



Continued.....

together. This was confirmed after Sandi and I returned home and the church put together a formal 'call', in accordance with Presbyterian protocol. We accepted the \*call, (a document signed by the members and adherents of the church which we received in the mail in September 1991). We then began processing papers to come to Australia as permanent residents. It took six months to be approved by the Australian government and the Presbyterian Church of Australia. This included background police checks, health checks, references, proof of employment, etc.

We received final approval in February 1992. We packed our household up in a shipping container sent it off, spent part of February and March visiting family and friends and then left for Australia. We arrived on 26 March 1992 and I started work on 1 April.

\*As part of our seeking God's confirmation regarding this complete change in our lives, we had decided that we would not want to move our family to a church in another country unless we knew they really wanted to have us. God provided this confirmation through the unanimous approval of the vote by TMPC to call us.

#### 4. Each week how much time would you spend in sermon preparation?

The easiest way to answer this is to describe the process. I usually begin thinking about the next sermon shortly after I finish the last one. That is, by Sunday evening I am formulating ideas and reflecting on the relevant passage(s). I try to get a core outline, passage and title (for the website) together by Tuesday so I can put together the order of service, (Call to worship, Bible reading, ministry/missions report, etc, for the music team that will be practicing). I work on it through the week in my head and often write down bits and pieces. I then spend 2-3 hours on Thursday, Friday or Saturday, (depending on my schedule), getting it on paper and finishing it. However, I find that it is an ongoing process until the sermon is over. This is not necessarily the way everyone would put together a sermon and it is not how I have always done it. Over the years I have used a number of ways to do it. To me one of the most important things is for the sermon to be shaped by the passage.

#### 5. Do you find it hard to stay focused on your topic or are you easily side tracked wanting to follow up other ideas of interest?

I find the Scripture to be far richer than we usually understand it to be. There are spinoffs from any verse. Some of these will be short lived others will be worth following up. I think staying focused on a topic can be a challenge depending on how general or specific the topic is. A general topic usually needs to be unpacked a bit. We usually live with specific things happening in our lives. In a sermon we need both the general principles that we can learn to apply (wisdom) and the specific examples to help us to see and experience God's wisdom.

#### 6. Do you have regular activities that come up weekly .... And they are?

**Weekly activities** include: sermon preparation, preaching, visiting people, phone conversations (admin, personal matters, etc), preparing for and leading several growth groups, volunteering 1-2 hours a week at the BC, counselling, writing emails to people who are asking questions about their faith, writing Dear Geoff (every 2 weeks), organising details for the worship service, (sermon text, title, bible readings, missions/ministry reports and other details). These are regular weekly activities. There are other activities that are not regular but can come fairly frequently. An example of this is hospital visits. You may go for several weeks without anyone going into hospital and then have several in one week. It is not always possible to cover all of these things and sometimes it is difficult to choose between two important things to do.

#### 7. Monthly.... And they are?

Committee of Management, Session (Elder's meeting), Presbytery (monthly meeting of ministers and elders from about 20 churches from south of the Brisbane river to the Tweed border, Victoria Point to Ipswich), Australian Presbyterian World Missions Queensland, Russian and Ukrainian Aid (for about 15 years), Minister's Fellowship breakfast with mountain community churches, I think that's it for regular monthly meetings. As in the weekly activities, there can be irregular monthly meetings from time to time.

#### 8. Quarterly.... And they are?

Australian Presbyterian World Missions meets in Sydney. I go there about twice a year and meet via skype or phone about twice a year.

#### 9. Annually.... And they are?

The General Assembly meets annually. It is made up of representatives from all the Presbyterian Churches in Queensland. Currently I prepare and give a report for APWM and help organise the annual missions dinner. For 20 years we held Fire on the Mountain annually and there were meetings through the year for planning. Last year (2016) we held our last FOM conference. For the last 4-5 years I have organised the annual Combined Churches Good Friday Service.

#### 10. Do you find crisis events occupy a lot of your time as you look back over the years of being a pastor?

Crisis events usually take a bit of time initially and then taper off depending on the situation. Probably more time is spent with people who have chronic spiritual problems.

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**11. Are you requested from the community at large to perform spiritual activities?**

Weddings and funerals come to mind here. I've done more of these for people not associated with the church than for church people. I think this is part of being in a small community. However, a number of years ago I limited weddings to those associated with the church because I was getting too many requests. People love getting married on the mountain. I think that's great but I couldn't justify the time it took away from my regular pastoral responsibilities.

**12. Are you able to move through your tasks in a timely manner, or do you find your programme is dictated out of need of others or a balance between the two?**

It's a balance. I was once told, 'plan your work and work your plan...but be flexible.' That seems to work fairly well but you can get frustrated at times. I am very fortunate to have help with administration. The COM gets the church facilities sorted out very well and Chris Wilson is great at filling out forms, making sure we are ticking all the boxes, keeping church activities from tripping over each other, keeping things organised, etc. We also have a very active and compassionate diaconate. I may get initial requests from the community but I am able to turn them over to the diaconate and know they will take care of people. The BC does this as well with people in particularly difficult situations.

