

On Track



Exciting Gospel advance in outback WA

PIM is very pleased to announce the appointment of Michael and Jemima McNair to the Mt Magnet Presbyterian Church in outback WA. The McNairs will build on the good work done there by Alvin and Narelle Chai, now of New Dunesk.

Michael and Jemima have previously served at Mt Evelyn Presbyterian Church in Melbourne, where Michael was an elder and church treasurer, and Jemima a faithful servant of the Lord Jesus. The McNairs have been praying for many years for the Lord to open the door for Christian service in outback WA. At the 2024 PIM Gospel Nomads launch event at New Dunesk, the gospel needs of remote and very remote Australia were reinforced afresh by speakers David Burke and Dave Hawken. Alvin Chai also brought encouragement and guidance to Michael and Jemima as they pursued ministry with PIM and Gospelair.

This PIM appointment allows Michael to also minister with Gospelair in a 50/50 arrangement. Gospelair was founded by the Rev Geoff van Schie, a well-known minister of the Christian Reformed Churches, and is a significant aerial ministry in outback WA, visiting schools in Mt Magnet, Meekatharra, Cue and the very remote community at Pia Wadjarri. Every second week, five schools are visited by small plane and 11 one-hour classes are held for up to 140 mostly indigenous children.

The gospel synergies of these two ministries opens many more doors in remote mid-west WA, while also reinforcing the wonderful relationship between the Presbyterian Church of Australia and the Christian Reformed Churches of Australia.



Michael said 'For ten years God has been prompting me in the direction of outback ministry. I love getting along side people and talking about Jesus Christ. Whether old or young, coming from Glasgow (Scotland) and a difficult family background, I know and understand the struggle to maintain wellness and hope. Mt Magnet represents an opportunity to get alongside the residents of the town and the district including the local Badimaya people.'

Generous supporters have stepped forward to stand with Michael and Jemima, but there is always a need for more to join the team in prayer, personal interest, and financial support. Please consider joining Michael and Jemima in this vital gospel work in remote and very remote Australia.

Pictured above: Jemima and Michael McNair

Header image: Rev Geoff van Schie of Gospelair and Michael McNair of Mount Magnet Presbyterian Church.

Christ College receives the call to gospel ministry in remote Australia

Christ College Sydney hosts a weekly lunchtime presentation, *Living for Christ*, to students and staff on a wide range of subjects related to Christian living and service.

Superintendent Stuart Bonnington was recently invited to speak about the ministry of PIM both at New Dunesk and the various patrol ministries across Australia.

It was a helpful, encouraging time as the Christ College community received the call to gospel ministry in remote and very remote Australia. The gathering concluded with prayer around tables using the prayer points on the PIM prayer bookmark.



Pictured above: PIM Superintendent Rev Stuart Bonnington with Kevin Murray, National Director of the Australian Presbyterian World Mission (APWM).

How shall they hear without a preacher?

It has been a privilege for PIM and for country believers from across NSW and Victoria to benefit from the teaching of the Langham Partnership over the last few years through the Country Preachers Workshop held at New Dunesk.

Langham seeks to address the critical lack of biblical training and resources in areas where Christianity is growing the fastest but where biblically based educational opportunities are limited. Remote and very remote Australia has become an area of interest to Langham, leading to great benefit for country churches and the PIM.

In June, an eager group of Christian believers drawn from ACT, NSW, Victoria and WA gathered at New Dunesk to attend the last in the current three year cycle of Country Preachers Workshops.



With such a keen group of believers, the Rev Tim Anderson and the Rev Wayne Schuller, gifted teachers themselves, made a very good job of imparting skills in preaching the Old Testament in a Christ centred way.

PIM Gospel Nomads Ron and Lynn-Marie Hick (Mittagong NSW) served their brothers and sisters by providing very hearty catering over the four-day event.

While it was very cold at New Dunesk, the fellowship was warm and the wood stove in the Piggery where the teaching was held kept everyone toasty!

The vision of New Dunesk being a place to inspire, equip and send the Lord's people into gospel ministry across Australia was abundantly fulfilled at the 2024 Country Preachers Workshop. Attendees also gained a deeper vision for God's work and their place in it.



Congratulations Colin and Alison

PIM would like to extend a warm congratulations to Colin and Alison Morrow on the recent celebration of 10 years serving on the Mungo Patrol.

Colin and Alison write:

"Ten years! And what a decade it's been. When we listened to God's call on our lives and came to Mildura to do full-time ministry, we could never have imagined the incredible blessing it would be on our own lives. We have met many people, made wonderful friends, learnt about country life, learnt about farming, studied God's Word and we have seen the Lord work in people's lives in the most amazing ways.

