

# On Track

The Newsletter of Presbyterian Inland Mission  
Issue 4, 2019



## Christ's love opens hearts

**Sharing Christ's love, and showing genuine interest in the lives of others, builds trust and respect in relationships. PIM Ministry Teams make this their priority in their work.**

John 15:18 "If the world hates you, you know that it hated me before it hated you."

Greg Cripps writes:

We visited a large western property some 5 years ago and met the manager and his family for the first time. As is normal in the bush, they were welcoming and hospitable. Over a cuppa, the manager shared they were having generator problems and suddenly the power surged and the generator stopped.

I headed over to his shed to see what the problem was and possibly offer some help. It turned out the water pump bearing on the motor had seized and the safety switch had shut the motor down. This was repaired and the reassuring sound from the diesel motor echoed across the yards.

While walking back to the house, he thanked me but also reminded me that he was not religious and was uncomfortable with the thought of it.

This reaction has not been uncommon, but we find over time as we show Christ's love to the folk we meet, and take a genuine interest in their lives, this often disappears and is replaced with a trust and respect.

Over the next couple of years, we had more and more to do with this couple and were able to help them out a few times.

On one occasion, I was driving the property's road train, carting water, and had stopped to talk to some local council workers who were also chatting to the manager.

He introduced me as 'the preacher' and clearly tried to embarrass me in front of the crowd. I didn't react, but a few nights later, when he thanked me for helping 'at just the right moment,' I asked him why he said what he did. His answer was that he was still uncomfortable with us being religious. My reply was that surely by now he could see we genuinely regarded them as friends, and I left it at that.

On two occasions in the last 12 months, he has phoned me asking could we meet and talk. Some troubling things had occurred in his wider family and he didn't know who to talk to about them.

Consequently, we had some open and challenging chats one-on-one, and were even able to meet and camp one night 3½ hours from their property. After a long talk, I asked him if I could pray for him and his particular concerns. He accepted, and early the next morning, as he left, he said, 'You have left a lot for me to think about.'

We now have regular contact, a growing friendship and the Holy Spirit is quietly prompting this man to think deeper.

This just proves that even when we are 'hated,' God can use that for His glory. ●

### In this issue

2 Farewell Wesleys | 2 Tales from Tassie | 4 Serving around Swan Hill



Worth driving for

## Farewell Wesleys

It is always sad when we must farewell people, but it is also a time when we can reflect and celebrate what God has done through them. When Surendra and May Wesley finish up at Mt Magnet just before Christmas, it will be the end of 5 years of faithful service there. God has been at work in the town and the Wesleys have been put to good use by Him. They have been active in the life of the town itself and also on patrol work in the wider area. The Sunday School ministry has been a big blessing, and has seen the Gospel proclaimed to kids who would otherwise have very little other opportunity to hear. In the same way that Surendra and May were able to build on the work of those who went before them, we are praying that the next couple to go there will in turn be able to build on the work the Wesleys have done. Please join with us in praying that the Lord will raise up the right couple for the next season of the work in Mt Magnet. ●



### 🗨️ SPIRITUAL GROWTH

## Tales from Tassie

**Kim Jaeger, our southernmost PIM Team member, is blessed to experience the beautiful diversity of our smallest state, Tasmania, on a regular basis.**

Not only is this seen in God's Creation, from snow-lined highways to dusty fern-lined tracks, but Kim also experiences this in the different ways his encounters with locals, both believers and non-believers, play out.

Kim has developed some networks with local Christians, in an effort to reach the lost and those with questions of faith. Pray with them, that together they may be able to hold a BBQ and an Introduction to Christianity in the southern midlands next year. Their prayer is that this may lead to a follow-up BBQ and ultimately to a short course about Christianity.

In the bush, a few Christian believers have joined with Kim for a weekly Bible study. They have explored a study focussing on Jesus, and will now move into a new study on Christian contentment. These study times have led to helpful and encouraging discussions focussed on God's Word, as well as prayer and support in times of difficulty and discouragement.

When he travels, Kim knows first-hand that the PIM logo on his vehicle is a reminder of the calling God has placed on his life to those with whom he comes in contact. While filling up at the bowser of a rural service station recently, Kim heard over the loudspeaker, 'You are being watched from above, behave yourself.' The prankster was the station attendant, a regular whom Kim visits on his bush



block, and their conversation often reverts to the 'One who is above'. Please pray that the 'One above' will be fully revealed to this man.

Whilst the reactions of some to seeing Kim can be jovial, other interactions take on a more serious tone. On one rural visit, some Christian artwork led Kim and a self-confessed atheist into a lengthy 'meaning of life' discussion. Church, denominations, why faith?, and Jesus' authenticity all entered the conversation. Please pray that Kim will have meaningful follow-up visits with this contact.