**13. What encourages your spiritual walk?**

Lots of things. From creation to Scripture, people to worship. All of these things are means that the Spirit uses to minister his grace to us. One particular thing I love to see is people growing in their faith in tangible ways. I know you can pastor for long periods of time without seeing much fruit (in season and out of season), but when you do see it the burden of pastoring is lightened and the reality of Christ being the head of his church becomes part of your experience. His grace is clarified in others and you get to be a part of it. Incredible.

**14. As a pastor of many years is the task hugely different than when you started out as a pastor?**

Not hugely different. There are different cultural challenges and pressures on people which translate into personal problems. People are fallen and broken by sin and suffering. They may not use these words to describe their difficulties but God does use these words and he is able to lighten our burdens as we trust in him and see life more from his perspective. The details of the landscape change but the general contours stay the same. The longer you pastor people the more you see that what God says about us is true and that the riches of the salvation he gives us in Christ are what we truly need as human beings.

**The Westons Are Coming August 20th**

Gary and Ruth Weston have been in Japan for decades and now that a national pastor has taken up the position they are returning to Australia.

Our church has supported them over many years.

We will hear from them in the service and we are planning a Q and A after morning tea for about half an hour.

They will visit us on Sunday August 20<sup>th</sup>

**Lock in the date**

**TMPC Offerings YTD 2017 Budget \$75,856.00**

**Surplus \$3259.56 Actual \$79,115.56**

May Average attendance 84

**"So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity, for God loves a cheerful giver."**

2 Corinthians 9:7

**ELECTRONIC GIVING**

For those who do not wish to carry cash, Or may be absent from Services, Deposits can be made on line (internet banking) Directly into our Church account.

**BSB 084 835 A/C No: 045237423**

## Celebrating Our Heritage: The Doctrine of ‘Sola Scriptura’ in Protestant Reformation (Part III)

Last month, we discussed ‘what Sola Scriptura is not.’

It is not biblicism, as if to say that only the Bible is important. The creeds, confessions, and tradition of the church is also important. Sola Scriptura does not imply that all things in the Bible are equally clear. Neither does it mean that things that are true are contained in the Bible.

*Sola Scriptura is the notion that the Bible alone is source of divine revelation and is the final authority on matters of salvation. It means that all things necessary for salvation concerning faith and life are both contained in the Bible and conveyed clearly enough for the ordinary believe to read and understand. Thus, the quintessential doctrine of the Reformation teaches that the Bible contains everything necessary to understand the gospel, salvation in Jesus Christ. Now, we will explore some of the biblical bases for this doctrine.*

Let’s appreciate that the Bible begins, in Genesis 1:3 with God’s own word: “And God said...” and in John’s gospel, he begins by asserting that “In the beginning was the Word...” (which is identified in Jn. 1:14 as Jesus Christ Himself). The word of God--both God’s own speech and God’s Son--are primary to God’s revelation of Himself. And, the writer to the Epistle of Hebrews sets the context to the history of God’s revelation when he says: “Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son... .”

Let’s also appreciate that throughout the Old Testament, the participants in narrative appeal to God’s written word as the basis for divine authority. Moses himself ‘wrote down the law’ and instructed the people by writing down the law and ordering that it be read to them ‘so that they can listen and learn to fear the Lord your God and follow carefully all the words of this law.’ (Deut. 31:9, 12). Note also Moses’ words: “Take to heart all the words I have solemnly declared to you this day, so that you may command your children to obey carefully all the words of this law. They are not just idle words for you, they are your life.” (Deut. 32:46, 47). As Professor Robert Godfrey has noted, (1) the word which Moses spoke was written, (2) the people can and must listen to it and learn it, and (3) and in this Word they can find life.

Indeed, Jesus Himself appealed to the written Word of God as authoritative. *See Mt. 19:4, Mk. 12:26, Lk. 20:37. And he appealed to the written Word of God as the basis for refuting Satan and resisting his temptations. See Mt. 4, Lk. 4. And He warned against altering the written word of God. See Mt. 5:17. And he also excoriated the religious professionals who would ‘make void’ the Word of God because of their tradition. See Mt. 15:6. Jesus also taught that the Holy Spirit would be sent from the Father in Jesus’ name and would ‘teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.’ See Jn. 14:26. This is where Jesus tells us that the Holy Spirit would guide the words of the Apostles.*

And the Apostles also understand that the Word of God was the final and sufficient authority for salvation. Note the Apostle Paul’s comments--toward the end of his life--as he wrote to Timothy: “...from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.” See 2 Tim. 3:15-16. We learn several things from Paul here, including: that Paul believed that the sacred writings of Scripture were sufficient to lead to salvation through faith in Christ and that Scripture is inspired by God and is sufficient for Christian discipleship.

