

"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



October 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



It has always been essential that the people of God have faith. But having faith has never been something we do in order to earn God's grace.

Yes, we are commanded to have faith. But when we obey this command, we know that this faith is not of ourselves, it is a gift of God. God graciously sends His Holy Spirit to work in us, so that we can believe and trust in Him.

Our faith itself points us away from seeing it as something we do to earn grace. Faith is about trusting in God to do everything needed for our salvation.

But now I ask, does how we read the Bible reflect a view of faith that puts the focus on us, on our efforts?

We might acknowledge the doctrine of being justified by faith and not by works, but then we read the Bible as if it were first and foremost a rule-book for life, an instruction manual on faith, with stories intended primarily to give us examples of how to live.

Of course the Bible gives us instructions and examples. But knowing that we are justified by faith, this puts the focus first on God, on what He has done, on His worthiness. Never forget, the Bible is first and foremost about Him, His redemptive work, His glory.

God forbid that we boast in ourselves, in our own efforts, in our own traditions and rules, in our own ability to have faith. And God forbid that we in any way whatsoever receive any of the credit when it comes to being saved and living the Christian life. May we boast only in the cross of Christ. May that be our primary focus, why we worship, what we rejoice in, why we live the way we live. To God, and to God alone, belongs all the glory.

Jim Klazinga

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

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

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Church Camp Photos



The Founding of the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia

10th October 1846 – One hundred and eighty years ago

by Tom Reeve

This month marks a significant anniversary for our denomination. In 1846, three years after the Disruption in Scotland, Rev. William McIntyre, a godly and very able minister, led a small group of office-bearers out of the Colonial Presbyterian Church (known as the Synod of Australia), and thus severed links with the Established Church of Scotland.

William McIntyre produced his own paper and the following account appeared in *The Voice in the Wilderness* a few days after the event.

On Saturday 10th October the Synod of Australia resumed its meeting after a few days of deliberations. At twelve o'clock, Mr McIntyre, Mr Tait, Mr Colin Stewart, with Mr Martin, elder, entered the Court, and having read the following protest, laid it on the table and retired [left].

PROTEST READ IN THE
SYNOD OF AUSTRALIA,
10th OCTOBER 1846

We the undersigned Ministers and Elders, members of the Synod of Australia in connection with the Established Church of Scotland—

Considering that the Synod, having resolved to remain in its present connection with the Established Church of Scotland, and to retain its present

designation unchanged, does thereby declare its approval of the submission of the said Church to the encroachments of the Civil power on her spiritual independence and the liberties of her constitution, and thus concurs in the renunciation of the doctrine of Christ's sole and sovereign Headship, which that submission involves.

And further, considering that, in virtue of the connection with the Established Church of Scotland which the Synod has resolved to maintain,—asserted as that connection is, not only in the designation of the Synod, but also by the Bond of Union entered into by the ministers and elders who united in forming the said Synod, wherein it is set forth, that they engaged, in every part of their future conduct towards each other to act in strict conformity to the laws of Christ, and of the Scottish Church, declared anew their adherence to the doctrines of the Confession of Faith, and promised that in the exercise of discipline they should follow the laws of that Church, so far as applicable in this colony—the unscriptural principles on which the government of the Established Church of Scotland is now administered,—according to which the civil

courts are invested with power to coerce the judicatories and individual members of that Church in the exercise of their spiritual functions and duties, and otherwise to interfere authoritatively in spiritual matters, and Presbyteries are authorised and empowered to disregard and overbear the voice of the people in the formation of the pastoral relation, are virtually adopted by the Synod: and the government and discipline of the Colonial Presbyterian Church under its superintendence are liable to be subjected to the operation of these principles.

We, therefore, the ministers and elders aforesaid, do protest, that the Synod, by its concurrence in the renunciation of the doctrine of Christ's Headship as aforesaid, has placed itself in a position at variance with the word of God, and with the standards of the Church of Scotland in their true and original import, and incompatible with the discharge of its great duty as a witness to Christ.

And we protest further, that, by the adoption of the principles aforesaid, the constitution of the Synod has been so changed, that the government of the church cannot be conducted in

accordance with it, without violating the laws of God, dishonouring the Great King and Head of the Church, and invading the rights of the Christian people.

