

# ON TRACK

ISSUE 1 | 2019

The Newsletter of Presbyterian Inland Mission



## A spiritual curiosity and longing for God

Kim first met Kevin through a God orchestrated 'chance meeting'. Kim had stopped at a local service station just out of Hobart to fuel up for the trip ahead. Kevin noticed the PIM logo on Kim's vehicle. Curious, he asked Kim what PIM stood for. This led to a conversation about PIM's ministry and about the God we serve.

About a month later Kim was on the road visiting people and he happened upon the same man at a small property. Kevin was immediately enthusiastic, clearly pleased to see Kim again, and they spent some time together discussing God and Christianity. Kevin shared that he had a Catholic upbringing, but it was clear that his experiences had made him wary of God and the church. Kevin had a 'hell fire & brimstone' perception of God. In his mind, God was just a harsh judge and not a loving father. Kim shared with Kevin the message about the love and grace of God. Kevin openly received Kim's message, showing an interest in learning more. He said he would take some time to contemplate it and compare it to his previous experiences.

Kim's friendship with Kevin has continued to grow, and when Kim can't get out to see him, Kevin will call him up on the phone to chat. Kevin feels safe in sharing his thoughts and wonderings with Kim and has sought Kim's

counsel on behalf of one of his family members who has been deeply hurt by others. Kim regularly prays and intercedes for Kevin and his family, something which Kevin has shown appreciation for.

Clearly Kevin took a liking to Kim at their first meeting, and the friendship has grown. Kevin has asked Kim for assistance building the fence on his property, a venture which is giving Kim time to prove his love and commitment to Kevin and create more opportunities to talk about what God is really like and how Kevin could come to know Him personally. Thanks to that first 'random' God arranged appointment, Kevin's spiritual longing is being stirred through the ongoing friendship, and as Kevin gets to know Kim as a faithful friend, he's also getting to know God as a loving Father.

The ministry of PIM brings a voice of hope and truth into the lives of people like Kevin. We often have the opportunity to bear witness to the outrageous love of our Father, as He seeks out those who are lost and brings them home. Most of the people that PIM Teams work with live in places where they have very little access to the Gospel. There may be no Christian fellowship in their areas and no Bible-teaching church. What a joy it is to share the Good News of Jesus in these places. It really is Worth Driving For.

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# Worth the cost

Like all mission activities that seek to take the Gospel to people in isolated places, PIM ministry is expensive. To run a full time PIM Ministry Team costs about the same as running an average sized suburban Presbyterian church. That's around about \$100,000 per year. The big difference though is that a local church is largely funded by offerings from the people who worship there. In the PIM world we generally don't get funding from those we minister to. In fact, we intentionally don't seek donations from those we visit. Instead, we rely on God's people elsewhere to fund this crucial ministry.

The PIM Committee works hard to be good stewards of the resources that have been entrusted to us so each dollar makes as much impact as it can. We do this in many ways including deploying some volunteer PIM teams who sacrificially give their own time, and partnering with others to share ministry costs. We also routinely evaluate the operating costs of vehicles, equipment and property, and of course we regularly review our programmes to make sure they are an effective use of limited resources.

Despite all these measures, for many years PIM has been operating at a financial loss. This gap has been filled, to some extent, by occasional large bequests and some investment income. However, in order for PIM to grow and develop and take the significant Gospel opportunities that are available in our continent, we need to close this financial gap and we need your partnership to do this.



If you are already a financial supporter of PIM, we really appreciate you – thanks! Last year, you helped contribute to the \$500,000 that was donated by God's people to keep PIM Teams on the road, sharing the Good News and building up isolated believers. Ninety new financial supporters joined us for the first time last year, and this has made a significant positive impact. If you are not a financial supporter, please prayerfully consider joining us. We need to raise an additional \$200,000 per year to close the gap, keep our teams going and pave the way for the exciting new ministry opportunities that lie before us. If you'd like to contribute, you can make a donation towards funding one of our Ministry Teams via our website, or use the response form on the back of On Track.

Because reaching the lost really is Worth Driving For.



