The Centenary of the Australian Inland Mission, continued on through the Presbyterian Church by the Presbyterian Inland Mission, gives a unique opportunity to renew our commitment to Christian ministry in the remotest parts of the Commonwealth.

The PIM seeks by the grace of God, to express afresh the spirit of the Australian Inland Mission in the 21st Century. To further this, we have adopted the PIM CENTENARY VISION, the first stage of which has three focal points –

1. TO PLACE FOUR NEW INLAND PADRE TEAMS ACROSS AUSTRALIA

We want to send out workers to the John Flynn Patrol (SA); the North West Patrol (WA); the North Australia Patrol (NT/Qld); and the Mungo Patrol (NSW/Vic). These Padre teams will go forth as partnership support comes from the people of the Presbyterian Church. It is with great praise to God that we can report that the first patrol couple under this aspect of the PIM CENTENARY VISION have stepped forward – David and Gae McDonald. Join their partnership team and send them into the John Flynn Patrol (SA). I would be pleased to hear from anyone interested in being considered for service in the other Patrols mentioned above. Join us in praying that the Lord of the Harvest would give more workers for these areas of his harvest field.

2. TO OBTAIN A CHURCH BUILDING/PATROL BASE PROPERTY IN DARWIN

The ministry of Rob and Jeannette Duncanson over the last five years has been outstanding. The congregation in Darwin has been re-established, by the grace of God. The PIM believes that having a suitable church building will help further consolidate the existing congregation. We have a Manse that the Duncanson’s are living in which PIM is paying off. An appropriate property could also give a physical site for the Patrol base for the Padre of the Kimberley Patrol (NT/WA) and could have a Manse for the Padre and a secure area for the patrol vehicle constructed on it. Obtaining a church/patrol base property in Darwin is a big project. If the Lord opens the door we remember that ‘...he is able to immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine...’ To help achieve this part of the PIM CENTENARY VISION we are making this project the focus of the first FLYNN FUND appeal. We invite you and your congregation to give generously.

3. TO DEVELOP A CHURCH/PATROL BASE IN ALICE SPRINGS

The PIM believes that the time is drawing closer for the initiation of a new congregation in Alice Springs in order to serve the local community there and to supply the support base for the Central Australian Patrol (NT). Much prayer has been offered to God for guidance and some remarkable opportunities have emerged. To advance this part of the PIM CENTENARY VISION a PIM ministry weekend in Alice Springs is planned for 19/20 May 2012. We will gather for encouragement, prayer, fellowship and worship. We will join with those who have travelled across Australia with the Rev. Laurie Peake (Leichhardt Patrol, Qld) marking 100 years of outback ministry.

Our work is in remote and isolated parts of our nation and as was the case when the Australian Inland Mission was founded in 1912, continues to be completely dependent on the prayers and financial support of God’s people. We invite you to join us in praying, in giving and in going.

Stuart Bonnington
superintendent@pim.org.au

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Superintendent: Rev. Stuart Bonnington (08) 9398 1304 – 0439 868 367 • superintendent@pim.org.au
At the last PIM Conference held at St Stephen’s Presbyterian Church, Unanderra (NSW) we were privileged listen to Mrs. Ruth White (Sister Ruth Radburn) speak about her work as a Registered Nurse, serving with the Australian Inland Mission in the early 1960’s. Ruth and her husband John are very involved at St. Stephen’s, where Ruth serves as an Elder. Ruth illustrated her talk with a wide range of slides, depicting simply the people she ministered to and the conditions the AIM Sisters worked in. We were reminded of the great work of the AIM in the past, and were inspired in the ministry of the PIM in the present. In her comments Ruth said:

**To Reminisce** ‘God called me to be involved with AIM at Mary Kathleen (Qld), at Fitzroy Crossing (WA) and at ‘Warrawee’, the AIM Far North Children’s in Adelaide (SA). These were exciting days of wide ranging Christian service – both spiritual and practical.

