

On Track

The Newsletter of Presbyterian Inland Mission
Issue 2, 2019

Sowing seeds of hope

'Fred' is a farmer in his 70s with the physical energy of a 30-year-old. At the age of 60 he started a new sport – snow skiing!!

A 'notorious loner', Fred lives a reclusive lifestyle on a property in western Queensland. When a neighbour suggested that Greg and Janet Cripps should pay extra attention to Fred, Greg and Janet realised that Fred was really struggling. Depression and other mental illnesses are not uncommon for people living in isolated places.

So Greg and Janet went to visit him. Fred is well known in the area for his 'limited' hospitality – there's a running joke amongst the locals that you'll never get a meal out of him when you come to call – yet during their visit, he made Janet something to eat... something the locals took as a sign of his high regard for the PIM team.

Fred, like many people in the bush, had heard a bit about God during his school years, but he hadn't explored Christianity since then. PIM teams often find that people living in the outback have a strong independent nature. This same strength that helps them to survive the physical challenges of living in a remote area can easily become a spiritual obstacle, making them blind to their true spiritual needs.

When Greg and Janet began chatting with Fred about the difficulties he was experiencing with his mental health, they were able to counsel him, give him guidance, and most importantly, give him God's Word.

Fred is a man of his word, so when Greg and Janet gave him a Bible and he promised to read it, they left believing that he would not only read it, but that he would see God in a new light.

Pray with us that God will use the Bible that Greg and Janet have given him, to bring Fred to Himself.

10 As the rain and the snow
come down from heaven,
and do not return to it
without watering the earth
and making it bud and flourish,
so that it yields seed for the sower
and bread for the eater,

11 so is my word that goes out from my mouth:
It will not return to me empty,
but will accomplish what I desire
and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

Isaiah 55:9-11 (NIV) ●

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Worth driving for

'Tag Along' success

Greg and Janet Cripps were joined by 15 people on their recent 'Tag Along' through part of their south Queensland Patrol area.

The team spent just over two weeks together, enjoying morning devotions, visiting local churches for Sunday worship, and helping at the Yaraka gymkhana. Everyone in the team chipped in to help and all enjoyed the hands-on experience.

A Tag Along is a wonderful opportunity to experience a little of Patrol life, while at the same time giving something back to the people of these remote areas. Please pray for a spiritual hunger for those with whom the Tag Along team connected. ●



🗨️ SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Across generations

David and Gae McDonald share this story from their work in the area around Bourke, NSW.

We were introduced to an Aboriginal woman affectionately called 'Auntie' by her niece. Auntie was raising her approximately five-year-old grandnephew, Mark. Mark's mother was killed in an act of domestic violence by his father, who was under the influence of drugs. Mark's father is now in jail, and Mark is totally reliant on Auntie's care.

We visited Auntie and gave her a children's Bible for the little boy. We also gave her a Daily Bread devotional for her own spiritual growth. Auntie has been teaching Mark Sunday school songs, reading stories from the Bible and teaching him about God.

There is a little girl from next door joining in the Sunday school, too. She has a single dad, who we are getting to know, and he has also allowed us to give his daughter a children's Bible.

On one occasion, we went for a walk with Auntie, and she began to sing 'I have decided to follow Jesus'. Mark was a little shy, so we joined in and sang along to encourage him. There we were, the three of us, singing on the bank of the Barcoo river by a billabong. We were then able to pray with Auntie and talk with her about Jesus. She can't get to church any more, as it's over an hour away, and she is without a car and a licence. Others living in her community aren't keen to go to church, so that makes it hard for her.



We have plans to keep in close contact and begin fellowshiping with Auntie and her sister. She was very excited that we called in, and that we also invited her sister to fellowship with us in the future.

Being there made a big difference to Auntie. A significant result from our visit was that she realised the book she was using for reading Bible stories to Mark wasn't age appropriate, and this made it hard for him to follow. It lacked pictures, and had a lot of writing. In addition to the children's Bible, we gave Mark a Lost Sheep kids' book that he could easily flick through, and he held it very tightly. Each time we visit, we give one of these books to Mark to share with the little girl next door. Auntie was very grateful; grateful for the connection, the prayer and the Christian fellowship. ●

Thanks for supporting Kim



We recently sent a letter to some of you, seeking additional financial support for Kim Jaeger's ministry to isolated Tasmanians. We have been grateful for the encouraging response. If you'd like to join in supporting Kim financially, please make a donation via Kim's page on our website or by completing the response form in this issue of On Track.

Welcome Natalie!



Natalie Miller has recently joined the PIM team in the part-time role of Communications Officer. Natalie is helping us to improve the way we connect with you. Perhaps you have seen the new poster we have developed to keep the various PIM Teams visible to our faithful prayer supporters. If you'd like a copy please email communications@pim.org.au

An opportunity for service

After five years of service, Surendra and May Wesley have decided to move on from Mt Magnet, WA at the end of 2019 and have accepted a call to Victoria.

This creates an opportunity for a suitably qualified couple to join an exciting ministry that is bearing fruit in a unique location. Current activities include weekly church services, a well-attended Sunday school, town-based outreach and local patrol ministry.

If you have a heart for the lost and a desire to help God's people grow in maturity, and you have skills in evangelism, one-to-one discipling, preaching and small group leadership, then this might be a role for you.

A track record of effective service as an elder, home missionary or pastor in a Presbyterian Church is desirable, as is some formal theological training. The ministry work in Mt Magnet is a joint work of the Presbytery of WA, APWM and PIM.

Please contact Andrew Letcher, CEO of PIM, by email to ceo@pim.org.au or phone 0438 868 964 to request an information pack or to express your interest.

My Gift to show Jesus' love to Australians in the outback

I want to help share the Gospel with more people and communities in remote and isolated regions of Australia.

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☐ I'd like to receive future On Track updates from PIM. Here are my details:

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CEO'S CORNER

From Andrew to you

I recently had the privilege of attending the commissioning service for the new National Director of the Bush Church Aid Society (of the Anglican Church). They are also celebrating their centenary this year and so, like PIM, they have a rich and long history of taking the Gospel to isolated Australians.



BCA's founder, SJ Kirkby, used to say that BCA people needed 'Grace and Grit and Gumption'. I reckon that is a great description of what PIM people need as well.

Grace – to deal well with all sorts of people and situations, to handle disagreements and criticism healthily and to be generous towards people who may not always treat us well.

Grit – to stick at the task even when it gets hard, hot and dusty, and tiresome.

Gumption – the get-up-and-go to tackle difficult problems and use our courage, imagination and initiative to find solutions.

I really like that phrase, so I am going to steal it (giving Kirkby the original credit, of course)!

But it is not just PIM or BCA people who need Grace, Grit and Gumption. Those qualities are also needed by you in your local church and community as you seek to live out Jesus' Great Commission (Matthew 28: 16-20). How can you apply them where you are this week?

On another note, we recently put out a call seeking extra funds for the work of Kim Jaeger in Tasmania. We have been blessed and humbled by the generous response from many of you – so a big thank you!

Proclaiming the Good News of our Lord Jesus Christ really is Worth Driving For.

Thanks for being part of the mission of PIM.

Yours in Christ,

Andrew Letcher
CEO

PRESBYTERIAN INLAND MISSION
PO Box 287, Woori Yallock VIC 3139
☎ 03 9005 8256 ✉ admin@pim.org.au
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Worth driving for



PRIVACY: PIM values the privacy of the people we work with, therefore, we may at times change the names of people in stories, substitute photos or obscure some geographic details that might identify them. However, all the stories we tell are true and accurately convey what we see God doing in people's lives.