous thing to realise that all over the world, in little villages, and towns, and cities, there are groups of people who love and worship the living and true God. We can keep praying "Your Kingdom come."

This month we had our congregational meeting. Those who came enjoyed a time of fellowship and the opportunity to hear about the church's finances and ministry through the year. We are very thankful for the hard work of our brother Lee Wells. He is a diligent and conscientious treasurer who spends many hours working on these accounts and seeking to meet all the requirements of the government - and these are quite demanding.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Hunter

[Report by Ian Miller]

Rev George Ball has recently commenced two Lord's day preaching series. In the mornings The Book of Genesis is the focus and 1 Corinthians in the evening. Both series promise considerable blessing to the congregation as Rev Ball carefully with application,

provides exposition of each passage.

To date there have been two men's fellowship breakfast meetings. The first involved a Creation Ministries International guest Dr Mark Harmer who provided valuable insight into God's intricate design of living cells and etc. At the most recent meeting we greatly benefited from the considerable knowledge and experience of Rev Dr Nobin Shunmugam as he addressed the topic of 'Communicating the Gospel in Australia'. A monthly ladies fellowship series of meetings are planned to commence on July 25.

Deacons' Court is planning maintenance and improvements to the Cardiff Hall, both external and internal. Stage 1 of maintenance to the Cardiff Hall has commenced.

The All Ages Sunday School and mid-week Bible study/prayer meeting are in recess during school holidays. We pray that our students and teachers will be refreshed in readiness for a resumption of activities.

We remember before the Throne of Grace various matters

and persons including persecuted brethren, various missions, our sister congregations, and nation.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Manning

[Report by Joyce Bennett]

We are thankful to the Lord for another 2 months of having our pulpit filled with men who proclaim the Word of God faithfully to us each week. As with all the vacant pulpits we would like to have a Pastor to shepherd over us but we must wait on the Lord, and he will provide one in his perfect time.

We would ask that you keep our congregation in your prayers as we have a number of our members with medical issues.

We would like to congratulate Peter & Leanne Smith on the birth of a new grandson Reuben Lewis Smith born 25th June.

Our Missionary Society held another successful garage sale, the weather was perfect and many people came along and picked up a bargain.

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St. Georges

[Report by Alex Steel]

Following the visit to Synod and all congregations Rev Partheepan returned to Sydney where he visited friends and stayed with our minister and family in the manse. During this time he also gave a presentation at a Wednesday evening prayer meeting of the work in Sri Lanka of the Protestant Reformed Mission, assisted our minister in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper as well as preaching at the



Church News

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

Saturday preparatory service and thanksgiving service on the Lord’s Day. His ministry was much appreciated by all.

The restoration and repair works of the church building have progressed well during the last two months with a significant “milestone” having been reached in the reconstruction of the upper levels of the spire reaching the apex and the re-affixing of the finial - 42 metres from the ground. The scaffolding is now in the process of gradually being dismantled as lower works are completed including replacement of wooden louvres and lead lighted glazing. Replacement of all roofs are currently being worked on. The outer contracted works are 80% complete and a schedule of interior works has been submitted to the

City of Sydney Council for approval to enable commencement of phase two of



the renovations.

Pictured are the church project manager and a builder stone

mason.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Ulverstone

[Report by Zach Dotson]

Here in Ulverstone, it has been cool and wet, but we pray that, despite the cool weather and short days, the Lord will bring about lasting fruit in the life of our congregation.

In terms of congregational life, we are sad that Phil and Suzanne Thompson are moving to Canberra to be closer to family, but we are pleased to report that some recent visitors have been attending. This has been a major encouragement to our congregation. We continue through our series on the book of Mark in the morning and through 2 Samuel in the evening.

The 2026-27 Committee Structure adopted by Synod

Administration: Clerk (Convener), Moderator, Moderator-Elect, Presbytery Clerks.

Law and Advisory: J. Forbes (Convener), D. Kerridge, GD Ball, T Reeve, I. Miller.

Inter-Church Relations: R Tso (Convener), J Forbes, D. Lachman, Z. Dotson, D. Kerridge

Church and Nation: Z. Dotson (Convener), GD Ball, I Miller, M. Pilgrim, T. Leggott.

Communications: D Kerridge (Convener and Archive), R Tso, N. O’Dell, B. Saljooghi, JD Klazinga (Banner).

Youth and Fellowship: S Carswell (Convener), Z. Dotson, M. Schmidt, M. Kerridge, M. Forbes.

Finance: AH Steel (Convener), DJ Ramsay, M. Pilgrim.

Superannuation and Insurance: R Tso (Convener), DJ Ramsay, AH Steel.