At Mary Kathleen I was a Guide Leader, Sunday School Teacher and the AIM Sisters hosted a Bible study each week. At Fitzroy Crossing we had a tennis court in the Hospital grounds. People would come from surrounding stations to socialize there regularly. We had a Gymkhana every year, which was held over a full week-end. On the Saturday evening a ball was held. This was always a high point of local community. We would attend the Ball but were always ‘on duty’ and left a note on the door of the Hospital advising where we could be found if an emergency eventuated. Not only did we supply nursing care, but we cooked, cleaned and washed. The AIM Sisters were also responsible for keeping the water pump and generator running. Batteries for radio had to be kept charged as this was the only way to speak to the doctor at the Derby hospital if we needed assistance for the patients under our care. At Warrawee we had children come from all over Australia for specialised treatments. They were under the care of Specialists from the Royal Adelaide Hospital. The children had a wide range of medical conditions including Post Polio problems, Cerebral Palsy, heart conditions, the effects of malnutrition and profound deafness. They were often in need of long term care and therefore schooling had to be arranged. Children arriving from the north often came with only the set of clothes they wore. The PWA of the PCSA consistently supplied beautiful outfits for both summer and winter.’

**To Listen** ‘John Flynn and the AIM Padres travelled the Inland on camels, horses and the basic vehicles of yester-year. They helped build ‘the mantle of safety’, through their work, the pedal radio and the eventual organisation of the flying doctor. However the great plan of the AIM was not merely to be social visitors but to preach and teach the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

At the Unanderra PIM Conference the Padres and workers present – serving in all States of Australia and the NT told their stories, of thrills and hardships, of giving a helping hand, as they travelled around their enormous patrols. One noticeable contrast between AIM patrol work and that done by the PIM is that today’s Padres are often accompanied by their wives. How special it must be for the wives on stations, to have another woman come to talk and share with. Another difference concerns mode of transport. Today Camper-Trailers are towed by Four-wheel drive vehicles. Oh the luxury! While it is not first class accommodation, it is a great improvement on 100 years ago!’

**To Wonder** ‘Today the PIM has no Nursing Sisters as in the past, as some settlements have their own government staff and of course the RFDS covers a far vaster territory. But perhaps, one day an ‘army of PIM ‘grey nomads’ will go out to help at stations by giving respite for cooking, washing, ironing, caring for the children, cattle drafting or fencing! How I wish I was 10 years younger!’

Ruth White
Retired Australian Inland Mission Nursing Sister

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*Our Padres cover huge distances*
Pingrup, Lake Grace and Lake King. Some of the visits made have been quite challenging, as sadly many people just don’t want to know about the saving work of JESUS CHRIST. Regardless of that I offer practical assistance as required and pray for further opportunities to talk about the gospel message of salvation.

‘WE WEREN’T STOLEN, BUT CHOSEN’

On a visit to Leonora I was able to catch up with D and J two Aboriginal women who were brought up in the Mt Margaret Mission. They reminded me of how blessed they were in being at the mission, as that’s how they got to know about the LORD JESUS. J told me, “We weren’t stolen, but chosen”.

Continuing on my journeys to the east of Kalgoorlie visiting some very remote stations, I came across an elderly couple caretaking a large cattle station as the owners were away. I had a great time with them and had some great opportunities to speak about the LORD. I left some literature and am looking forward to a follow up visit. On the same trip I did a quick visit to the Aboriginal Community on the Trans-line, as I had a lot of donated clothing to give out. The people were really excited and appreciated the clothes. C (one of the ladies there) was really easy to speak to, and we had a great conversation regarding her faith in Jesus.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

This year I have preached in Ravensthorpe, Jerramungup, and Nyabing. These small towns have some loving Christians in them and the fellowship time was great. Most of the people in these fellowships have their own properties so I get to catch up with them individually while on patrol.