There is much more to say about *Sola Scriptura*, to be sure. *What we know from this brief discussion is that Moses, Jesus and Paul believed that the Scriptures were the final authority in matters of doctrine and life, and that God’s spoken and written word are authoritative and sufficient in the matters which they teach, principally salvation in Jesus Christ. In order to discuss the other significant rediscoveries of the Protestant Reformation, we will leave the topic for others in our subsequent discussions.*

If you would like to discuss this issue further, I invite you to engage Pastor Kim or me directly.

# The Academy of Music

presents

## Morning Melodies at the Manor

A delightful program of music and song  
accompanied by a very  
elegant and delicious high tea.



featuring



Coloratura Soprano Deborah Joy  
Julie Eotvos concert pianist

Where: Tamborine Manor (formally Bungunyah Manor)

Date: Thursday 15th June @ 10am Costs: \$39

Please book directly through The Manor P: 5545 1044

Proceeds towards the Tamborine Mountain  
Community Christmas Event

Tamborine Mountain Academy of Music presents a special concert

## **‘Wade in the Water’**

on **Sunday July 16** commencing at **2pm in the Church.**

The Choir will present a heartwarming program of  
traditional gospel numbers and more.

This is another fundraising event for the  
Tamborine Mountain Community Christmas Event.

*More details in July newsletter.*



Ladies Friendship Club will meet at 10am Wed 14th in the Church Hall.

We will have a special speaker followed by an early lunch.

This will be a great time of fellowship.

*Please join us for a enjoyable time together!*

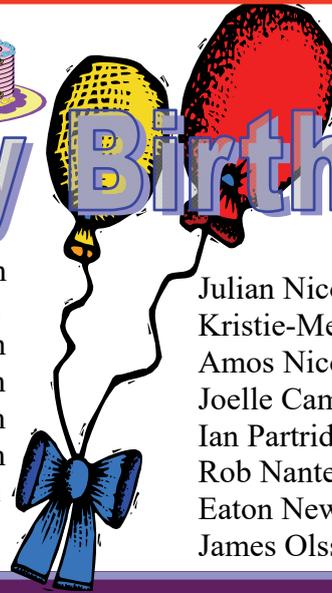
*Ladies Friendship Club*

Dianne 0422 024 520

**May God bless you with His peace, joy & happiness on your special day.**



# Happy Birthday



Lorraine Dippelsmann	4th	Julian Nicol	18th
Anoushkaa Arora	7th	Kristie-Mei Nieuwoudt	20th
Patricia Arora	11th	Amos Nicol	22nd
Alice Paterson	14th	Joelle Campbell	24th
Russell Harden	14th	Ian Partridge	24th
Chris Mott	14th	Rob Nantes	26th
Samantha Howe	15th	Eaton Newton	28th
Kathrine Lim	15th	James Olsson	28th

## JUNE 2017 JUNE 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div style="border: 2px solid blue; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> <b>Morning Melodies with High Tea</b>  <b>10am Thursday 15th June @ \$39</b>  <b>Book via The Manor Ph: 5545 1044</b> </div>				1 8am-12noon Bargain Centre	2 8am-12noon Bargain Centre 9-10am Missions Prayer Meeting	3 8am-12noon Bargain Centre
4 9am Worship 9:30am <b>KFC</b> <b>Lord's Supper</b> 5:30pm <b>Youth</b>	5	6 8am-12noon Bargain Centre <b>Playtime</b> <b>9:30am</b>	7 8am-12noon Bargain Centre	8 8am-12noon Bargain Centre	9 8am-12noon Bargain Centre	10 8am-12noon Bargain Centre
11 9am Worship 9:30am <b>KFC</b> 5:30pm <b>Youth</b>	12	13 8am-12noon Bargain Centre <b>Playtime</b> <b>9:30am</b>	14 8am-12noon Bargain Centre <b>10am Ladies Friendship Club</b>	15 8am-12noon Bargain Centre <b>MORNING MELODIES</b> <b>10am</b>	16 8am-12noon Bargain Centre 9-10am Missions Prayer Meeting	17 8am-12noon Bargain Centre
18 9am Worship 9:30am <b>KFC</b> 5:30pm <b>Youth</b>	19	20 8am-12noon Bargain Centre <b>Playtime</b> <b>9:30am</b>	21 8am-12noon Bargain Centre	22 8am-12noon Bargain Centre	23 8am-12noon Bargain Centre <b>School Holidays Start</b>	24 8am-12noon Bargain Centre
25 9am Worship	26	27	28	29	30	<b>July Newsletter DEADLINE</b> <b>28th June Wed Night</b>
<b>Winter Holiday Club 2017</b> <b>Dates and Times:</b> Monday 26th June to Friday 30th June, 9am to 12 noon daily.						