



Presbyterian Church
of Aotearoa New Zealand



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Moderator's Prayer Letter – March 2011

Greetings. I hope you are well and enjoying the abundant life Jesus promised.

Christchurch

Everything pales into insignificance when compared with the disaster that has hit Christchurch (and, even more so, Japan). I have been to Christchurch a couple of times. You can catch up on my thoughts on my blog (<http://pcanzmod.blogspot.com/>).

Please continue to pray for:

- those whose lives will take a long time to resume some normality
- the ministers in Christchurch trying to care for their own people and know how to serve the community, amidst so much uncertainty
- each church that now has an uncertain future and the Presbytery as it seeks to be strategic about where and how it rebuilds for the future.

Personal

We have shifted to Dunedin but are "squatting" with Kimberley and Liam because we haven't yet found a house that we believe fits our needs.

It would be very nice to be settled and to be able to find some of our things. We are living on a very limited range of clothes etc. We would appreciate your prayers.

The last while seems to have been almost non-stop but I am thoroughly enjoying it. As you will see below, there are some gaps coming up, including a holiday with Chris in Adelaide. I'm really looking forward to it.

Calvin has been very generous in terms of farewells (and gifts!) and we are very grateful.

I am not sure what my future holds. The moderatorship is part-time. My first inclination is to give all my time to it. However, maybe I should do something else alongside it. Study? A part-time position? Making disciples of a few people?

Please pray

- that God will provide the house that is just right for us and that we will hear what He is saying
- for a relaxing holiday that gives Chris and me lots of quality time together
- for wisdom to know what projects I should spend time on. There are lots of things I'd like to do, including starting a web site with disciple-making resources!
- Wisdom to know whether I should take on any other work

Programme

If you want to stay even more up-to-date, I do have a blog (<http://pcanzmod.blogspot.com/>) where you can see my schedule, some reflections, and some photos.

I would appreciate your prayers for my involvement in the following:

March 23	Meeting re church schools' conference
March 29	Church Leaders' meeting with Bill English
March 30	Church Leaders' meeting re vision for New Zealand
April 2	Eleven Korean churches will be welcomed into the PCANZ. That's cool!
April 10	Preaching at Mornington Presbyterian, Dunedin
April 13	New Zealand Christian Network meeting re "What is the gospel?"
April 15	Meeting with the National Council of Presbyterian Support
April 15-16	Attend and address the Fono Tokelau and Tuvalu
April 19-May 2	Holiday in Adelaide
May 3-6	Trans-Tasman Moderator's retreat in Adelaide
May 10-12	South Island Ministry Conference

PCANZ

It seems to me there is a lack of cohesiveness within the PCANZ. Christchurch parishes are working hard together now but had very little interaction before the earthquake and we don't have a national emergency response procedure; arms of the PCANZ in Auckland have said that building relationships between themselves is a priority (but don't have the capacity to give it much time or effort); ministers feel isolated, etc.

I have written in a few places about the possibility of being involved with the Rugby World Cup as a way of serving the community but am unaware of any response. Likewise, I understand few Auckland Presbyterian churches have got involved in the Greg Laurie visit.

Maybe there are many things I am not seeing but it seems we do our own thing in our own corner and don't get involved with others. One result might be lack of visibility of the PCANZ.

Please pray:

- that we will, in a right way, be proud to be Presbyterian – at least in the sense of feeling that we belong to something worthwhile and we belong to each other.
- For a willingness to work collegially and cooperatively, especially as neighbouring churches
- For a pastoral concern for one another
- For an eagerness to work with other churches on worthwhile projects
- Ongoing enthusiasm for making disciple-making disciples

Again, thank you for your prayerfulness.

May God bless you,