Missions: D. Lachman (Convener), DK Muldoon, J. Greensill, M. Hamilton, Z. Dotson, T. Leggott

Training of Ministry: D Kerridge (Convener), GD. Ball, R Tso, G Hamilton, I. Miller.

Other Appointments

PCEA Trustees for Victoria: D. Ramsay (Secretary), J. Forbes, D. Kerridge.

Panel on Divorce, Separation and Remarriage: GD Ball, D Kerridge, I. Miller, T Reeve.

Moderator-Elect for Synod 2027: R Tso

Love One Another

by Rev George Ball

Note: The following was received by synod as part of the Church and Nation and Publications Committee Report.

G.K. Chesterton famously wrote, ‘The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting. It has been found difficult; and left untried’.

This is true – not least with regard to Jesus new command. ‘A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another’ (John 13: 34-35).

John Benton writes, “The sacrificial affection which Christ displayed for us, must also be evident among Christians and therefore especially in the church. The apostle John takes up this command in the most astonishing way. In 1 John 4:12 he writes: ‘No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.’ He is saying something breathtaking. The living God can be ‘seen’ today in a church where God’s people love one another. If we love one another, ‘God abides in us.’

In many ways, this is the forgotten strategy of the church. Programmes and plans have their place. But they will not take us very far in today’s hardened secular society. People need to encounter the living God. And John says they will do so in a

church where the members love each another. Of course, there must be Bible truth, and prayer, and holiness, and much more. But when Christians love one another as Christ has loved us (1 Corinthians 13:1-8a) it has an effect out of all proportion to what we might imagine, because God is there.

A church should have three dimensions to its activity which we can label IOU. Inwardly, Outwardly, Upwardly. Inwardly there is fellowship. Outwardly there is witness. Upwardly there is worship. All three are necessary and all three are transformed as we love each other.

Inwardly – Fellowship.

According to John, when the members of a church love one another ‘God’s love is perfected (made complete) in us.’ God’s love which originates in Himself (1 John 4: 7-8) and was manifest in His Son (1 John 4: 9-10), is completed in His people – comes to full fruition in a practical and tangible way among us. When that Christian gives money to a needy brother or sister, God’s love is fulfilled practically. When that lonely Christian feels the warmth of the love of the church, God’s love is displayed. If we don’t love one another, we are depriving each other of the full version of God’s love. When we do love one another, we enjoy God’s love more fully.

Outwardly – Witness.

Our society is secular. It is enslaved by personal pleasure

(hedonism), personal choice (consumerism), and personal opinion (relativism). There is nothing worth living for, or dying for, except pleasing yourself. This is a hard nut to crack. But it is vulnerable to true Christian love, because in a church which loves one another a secular visitor will not just hear an argument about God, he or she will meet God (1 John 4:12). The spiritual destitution, moral disintegration, and social isolation that characterise secular society makes it obvious that secularism leads nowhere but to destruction. But people can’t see it. However, an encounter with the living God will open their eyes.

Upwardly – Worship.

You can go to some churches which have great music and all the latest worship songs with wonderful musicians and yet it just feels like a concert. Something is missing. You can go to other churches which stick to the old worship styles . . . but it feels like an evangelical ritual. What is missing in both cases? It is the felt presence of God. We may use the language of awe and reverence (Rev. 5:12-14), but unless we encounter God it is all mere words (Mark 7:6). We need God to touch our hearts, and John has promised that when we truly love one another, God Himself will be present in the church.”

So, we should think practically about how to love one another as Jesus loved us.

July 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)

James 4

1. How is it possible to ask in prayer and yet not receive?
2. What will happen if we resist the devil?
3. If we humble ourselves in the sight of the Lord, what will he do?
4. What ought we to say, seeing our life is a vapour? (2 verses)

James 5

5. Why should we be patient until the coming of the Lord? (2 verses)
6. What do we learn from the example of Job?
7. What should they do who are (i) afflicted [suffering]; (ii) merry [cheerful]; (iii) sick? (3 verses)
8. What do we learn about prayer from the example of Elijah? (2 verses)

Junior

1 Kings 17

1. During the drought how was Elijah fed at the brook Cherith?
2. What was the widow woman of Zarephath doing when Elijah came to the gate?
3. What had the Lord God of Israel said about the barrel of meal [bin of flour] and the cruse [jar] of oil?
4. What did the woman say to Elijah when he gave her son back to her alive?

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.

July Prayer Points

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

Wednesday, 1st: 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 the Middle East Reformed Fellowship.

Thursday, 2nd: Give thanks for the birth of Lydia Grace Morrison, daughter of Weylin and Irene of the Brisbane congregation.