I spent a bit of time helping some property owners and this enabled some good conversation to take place around the dinner table at night. People are really appreciative of the help and really want to know why we do this work. This opens the way to some good spiritual discussion.

South of Ravensthorpe on a small property I met M and H, a lovely Christian couple. They were very helpful and told me all about the history of the area and who all the people living in Ravensthorpe are and how they got their farms.

cwoonings@pim.org.au

WORSHIP AT PIM CHURCHES

Darwin, Northern Territory
Berrimah
Sunday 10:00 am
Kormilda College, Berrimah
Bees Creek
1st and 3rd Sunday afternoons
5:00 pm Sattler Christian College,
Sattler Cres, Fred’s Pass
Rev. Rob Duncanson (08) 89457878 – 0413 021 716

Mount Magnet, Western Australia – Mid West Patrol
Most Sundays 9:00 am
Presbyterian Church, Attwood Street
Padre Bert Pierce (08) 9963 4125 – 0419 951 679

Denmark, Western Australia – Southern Patrol
Most Sundays 10:00 am
RSL Hall, Strickland Street
Padre Chris Woonings
(08) 9842 1606 – 0428 665 123

The
FLYNN FUND
PIM CENTENARY VISION APPEAL

To continue the advance of the Darwin congregation, the PIM believes that obtaining a suitable church building is highly desirable.

An appropriate property will also give a base for the Padre of the Kimberley Patrol (NT/WA).

Please send donations to Flynn Fund
PO Box 4014, Croydon Hills, VIC 3136
Ph (03) 9005 8256 admin@pim.org.au
All cheques made out to Presbyterian Inland Mission

Proclaiming the Lord Jesus Christ by word and deed
PIM HIGHPOINTS

1. The PIM has been able, on behalf of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, to take the gospel of the Lord Jesus to the remote parts of our Commonwealth. The Word of Truth has been proclaimed in countless situations and relationships have been built, which we pray will bring fruit for the Lord Jesus in His time;

2. Our biggest asset, our patrol teams, press on for the sake of the Lord Jesus whether times are easy or difficult;

3. The PIM Mission Church in Darwin (NT) continues to consolidate, and has planted a second congregation in Bees Creek to minister to the growing rural area. This congregation is on the fringe of where the new City of Weddell will be established;

4. Through many hundreds of thousands of kilometres travelled, our patrol teams have not had any serious crashes or other mishaps;

5. Throughout 2011 we asked you to pray for our increasing financial needs and challenges. As the new year has turned through much prayer, hard work, and reorganisation we have seen the Lord’s provision for our needs at every turn;

6. We continually thank God for the support received from congregations, PWA/PWMU groups, men’s organisations, PIM Presbytery advocates and enthusiastic individuals.

Join us in praising God from whom all these blessings flowed!

Rob Duncanson
convenor@pim.org.au

100 YEARS OF INLAND MISSION

National Celebration
Saturday 22 September 2012 7:00 PM The Scots’ Church, Melbourne VIC

Sydney Celebration
Sunday 23 September 2012 10:00 AM St. Peter’s Church, North Sydney NSW

Outback Celebration
Sunday 7 October 2012 10:00 AM Smith of Dunesk Mission Church, Beltana SA

For further information: Rev. Martin de Pyle
Co-ordinator PIM Centenary Committee centenary@pim.org.au or 0427 872 035.

YOUR RESPONSE

Pledge to the PIM

Name ________________________________________________________________
Address ___________________________________________ Postcode ______
Telephone _________________________ Email _____________________________

Enclosed is my gift of $ _____ Please debit my credit card for a gift of $ ______

VISA/Mastercard Card no.: ___________ ___________ ___________ ______
Expires: ____ / ____ Name on Card _________________________________

Signature _____________________________________

I authorise the PIM to deduct the amount of $ _____ from my credit card

I authorise the PIM to deduct the amount of $ _____ from my credit card each month until further notice

The PIM Office Mr Michael Timmins – Office Manager
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