And finally, while we reserve any right, we, or any of us, or of such as may adhere to us, possess to the whole, or any portion of the property, held in behalf of the Synod of Australia in connexion with the Established Church of Scotland, we protest that, the Synod occupying such a position, and having adopted such principles, it is and shall be lawful for us, and such other ministers and elders as may concur with us, to withdraw from the Synod, and take such steps as may be competent to us and necessary for dispensing the ordinances of the Gospel, and administering the affairs of the Church in this land, agreeable to the mind of Christ and to the standards and constitution of our Church; and we do now withdraw accordingly.

The Protest having been read—those who took it retired, and having convened in an upper room in Hunter Street, and, having duly constituted themselves in the name of the Head of the Church, the Rev. Wm McIntyre was chosen to be their Moderator; the protest above-mentioned was produced and read, and thereafter ordered to be inserted in the minute. The Rev. Mr Tait was appointed

to be clerk of the court. It was then resolved that the body should be designated—The Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia, and the Supreme Ecclesiastical Court—The Synod of Eastern Australia. The members present, then declared anew their adherence to the Confession of Faith, the Directory for Public Worship, and the second Book of Discipline, as the Standards of the Church.

The Synod met again on Monday (12th October) at ten o'clock, a.m. The following formula of concurrence in the Protest, for such Ministers and Elders as were not in circumstances to take and sign it, was adopted:

"We, the undersigned Ministers and Elders of the Presbyterian Church, under the spiritual superintendence of the Synod of Australia, in connexion with the Established Church of Scotland, do hereby declare our concurrence in the Protest, whereof a copy is hereunto prefixed, taken on the 9th day of October, and laid on the table of the said Synod on the day following, and now give in our adherence to the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia, under the spiritual superintendence of the Synod formed by those who took that Protest."

This decisive and brave stand for truth was the doing of the Lord through his servant Rev.

William McIntyre who was then just forty years of age.

William was born on the 6th March, 1806, one of the twelve children of Duncan and Catherine (nee Kennedy) McIntyre who were sheep farmers near Fort William in the western Highlands of Scotland. He first studied at the local parish school before attending Glasgow University where his gifts (particularly in Latin and Greek) were noted and developed. At the conclusion of his studies – MA in 1829 and Divinity in 1832 - he was licensed by the Presbytery of Dunoon. He also gained experience as a part-time master in Glasgow at a school conducted by his older brother Allan.

In a recruiting visit back to Scotland in 1836 – 37, Rev. John Dunmore Lang happened to hear William McIntyre preach at Greenock. No time was lost by Lang in impressing on the younger man the great needs of the Colony. He was soon appointed chaplain to the immigrants on board the *Midlothian*, which set sail from Portree, Island of Skye on the 12th August, 1837. Following much sickness and many deaths, the vessel arrived in Sydney on the 12th December.

There we must leave his story and take it up next time.

Acknowledgment: The author thanks Mrs Sue Pacey for her help with this article.

* * * * *

Brisbane

[Report by Jim Klazinga]



The congregation was saddened to hear that Isaac and Eloise Klazinga will be leaving us later this month. A farewell barbeque is being held for them on Saturday the 17th.

Isaac has accepted a job in Launceston, Tasmania. They will stay in Hobart for the first two months, where Isaac will receive training. After that they will move to Launceston.

We give thanks for their involvement in our congregation, and we trust that they will be a blessing in whichever congregation they end up making their church home.

Jim and Julie Klazinga continue to prepare for their time overseas, which is fast approaching.

They leave on Monday the 12th to Korea, spending the rest of October there. Jim, along with with Robin Tso, will be attending a

meeting of the International Conference of Reformed Churches (ICRC) from Wednesday the 14th until the following Wednesday the 21st.

Following that, Jim and Julie will enjoy some vacation time in Korea.

Jim is then scheduled to represent the PCEA at the 7th General Assembly of the World Reformed Fellowship in Seoul, from the 28th to the 30th. The theme for the meeting is “Christ Above All: Reformed Life in a Post-Christian Era.”

On the 31st of this month,

they plan to travel to Canada, where they hope to stay until the middle of January.

Both of their aged fathers are dealing with serious health issues.

In addition to spending time with family, Jim will be preaching and providing limited pastoral support for the URCNA congregation in Bowmanville, Ontario.

They hope to return to Australia in time to welcome the arrival, Lord willing, of their thirteenth grandchild, Caleb and Robyn Klazinga’s first child.

We are thankful that Andrew Bajema has agreed to provide pulpit supply during Pastor Jim’s

absence. He is scheduled to arrive on Wednesday the 14th, and will be living in the manse.

