

# Tasmania Patrol

PRESBYTERIAN INLAND MISSION

APRIL 2020



A rural Christian feeding horses in drought prior to recent rainfalls

PIM CEO  
visiting with Kim  
in Waratah  
(West Coast)  
December 2019



## FROM CAR TO OFFICE

Due to Government restrictions and prudence, PIM is not conducting our usual physical patrols at present. We cannot risk potentially carrying Coronavirus from the city to people who are relatively isolated. The one exception is travel for compassionate reasons while maintaining social distancing. Regardless of the restrictions, we are still working, as explained on the next page (see *On Patrol*). The ongoing aim of PIM is to work with people in isolated places, so at this time when we are all isolating, we do not want to disappear from the scene and let people down. PIM can play a vital role in supporting the mental wellbeing of rural people and sharing the Gospel in this challenging time.

At this extraordinary point in our lives when we are all being shaken, may we find comfort in God and His word. ***Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."*** Psalm 91:1,2. May Tasmania Patrol supporters, our pastors, sessions and congregations, find strength, peace and joy in the Lord, as we look to Him.



WORK  
LOCATION  
IN FEBRUARY

WORK  
LOCATION  
IN APRIL



## ON PATROL

Until recently, patrol work was like any other year; on the road in the four wheel drive. Now patrol work is operated from my desk at home, over the phone or using on line resources. At PIM, we believe it is vital to stay connected to those in rural and isolated places throughout the Coronavirus Pandemic. We are able to offer support and encouragement to Christian believers who may not have a strong church support network. It is also important to stay in contact with the non believers we normally visit, offering a listening ear, genuine care and the opportunity to discuss the Gospel in these uncertain times.

Occasionally I conduct 'mercy trips' to deliver groceries to families who are unable to leave their home due to illness. For example, Paul is recovering at home after recent illness but is unable to drive and no one else in the household has a driver licence. The photo on this page was taken on one such trip, which happened to be a very wet day. The rain clouds enveloped the landscape as I crossed a hilly ridge.

While Stanley and Kirklands' services are suspended, I am staying in touch with members by phone. The weekly bush Bible study uses *Congregation Connect*.



## CONGREGATION CONNECT

More than 45 groups are using CC on a Sunday to have services 'together'. It is a versatile platform which allows interaction for those participating, whilst staying in their own home. For further information, visit the PIM website and click on *Congregation Connect*.

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Generous churches and individuals make the ministry of PIM possible at this challenging time. If you are in a position to partner with Kim in taking Christian care and the message of Jesus to fellow Aussies who live in the bush; regular monthly support or one-off gifts for the Tasmania Patrol can be made by visiting the PIM website and going to the Tasmania Patrol page. Or alternatively contact Kim by phone or email. Thanks so much to those already giving!

## PRAYER and PRAISE

I am aware that some Tasmania Patrol supporters will be doing it really tough in this crisis, so let us pray for each other; for those who have lost a loved one, for those who are unwell, for those who have lost income and those who are separated from family and friends. We praise God if supporters are able to continue financially supporting Tasmania Patrol, but please don't put your own wellbeing in jeopardy. Please pray that the Good News may have an impact on the 'patrol regulars' who are contacted by phone. At this time when our normal security is threatened, may these rural people look to a new security in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour!



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