We have also driven! Driven many miles over many different roads. Why do we do that? Well, PIM has a tagline on the logo, "Worth driving for". There are many people in the outback. Believers, unbelievers, those who are seeking, those who are asking questions. All those people need to hear the Gospel, need to study God's Word, need to meet with fellow believers. All those people are, indeed, worth driving for. Thank you for being part of this ministry. Thank you for your support. We look forward to our future years here in Mildura and are excited to see what the Lord has in store."



Tracks: Outback Concert

5th October 2024

Make a plan for Tracks: Outback Concert and book your tickets today!

Tickets: \$60 per person - children under 18 attend for free!

Tickets include free camping onsite at New Dunesk from Friday 4th - Sunday 6th October.

Camp out under the stars, sit around a warm campfire and enjoy live music from a fantastic lineup of Australian country singers, including *Mayfair Lane*, *McQuoid's Offering* and *Zoe Tyne*.

Other highlights of the weekend will include:

- A meet and greet with many of PIM's ministry teams to hear about the work they are doing across Australia.
- 4WD guided tours of New Dunesk, and self-guided bushwalks following the *Ridgeline loop* trail map.
- A range of kids activities, including a colouring competition and face painting!
- Morning prayer meetings on the ridgeline.
- Launch of the PIM Anthem '*For the Inland*'.
- Onsite church service on Sunday morning.

For more information and to book visit pim.org.au/events/tracks.
Questions? Email events@pim.org.au or call Stuart on 0438 868 964.

Pray for the PIM everyday

"Pray for us that the message of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honoured," 2 Thess 3:1

Sunday

That hearts would be opened to the Lord Jesus Christ as He is proclaimed by the PIM teams.

Monday

For God to raise up more PIM workers to serve the remote and isolated areas of Australia.

Tuesday

For the health, safety, faithfulness, fruitfulness, and longevity of PIM teams as they seek to make disciples for Christ.

Wednesday

For the finance and wisdom required to develop, sustain and advance the ministry of PIM.

Thursday

That New Dunesk would inspire, equip, and send out ministry to inland Australia.

Friday

That more PCA congregations would become regular, prayerful supporters of the work of PIM.

Saturday

That those who lead and administer PIM may make wise decisions to advance Christian discipleship.

✦ Superintendent's corner

Inland update

As I move around the PCA as part of my work with PIM, I am consistently impressed with the desire I find everywhere to honour the Lord Jesus Christ and to encourage the spreading of his message of new life.

The PIM seeks to be involved in this through our ministry of relational based, intentional evangelism and discipleship among the people of remote and very remote Australia.



Recently in my home congregation of Albany, we heard a great message from our minister the Rev Ben Wingard. Ben spoke to our task in the PIM when talking about the parable of the dragnet. *"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet that was cast into the sea and gathered some of every kind, which, when it was full, they drew to shore ..."* (Matthew 13:47-48a). I am very thankful for ministers like Ben who preach the Word prayerfully, powerfully, passionately, and persistently and in doing so, place the work of the PIM before the congregations they serve.

Ben said in part:

Here in the parable of the dragnet Jesus shifts the focus of his teaching to the task he left his people working together in making his message known, in the world around us.

While it is true that some believers may have a great gift of evangelism, all believers are called to share in this task as part of a team effort, like those on the two boats who worked together to prepare the vessels, to set sail, to place the net between the boats to catch the fish and to bring the catch in.

The Kingdom of Jesus is like the dragnet. Here we are called thereby to gather, to cooperate as the disciples of Jesus did to set, place and cast our 'nets' wide in the gospel task. We are called to work, to witness, to preach, to labour that others might be 'captivated' by Jesus.

I am pleased to report that the ministry of PIM continues to advance by the grace of God. New fields of work are beginning to emerge and open before us. There is so much more to do and to be done. We can plant and water but above all we look to God to give the increase of course.

We are thrilled with the recent strengthening of PIM represented in the appointment to Mt Magnet of Michael and Jemima McNair. Like all PIM workers, Michael and Jemima need our support. Pray for the McNairs, take an interest in them, perhaps even support them financially. While we are very grateful already to their very generous supporters, there is always room for more.

As you think about the parable of the dragnet perhaps you might consider some form of gospel partnership with PIM where you can cooperate with fellow believers to preach the gospel 'in the regions beyond'. I would love to have contact with you directly to explore how this might come to be. Please ring me on 0438 868 964 or send an email superintendent@pim.org.au.

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