Preparations are being made for our December church camp, scheduled to be held in December at Camp Drewe in Lennox Head, NSW. We’re especially thankful to have a camp this year, as last year’s camp had to be cancelled. We are also thankful that Dennis Muldoon has agreed to give the talks.

Please continue to pray for our older members dealing with ongoing health concerns.

Jean Busch continues to struggle with issues that caused her to be hospitalized last July. She continues to have appointments in an effort to determine the exact nature of her difficulties.

Beth Anderson suffers from constant dizziness and resides at



Church News

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



be blessed in meeting together for worship each Lord's Day.

While elder Glen Hamilton is kept quite busy leading many of the services, the congregation is also grateful for the willingness of guest preachers to come and proclaim God's Word to them.

The interim moderator, Rev. Jim Klazinga preached and administered the Lord's Supper on the 27th of September.

Rev David Kerridge has graciously agreed to temporarily fill in as interim moderator while Rev Klazinga is overseas for the rest of the year.

* * * * *

Hawkesbury Nepean

[Report by Elizabeth Muldoon]

the Beaumont Care home in Kippa Ring.

Joe and Gail Henderson have been dealing with a variety of health problems. Their planned trip to their farm property in Victoria had to be postponed until Autumn next year.

* * * * *

Hastings

[Report by Jim Klazinga]

The congregation continues to



As September comes to an end, so does the last term for our Year 12 students. Johnny and Lejend have finished Year 12 and their school lives. They both enjoyed their last week with graduation and farewell celebrations. Next term brings the HSC with it - such a stressful time for many students, so we do pray for them.

Lejend does Vocational Education Training, which helps prepare young people for apprenticeship opportunities when they finish school. Lejend won an award for achieving the best results in his subject, construction,

of all the students in Western Sydney. His family, and all of us, feel very proud of him. Congratulations, Lejend!

There have been a number of pro-life rallies in Sydney. Some members of our congregation were able to attend them. One was held out the front of Parliament House, and one a few days later at Hyde Park. The particular issues that the pro-life rallies are trying to highlight to the public and to our law makers are sex selection abortions (previously unknown in Australia but now, sadly, occurring), and the egregious practice of late term abortions. A baby can be aborted up to the 39th week of pregnancy which is horrifying to think about.

Sadly, in some rare cases, the baby is born alive but left to die since the mother's wish is not to have this child. There is a group called "Tradies for Babies", mostly young men, who stand for life.

One of these men spoke at the rally. He said how he had been greatly impacted by the writings of Dietrich Bonhoeffer. He quoted a statement from Bonhoeffer: "To remain silent in the face of evil is to do evil." This motivated him and his friends to speak out against abortions.

Another speaker made the important point that, if Christians stand against abortion, they must stand for the life of both the baby and the young mother. If we have any friends who are single mothers, or any members of our church, he urged us to welcome them and their children into our congregations and to treat them with care and compassion and dignity. This is "the Jesus model". Let's be anti-abortion but pro life and love and grace and kindness!



Pastor Dennis and his wife will be away on holidays for a few weeks in October and November. Different godly men will be preaching to our congregation at this time.

* * * * *

Hunter

[Report by Ian Miller]

The last weekend of September proved to be a blessed and busy time for the Hunter congregation.

On Saturday a Psalmody was held at the Cardiff Church facilities. Our special guests included Julie and Matt Schmidt from the Brisbane congregation. Rev George Ball commenced the day with a devotion which highlighted the precious nature of these "Psalms, hymns and spiritual songs". Julie expertly led and assisted the Psalmody teaching activities. Fellowship lunch and an encouraging time of singing of favourite Psalms ensued.

On the Lord's day both centres combined at Raymond Terrace for worship and the ordination and induction of newly elected elders, Rev George Ball, Mr David Barnes and Mr John Fluit. Rev Tso conducted the morning worship and the installation of the elders. Rev Tso's text was Isaiah 62:6-7. 'A Solemn Charge to the Watchmen' and he preached under four headings: the Elder's Divine Appointment, the Elder's Constant Duty, the Elder's Prayerful Ministry, and the Elder's Certain Hope. After a pleasant fellowship lunch, another special guest, Rev Zac Dotson preached. His text was Hebrews 13:17, 'Elders and the Flock' with a moving exhortation to the congregation to value, respect and pray for their God-given elders.

