

Moderator's Prayer Letter – September 2011

I am sorry there hasn't been a prayer letter for some time. I hadn't realised quite how long until I checked!

I hope you have continued praying anyway, although I would understand it if you hadn't ☺.

Personal

The past two or three months have not been so busy with travel. I have had significant times at home – perhaps being away only once a week. It has been reasonably busy though. There are always things to prepare and do. I have put some time into my website (www.followers.org.nz) which is designed to provide resources for disciple-making. You'd hardly know though. It still has big gaps and doesn't look very pretty. It needs more time yet.

Chris and I also did have another(!) holiday in Australia. Chris had a scholarship that gave her time there while she visited schools and that paid extra if she took her husband! It was good especially given that the last attempt was messed up by her getting shingles.

Programme

The next couple of months are going to be reasonably hectic. The Presbytery visits are starting in earnest. These generally involve about 10 days in a region doing workshops, preaching, meeting with leaders, visiting parishes etc.

Please pray for

- All the organisational details.
- That I will know what to say on each occasion.
- That God will use each one to extend His Kingdom in some way and especially that there will be a sense of call to intentional disciple-making, knowledge of how to do that and willingness to pay the cost of doing it.
- That, as a result, there will be signs of encouragement and renewed confidence in God
- Safety, health and protection from spiritual attack.

1-4 September UCANZ Forum (workshops and guest speaker)
5 September Wellington – National Christian Unity Dialogue
6 September Wellington – Church Leaders meeting
9-18 September Presbytery visit – Kaimai
23 Sept-3 Oct Presbytery visit – Manawatu Whanganui
6-16 October Presbyter visit – Nelson Marlborough
22-23 October St Paul's, Manurewa, 50th anniversary

I will try to put the programmes for the presbytery visits, with greater detail, on my blog (<http://pcanzmod.blogspot.com/>) as well as comments etc., for your prayers and so that other presbyteries can see what sorts of things are being done. I would be keen to organise more of these visits and would ask any presbytery interested to contact Zona Pearce (contact details above.) Please pray about the organising and effectiveness of those visits.

PCANZ

The biggest single issue at the moment is what parishes will do about the increased insurance premiums they are being asked to pay. This may be difficult for some marginal parishes. Others will face major questions about the value of retaining all of their buildings and where they will make spending cuts.

That is the urgent issue but there are the ongoing and much more important issues of how to be effective for the Kingdom of God.

Please pray:

- For godly wisdom as churches consider the repercussion of the increased insurance premiums. May it be apparent what God wants.
- For any churches whose very future is threatened.
- For leaders up and down the country constantly grappling with how to be the church in a very secular society.
- For the renewal of our church after many years when the public image has been negative and our numbers have dwindled.

Christchurch

You may have heard of the distribution of food vouchers by some of the Christchurch churches. That has been a bright spot and a good witness but the hard work goes on and will for a long time.

Please pray:

- That God will continue to speak through the giving of those food vouchers
- For wisdom as decision are made about rebuilding churches
- For the openness to do things differently when that is how God leads.

Again, thank you for your prayerfulness.

If you have got this second-hand and want to be on the distribution lists, please email me at Peter@followers.org.nz .

May God bless you,