Tasmania has garnered quite a reputation for its love of food, fellowship and art and its slower-paced life than that of 'the mainland'. Kim's recent visits are a testament to this. However, as the weather warms up in Tasmania, making for some pleasant rural patrols, the spiritual needs remain as great as ever. Please pray for spiritually-parched souls, that they may be open to Kim's visits as he brings the Good News of Jesus. ●



## Serving around Swan Hill

Whilst visiting farmers on remote properties within their Patrol areas, our Ministry Teams sometimes try to connect people into their local church. This isn't always easy, due to a number of rural parishes closing as a result of lack of numbers and no ministers to hold services.

At Swan Hill Presbyterian Church, in north-western Victoria, a monthly Sunday service is currently held by the Presbytery. Colin Morrow, from the Mungo Patrol, is assisting the Presbytery by running a monthly mid-week service, to ensure the people of the area have more regular fellowship and the opportunity to hear God's Word preached. Through God's grace, Colin and Alison have seen a few of the people they have visited on nearby stations attend.

On the third Wednesday in December this year there will be a Christmas service at Swan Hill Presbyterian Church. After the service, those in attendance will share a Christmas lunch.

Please pray with Colin and Alison for growth in this church, particularly that the congregation would grow in their acceptance, understanding and love of God's Word.

## New PCV Moderator



In October, the Presbyterian Church of Victoria appointed Colin Morrow, from PIM's Mungo Patrol, as its Moderator for the next 12 months.

Colin asked PIM CEO Andrew Letcher and PIM Committee Member Martin de Pyle to be his Chaplains. Please pray for Colin, Andrew and Martin in the year ahead as they serve the PCV in this capacity.

This is a wonderful opportunity for members of the PCV to gain a greater recognition and understanding of the work that PIM does to take the Gospel to those in remote and isolated areas of our country.

## Supporting PIM

### Dollars for Diesel

For many years we have run 'Dollars for Diesel' as a fundraising initiative. It has served us well, but its effectiveness is declining and it is time to retire it.

If you have been giving to Dollars for Diesel, thank you! For future gifts, please consider directing them towards the support of one of our Ministry teams. Or send them to us with a note for them to be used 'Where Most Needed' – and we will allocate them to the area of our work that most needs your donation at the time.

### Receipts

Each month we receive a number of unidentified donations directly into our bank account. If you are making donations into our bank account, but are not getting a receipt, please contact us – it may help us solve a mystery at our end.

## 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

PRESBYTERIAN INLAND MISSION  
PO Box 287  
Woori Yallock VIC 3139

[www.pim.org.au](http://www.pim.org.au)



Worth driving for

Please detach and return with your gift.

## Reply Form

I would like to give

\$

by:

☐ Cheque (enclosed)

☐ Money order (enclosed)

Made out to 'Presbyterian  
Inland Mission'

☐ Credit card

☐ Visa

☐ MasterCard

Card number:

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Expiry date:

				/			
--	--	--	--	---	--	--	--

CVV:

--	--	--	--

Print name: (as it appears on your card)


Signature:

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Daytime phone number:

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Email:

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

☐ Please send me more  
information about making  
a monthly donation from  
my credit card.

Please send to:

PRESBYTERIAN INLAND MISSION  
PO Box 287  
Woori Yallock VIC 3139  
ABN 41 197 813 187



Web donations:  
[www.pim.org.au](http://www.pim.org.au)

## CEO'S CORNER

# From Andrew to you

I am surprised by how much I like opening mail these days. At home its usually bills in the letter box, but when I go to the PIM Post Office Box to pick up the mail, there is usually a nice little bundle of envelopes, most of which contain cheques from God's people to support the work of PIM.



Some of these cheques come from long term supporters, and others are from first time donors. Some come from churches or PWAs who have raised much needed funds for PIM. Many are from individuals. Whether a cheque is for \$30 or \$3,000 I am always thankful, not just because the funds will help with the work of proclaiming the good news of Jesus in our remote areas, but also for the thoughts, prayers and interest that comes from those who send the cheques.

Often a cheque will arrive with a handwritten note, expressing love and support for the PIM Teams. At times, I suspect that some of these gifts come from people who really don't have a lot of money to spare. That's always a good reminder to me to make sure PIM is being a diligent steward of what has been entrusted to us.

If you have given financially to support the ministry of PIM during this past year, thank you! You have played an important part in the mission of making disciples in some of the out-of-the-way places in our land, and we have sought to use your gift well.

As Christmas approaches, I hope you can pause from the busyness of the season and reflect on the truly transformational gift that the Father gave to us when he sent the Son. Whether you live on a remote sheep station or in a suburban housing estate, the forgiveness of sins that comes to us through Christ Jesus is truly something to celebrate!

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](mailto:admin@pim.org.au)  
📘 @PresbyterianInlandMission

[www.pim.org.au](http://www.pim.org.au)



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.