Rev George Ball continues to provide much appreciated pulpit supply. We also look forward to Rev Don Burgess and Rev Dr Nobin Shunmugam to provide

some pulpit supply during October.

We continue to earnestly pray before the Throne of Grace for many persons and matters, including the prospering of the gospel throughout this nation and worldwide.

* * * * *

Manning

[Report by Joyce Bennett]

Spring has certainly come to the Manning, we are enjoying some wonderful weather. We give thanks to the Lord for the way in which he fills our pulpit week after week with men who faithfully proclaim his Word to us. We are very blest to have the elders and the visiting preachers that we have ministering to us, we are praying for a Pastor to lead us and know that in God's time he will provide one for us, we just have to be patient.

In our Thursday night Bible

Church News

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

Study we have finished going through the Gospel of John which has taken a couple of years, the flood that took out the Bight Bridge delayed our bible study for a while but we were able to resume in the home of Neil & Wilma Robinson, which to those who attended enjoyed very much in a homely environment.

As the result of the presbyterial visit on Friday 25th September, the members of Presbytery spoke very positively about our church fellowship, especially that we are coping well in the vacancy, and that members are appreciating the pulpit and Bible Study ministries. We press on!

* * * * *

Northern Rivers

[Report by Beth Sonter]

As it has been school holiday time, our usual mid week Bible studies and Sunday School have been in recess. These will resume when the holidays are over.

We trust that those who attended the recent family camp at Camp Elim had an enjoyable and rewarding time. From reports that I have heard it was a

great camp.

At our church luncheon held on the first Sunday of October we were saddened to farewell Ben and Zara Saljooghi.



Ben and Zara have been with us for some years, coming to us from Brisbane. They are now moving to Melbourne for career reasons. They will be spending a little time at the Gold Coast and then travelling to Europe for a well earned holiday before relocating to Melbourne. We wish them much happiness in this exciting new chapter of their life.

* * * * *

Ulverstone

[Report by Zach Dotson]

September came and went so quickly. In Ulverstone it was just as fast-paced. Pastor Dotson departed on the 14th to speak at the church camp. The month started off routinely, and later in the month we enjoyed the pulpit supply of Elder Isaac Peters from the Southern Presbyterian Church and a young Reformed Baptist student, Isaac Ambrose, both of whom were appreciated in the absence of our pastor.

Please remember our deacon, Robert Hingston, who has been in and out of the hospital with various health concerns, and his dear wife, Loretta, as she cares for him.

BRISBANE FAMILY CAMP 2026

Friday 11th - Monday 14th December

At Camp Drewe, Lennox Head, NSW

Speaker: Rev Dennis Muldoon

October 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 5 and 8)

Junior

1 John 1

1. For what purpose did John and the other apostles declare what they had seen and heard?
2. What is the result of our walking in the light?
3. What does God do when we confess our sins?

1 John 2

4. Who is our advocate with the Father? For whose sins is he also the propitiation? (2 verses)
5. What is the difference between one who loves his brother and one who hates his brother? (2 verses)
6. If any man love the world, what is not in him?
7. What is the description of one who denies the Father and the Son?
8. On what condition will we have confidence at Christ's coming?

2 Kings 2

1. What was Elisha's answer each time Elijah told him to stay behind at Gilgal, Bethel and Jericho?
2. What happened when Elijah smote the waters with his mantle?
3. How was Elijah taken to heaven?
4. What did Elisha cast into the spring [source] of waters to heal them?

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.

October Prayer Points

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

Thursday, 1st: At this year's done, what is taught, and the congregation as they prepare to meeting, it was affirmed that synod attitude of our hearts. move to Launceston later this month.

“gives thanks to God for the churches with whom we have formal fraternal relations and for those churches with whom we have contact and resolve to pray for the Lord's blessing upon their work and witness.” Pray for churches in the ICRC with us, including the Presbyterian Church in Uganda, and the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Africa (Uganda).

Friday, 2nd: Give thanks for the Family camp that was held at Camp Elim last month.

Saturday, 3rd: Pray for the Northern Presbytery, scheduled to meet today in Maclean.

Sunday, 4th: Pray that our worship services today may be consistent with biblical truth regarding what is

Monday, 5th: Pray for the ministry of the Ulverstone congregation.

Tuesday, 6th: Pray for the Ulverstone office-bearers: for Rev Zach Dotson, for elder Martin Pilgrim, and for deacon Robert Hingston.

