

On Track

The Newsletter of Presbyterian Inland Mission
Issue 3, 2019

New Dunesk

Changing the way we do things as an organisation can present quite a challenge, but when what has served us well in the past is not working as well as it used to, change becomes vital.

One of the keys to successfully improving a ministry is working out what should be changed and what must never change. For a local church, that might mean resolving to never change core biblically-based doctrines or preaching. But changing the curtains, the rostering or location, may well be contemplated.

Faced with a growing famine of the Word of God in both remote and rural Australia, the PIM Committee has been grappling with how to best change PIM so that we can be more effective, now and also for decades to come.

What is not changing with PIM is our long held commitment to making disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ in the remote and sparsely populated parts of our continent. What is changing is the way we engage people in this vital task. Recruiting people for PIM Patrol ministries has been very difficult for many years. Despite significant effort, we are simply not finding enough new people to join the PIM Team.

The gospel needs in the bush are enormous, but the PIM workforce is very small. PIM's New Dunesk proposal seeks to change that by creating all kinds of new ways for people to become involved in God's Mission to our nation.

The PIM Committee has been developing and refining the New Dunesk proposal for more than 18 months. In September, we presented it to the

General Assembly of Australia for approval. It was warmly received and approved by the GAA, and PIM will now go ahead and *'Establish a rural facility from which God's people will be inspired, equipped and sent out for ministry to INLAND Australia.'*

In short, this means we will purchase a property in rural NSW that can be set up as a centre where PIM will run various programmes aimed at getting people from our churches personally involved in the work of proclaiming Christ to our nation ... people just like you - Inspired, Equipped, and Sent Out.

In the past, there has really only been one way to serve with PIM – as a Patrol worker. That's a tough job, as it requires significant commitment and sacrifice, and not everyone is suited to the lifestyle it requires. From New Dunesk we will seek to create new ways for people to become involved. It will be the same Mission, but will offer different ways to serve. Perhaps you are a Grey Nomad looking to use your time, skills and lifestyle to do something really worthwhile for the Lord. Maybe you are finishing school soon and are prayerfully considering how you can best serve the Lord during a Gap Year. Perhaps you are involved in a local church and want to build your everyday evangelism and discipling skills. Maybe you are a young family with a camper trailer, looking for a way to meet other families and be inspired by what God is doing in our country. Whatever your stage in life, New Dunesk will very likely provide a way for you to become involved in mission.

At the time of writing, we haven't yet purchased a property, but the search is well under way. Stay tuned to our Facebook page for updates on New Dunesk. ●

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Worth driving for



OPPORTUNITY FOR SERVICE

Mt Magnet, WA

We have an opportunity for a suitably qualified couple to get involved in an exciting ministry that is bearing fruit in a unique location – Mt Magnet, WA.

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



FUTURE PLANS

Getting involved

There will be many ways that you can get involved at New Dunesk. Here are a few of our initial plans.

PIM Nomads Network

We meet Grey Nomads all over the country who enjoy their lifestyle but express a desire to do something meaningful with their time. The PIM Nomad Network will seek to do that through:

- A five-day training programme early in the year to help equip you for on the road evangelism, serving in small country churches, and edifying God's people in remote places.
- Helping you form a network of like-minded friends for the journey, with whom you can enjoy fellowship and find opportunities to serve together.
- Homeward Bound, a relaxed weekend of camping, fellowship and debriefing at the end of the Grey Nomad season.

Country Elders Conference

Serving as an elder in a remote or rural church is a wonderful privilege, but it comes with challenges that are often not experienced by elders in city churches. The PIM Country Elders Conference will aim to inspire and equip you in your role, so that you can help shepherd your congregation and help them grow in Christian maturity.



Gap Year

The PIM Gap Year programme aims to inspire school leavers to think deeply about their relationship with Christ, and how they will personally pursue the Great Commission throughout their lives, particularly with a focus on remote and rural Australia. Our Gappies will develop some initial vocational skills to help them find future employment in the rural sector and ministry skills to help them serve effectively in a local church and in the community. They will undertake some introductory Bible and ministry studies and gain frontline ministry experience in evangelism, discipling and pastoral work.

Stay tuned for more information on these and other new programmes as we roll out New Dunesk in 2020. ●

The 'New Dunesk' name

Way back in the early 1900's, Henrietta Smith of Dunesk, in Scotland, gave a financial gift that made it possible to establish what became the 'Smith of Dunesk Mission' in Beltana, South Australia. From this small church building in the outback, men such as John Flynn and his contemporaries developed a heart for people living in isolated parts of our continent, and this gave birth to a vision that established, among other ministries, the Australian Inland Mission (predecessor to PIM) and the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

The vision for 'New Dunesk' began to really take shape on ANZAC Day 2018, around a campfire on a small hill overlooking the Smith of Dunesk Mission building. A small group of PIMers discussed and shaped the initial idea and turned it into a vision that they hoped would give birth to a whole new way of PIM pursuing its mission in a changing world. The name 'New Dunesk' was adopted as an informal title for the project and it stuck. The concept was presented to the whole PIM Committee a few months later and it grew and developed from there. And along the way, the Committee decided that 'New Dunesk' was an apt name, that connected PIM's future with the past, while also capturing the essence of setting up a property to serve as a base from which to send God's people out on mission.

Find us on Facebook

@PresbyterianInlandMission

Facebook is a great way to get timely updates about what is happening in the PIM world so that you can pray in an informed manner. To find us, look for "Presbyterian Inland Mission (PIM)" on Facebook, and then click 'Like'. After doing so, you should start seeing our regular updates pop up in your news feed from time to time.

Henty happenings



In September, congregations from the Presbytery of Southern Rivers (NSW) worked together to put on the Pastoral 4 Pastoral stand at the Henty Machinery Field Days. With the occasion attracting 60,000 visitors from a 500km radius around Henty, this was a great opportunity for the churches to connect with a wide range of people and share gospel conversations of varying depths. Our CEO Andrew was invited to join in and spent a couple of days as part of the team. He is pictured here with Ryan Rudolph from St Aidan's, Wagga.

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.

☐ Enclosed is my gift of

\$ _____

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

Name: _____

Postal address: _____

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Please detach and return with your gift.

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Please send to:

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Web donations:
www.pim.org.au

CEO'S CORNER

From Andrew to you

One of the privileges of my role is having opportunities to share with churches, small groups and individuals about the ministry of PIM. We have a great team and God is working through them to bring people into relationship with Himself, some of whom are in very out-of-the-way places.



I enjoy sharing stories I have heard about what God is doing in our nation, as well as the struggles and challenges our teams face each time they head out on the road to proclaim Christ.

I like to remind people that there are three ways they can become involved in what God is doing in the world:

1. Through Prayer. Reaching the lost with the Good News of the Gospel is only effective if God is at work. We can't do it on our own. Repeatedly through Scripture we are called to be a people who pray and ask God to act. I ask people to pray for our PIM Teams, and I know our PIM Teams pray for the people with whom they are working.
2. Through Financial Support. PIM's Ministry costs money, and that money comes mainly through the generous gifts of God's people.
3. Through Discipleship. The Great Commission is given to each and every Christian. Much of PIM's ministry happens in a one-to-one context, and often it starts with a simple chat between friends that moves on to deeper spiritual matters.

As you read this edition of On Track, you will begin to get a picture of what we are trying to do with our New Dunesk plan. We are creating ways for people like you to become involved in the work of PIM in a more hands on way. Keep an eye out for news of developments – there will probably be an event or two at New Dunesk that will capture your interest as you look for ways to live out the Gospel where God has placed 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

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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.