PIM workers, Colin & Alison, met Wendy\* whilst she was working on a sheep station north-east of Mildura with her husband. Wendy was spiritually-hungry, open to evangelism, and had recently converted to the beliefs of the Jehovah's Witnesses (JW).

Wendy had been reading a Greek, Hebrew and English interlinear Bible, and she and Colin began a long discussion on the meaning of certain words she had learnt. It soon became clear that Wendy's JW Bible stripped Jesus of His deity, but Colin was able to correctly explain the original Greek meaning of the word that had been misinterpreted. Colin proceeded to show Wendy that Jesus was in fact both God and the Son of God.

Colin & Alison's visit with Wendy played a significant part in challenging Wendy to test the truth. As a result of their meeting, she went back to her overseers, asking them to answer a range of questions – and in the process challenging the authority of a false Gospel.



Wendy is still on her journey towards accepting Jesus as her Saviour, but, thanks to the PIM team, she's had an opportunity to see the importance of testing God's Word and seeking His truth.

\*Name changed for privacy reasons



# News and updates

During 2018, God's people responded to our call for funding to extend the Sunday School facility in Mt Magnet. The generous gifts from those who gave financially and the work of those who donated their time and energy to do the job meant the costs were fully covered. The team in Mt Magnet now have a much better facility to operate from. Thankyou!

In February, Laurie and Gwen Peake chalked up 30 years of service with PIM. In that time, they have served in three Patrol Areas and proclaimed the Good News of Jesus to countless people. We are grateful to God for their diligent commitment over many years.



Do you want to see firsthand the work of a PIM team in a remote area and connect with an isolated community? Greg and Janet Cripps are again planning a 'tag-along' trip in SW Qld in July 2019. Spaces are limited, and it is BYO vehicle and camping gear, but this is a great opportunity to roll up yourselves and get involved in a great ministry. If you don't have a suitable vehicle, we do have a couple for sale...



PIM Ministry is primarily about people. But to get to those people we need to have good vehicles that are suitable for each area and cost effective. For several years PIM has operated two Isuzu 4x4 trucks with campers in some of our larger patrol areas. With changes in personnel and a refocusing of our

strategy, these trucks are no longer the best tools for the job. So, we are selling them and moving towards smaller vehicles. This should give us greater flexibility and lower our operating costs. If you are planning an outback adventure of your own and are looking for a rig – give David McDonald or Greg Cripps a call to see if one of these trucks might suit your needs!

The hot Summer days are now drawing to a close for much of our nation. But in many parts of NSW and Qld, the drought and its impact will persist. Many families continue to struggle deeply. The PIM Teams who minister in these areas would value your prayers, that they might be able to encourage and comfort those who are struggling, and point them to our Saviour.

## 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:

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Presbyterian Inland Mission  
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Please detach and return with your gift.

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

# From Andrew



Someone recently asked why we bother to spend time and money driving out and visiting individuals. Wouldn't it be a better use of resources to go where there are lots of people?

I studied business and management and was trained to think in terms of 'Return on Investment' or how do we get the most bang for our buck? In many

contexts, those are really great questions to ask and consider as we carefully think through how to be good stewards of what are limited resources.

However, we also need to be really mindful that the Gospel of Jesus is not just for people living in convenient places and in large numbers. For many of the people PIM Teams connect with there is little other opportunity for them to hear the Gospel. In some places in our nation there is practically no credible Gospel witness. If we don't invest the money and time in sending people to these sorts of places, how else will people living there hear the Good News proclaimed and see it lived out?

In Luke 15, Jesus taught us about the importance of seeking after the one sheep that is lost. Indeed, He teaches us about the joy in heaven when that one is found. Much of the ministry of PIM is about ones and twos. It is about seeking out the lost in small numbers, in remote places where perhaps no one else is searching. Our great God saves sinners in all sorts of places.

**We'd love it if you would join us on the journey. We value your prayers; this work belongs to God. If you are able, we'd also welcome your financial support. This ministry is not cheap but it is effective. To donate, please visit our website or use the response form here in On Track.**

Sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ really is Worth Driving For.

Yours in Christ,

**Andrew Letcher**  
CEO



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Presbyterian Inland Mission (PIM)

#### 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.