Wednesday, 7th: 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, 8th: Pray for Isaac and Eloise Klazinga of the Brisbane

Friday, 9th: Pray for Jim and Julie Klazinga of the Brisbane congregation as they prepare to be overseas for three months, beginning next Monday.

Saturday, 10th: Pray for Rev Tso and Rev Klazinga as they prepare to attend the International Conference of Reformed Churches meeting taking place in Korea, beginning next week Wednesday.

Sunday, 11th: From a prayer entitled, ‘To Be Fit for God’ from ‘The Valley of Vision’ – “Thou Maker and Sustainer of all things, Day and night are thine, heaven and earth declare thy glory; But I, a creature of thy power and bounty, have sinned against thee by resisting

October Prayer Points

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

the dictates of conscience, the demands of thy law, the calls of thy gospel; yet I live under the dispensation of a given hope. Deliver me from worldly dispositions, for I am born from above and bound for glory. May I view and long after holiness as the beauty and dignity of the soul. Let me never slumber, never lose my assurance, never fail to wear armour when passing through enemy land.” Pray that our worship today will equip us to be fit for service in God’s kingdom.

Monday, 12th: Pray for the ministry of the Geelong congregation.

Tuesday, 13th: Pray for the Geelong office-bearers: for Rev John Forbes, and for elder Donald Ramsay.

Wednesday, 14th: Pray for Robin Tso and Jim Klazinga as they represent our denomination at the meeting of the International Conference of Reformed Churches in Seoul, Korea. The meeting begins tonight with a prayer service.

Thursday, 15th: Pray for the work of Mark and Rahel Landrum of the International Mission for Jewish People.

Friday, 16th: Pray for the older members in our congregations, many of whom are struggling with health difficulties.

Saturday, 17th: Give thanks for the ordination and induction of newly elected elders in the Hunter congregation: Rev George Ball, Mr David Barnes and Mr John Fluit.

Sunday, 18th: John Owen, in his collected works, writes, “It must be observed, that the description and representation of the Lord Christ and his glory in the Gospel is not... either dark or obscure; yea, it is perspicuous, plain, and direct. Christ is therein evidently set forth crucified, exalted, glorified.” Pray for those preaching in our congregations today, as they set forth Christ crucified, exalted, and glorified.

Monday, 19th: Pray for the ministry of the Melbourne congregation in Narre Warren and Carrum Downs.

Tuesday, 20th: Pray for the Melbourne office-bearers: for Rev David Lachman, and for the assessor elders serving on session.

Wednesday, 21st: Pray for the ICRC meeting in Seoul, Korea, which concludes tonight with a banquet dinner.

Thursday, 22nd: Pray for the continuing ministries of the Presbyterian Free Church of Central India.

Friday, 23rd: Pray for churches in the ICRC with us, including the Sudanese Reformed Churches, the Africa Evangelical Presbyterian Church (AEPC), and the United Reformed Church in Congo.

Saturday, 24th: Pray for Ben and Zara Saljooghi, formerly of the Northern Rivers congregation, who are moving from Maclean to Melbourne.

Sunday, 25th: WCF 21.5 states: “The reading of the Scriptures with godly fear, the sound

preaching and conscionable hearing of the Word, in obedience unto God, with understanding, faith and reverence, singing of psalms with grace in the heart; as also, the due administration and worthy receiving of the sacraments instituted by Christ, are all parts of the ordinary religious worship of God”. Pray that the worship our congregations offer today may be God-focused, obedient, and reverent.

Monday, 26th: Pray for the ministry of the Hawkesbury-Nepean congregation in West Sydney.

Tuesday, 27th: Pray for the Hawkesbury-Nepean office-bearers: for Rev Dennis Muldoon; for elders Tom Hallett and Tom Reeve; and for deacons Tevita Fihaki and Lopeti Latu.

Wednesday, 28th: Pray for Jim Klazinga as he represents the PCEA at the 7th General Assembly of the World Reformed Fellowship, being in Seoul from today until Friday.

Thursday, 29th: Pray for the ministry of Rev. Shanmugan Partheepan in the Reformed Protestant Mission in Sri Lanka.

Friday, 30th: Pray for preparations being made for the Brisbane Church camp being held in December. Pray for Rev Muldoon as he prepares to give the talks.

Saturday, 31st: Pray for Jim and Julie Klazinga as they travel to Canada today. They hope to return home around the middle of January.