Friday, 3rd: At this year's meeting, it was resolved, "Synod encourages the [Youth and Fellowship] committee to proceed with the organisation of the family and youth camps in 2026 and pray that these will result in spiritual growth

and building godly relationships."

Saturday, 4th: Give thanks for the birth of Mila, the sixth child of Jon and Mel of the Hawkesbury-Nepean congregation.

Sunday, 5th: Pray for our congregations, that as we assemble tomorrow, God by his Spirit may enable us to remember the communion of saints we have as those joined to our Savior. Pray that we may be able to encourage one another and build one another up.

Monday, 6th: Pray for the continuing ministry of the Hastings congregation in Wauchope.

Tuesday, 7th: Pray for the Hastings office-bearers: for elders Doug Hamilton and Glen Hamilton; and

for deacon Neil McKinnon.

Wednesday, 8th: Pray for the work of Mark and Rahel Landrum of the International Mission for Jewish People.

Thursday, 9th: 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." Please pray for the ministry of the Southern Presbyterian Church of Australia, and of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Australia. Pray for our relationship and contact with them.

Friday, 10th: At this year's synod

July Prayer Points

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

meeting, it was resolved, “That we would earnestly and regularly pray for the provision of candidates for the ministry from within our ranks, help from sister churches, and men ready for office-bearing in our congregations.”

Saturday, 11th: Give thanks for the birth of Wepi, the sixth child of Rachel of the Hawkesbury-Nepean congregation and her husband.

Sunday, 12th: Stephen Charnock, in discussing the dominion of God, writes: “In all worship, we acknowledge the object of our worship our Lord, and ourselves his vassals. If we bear a sense that he is our sovereign King, it would draw us to him in every exigence, and keep us with him in a reverential posture in every address. When we come, we should be careful not to violate his right, but render him the homage due to his royalty.” Pray that God by His Spirit may enable us to join in worship today with a reverential posture, with a sense that God is our sovereign King.

Monday, 13th: Pray for the ministry of the Northern Rivers congregation in MacLean.

Tuesday, 14th: 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, 15th: Pray for the continuing ministries of the Presbyterian Free Church of Central India.

Thursday, 16th: Pray for Phil and Suzanne Thompson of the

Ulverstone congregation who are moving to Canberra to be closer to family.

Friday, 17th: At this year’s meeting, it was resolved, “That the Synod commend the PCEA website to delegates and congregations and they be encouraged to participate in the life of the church online by active registration, collaboration and comment.” Pray for the work of David Kerridge in organizing and maintaining the PCEA website.

Saturday, 18th: Give thanks for the scheduled baptism tomorrow morning of Lydia Grace Morrison, infant daughter of Weylin and Irene of the Brisbane congregation.

Sunday, 19th: From a prayer entitled, ‘Love Shed Abroad’ from ‘The Valley of Vision’ – “Gracious God, My heart praises thee for the wonder of thy love in Jesus; He is heaven’s darling, but is for me the incarnate, despised, rejected, crucified sin-bearer; In him thy grace has almost out-graced itself, In him thy love to rebels has reached its height; O to love thee with a love like this! My heart is stone, melt it with thy love, My heart is locked, let thy love be the master key to open it.” Pray that the Spirit working through the Word preached from our pulpits today may enable those attending to praise God for his love, and so also grow in their love for God.

Monday, 20th: Pray for the ministry of the Brisbane congregation.

Tuesday, 21st: Pray for the Brisbane office-bearers: for Rev Jim Klazinga; for elders Stewart Carswell and Wes Hanna; and for deacons Keith Schmidt and

Matthew Schmidt.

Wednesday, 22nd: Pray for the ministry of Rev. Shanmugan Partheepan in the Reformed Protestant Mission in Sri Lanka.

Thursday, 23rd: Pray for the continuing restoration work being done on the St Georges church building.

Friday, 24th: At this year’s meeting, it was resolved, “Synod resolves to consider how we might practically love one another as Jesus loved us – in the Synod, Presbytery, and in the local congregation.”

Saturday, 25th: Pray for the retired ministers in our denomination.

Sunday, 26th: Pray that the glory of the name of the triune God may be the focus of our worship tomorrow.

Monday, 27th: Pray for the ministry of the Ulverstone congregation.

Tuesday, 28th: Pray for the Ulverstone office-bearers: for Rev Zach Dotson, for elder Martin Pilgrim, and for deacon Robert Hingston.

Wednesday, 29th: Pray for the work of the Dumisani Theological Institute in South Africa.

Thursday, 30th: Please pray for the ministry of the Christian Reformed Churches of Australia. Pray for our relationship and contact with them.

Friday, 31st: A draft statement on Divorce, Separation and Remarriage was sent by synod to the presbyteries for comment. Pray for wisdom for the presbyteries as they consider this matter.

