



Presbyterian Church of Queensland

State Moderator

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Our ref: Chaplains2020Dec

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To the Ministers, Sessions, Presbyteries, and Congregations of the PCQ,

PRAYER REQUEST FOR OUR AGED CARE CHAPLAINS

Thank you for continuing in prayer for all the congregations and ministries of the PCQ, especially at this time as the various aged care activities of PresCare are being transferred to other aged care providers.

One of the outcomes of this process is that a number of PresCare Chaplains will be concluding their PresCare ministry appointments. Senior Chaplain Graeme McKay will finish his appointment on 31st December. Community Chaplains Diane Hargreaves, Tim Parslow and Robyn Sansbury will complete their ministry with PresCare on 31st December 2020.

Rev Keith Black is a Minister Emeritus within Mowbray Presbytery, having retired with his wife Betty from the mission field in Africa some years ago. Betty is now with Christ, and Keith lives in a senior's cottage at Thornlands. Some 17 years ago Keith and Betty took up residence at the old Hopetoun site at Corinda. So, as we ask you to pray for the chaplains who are concluding their appointments and pray for those continuing, Keith is a good person for us to hear from as we form our prayers of thanks and request to God for our aged care chaplains. Keith says:

“Being a Minister and pastor myself for over 60 years among various ethnic peoples has enabled me to work alongside chaplains and pastoral carers employed by PresCare as an Honorary Chaplain. It has been a great blessing and privilege to work with these very special men and women, whom God has called and gifted, and who have been faithfully serving Him in an outstanding way.

“Some of the chaplains have been working in the 7 residential facilities that PresCare has been running. Others have been able to go, invited, into the homes of clients of PresCare's community care program. Because of the chaplains and pastoral carers, wholistic care has been provided to clients, not only meeting physical needs but also mental and spiritual needs. Chaplains have been working as a team, prayerfully and practically encouraging one another and sometimes working together.

“The overriding motivation of pastoral care is to help people realise their need of a Saviour and to commit their lives to Christ, looking forward to an eternity with him in heaven. In doing this, help is given in a multitude of ways as the chaplain exemplifies Christ.

“What a joy it is when we see people who have never had a connection with the church commit their lives to Christ. Some remember things learnt many years ago in Sunday School but forgotten and a new joy fills their hearts. We could tell story after story that thrill our hearts, but the true reality and fruitfulness of the chaplains' ministries will only be revealed in Heaven.”

Keith rightly expressed his love and concern for the chaplains he's worked alongside and prayed for and with for many years. He asks the wider church to join with him in prayer for the chaplains whose appointments are ending this month. He says:

"Please pray for them, that God will meet their needs, a prayer that He will surely answer. Pray too that He will help the church get back into the ministry of reaching out to the desperately needy in the community. Sometimes we despair at what is happening around us and are tempted to give up, but God never gives up. He loves every member of our community and we must be ready to walk with Him and allow His Spirit to use us for His glory as men, women, boys, and girls accept Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour and Lord."

Thank you, Keith, for your words of thanks for the ministry of our aged care chaplains, and your invitation for the wider church to join you in prayer for them, especially for Graeme, Diane, Tim, and Robyn as they conclude their appointments with PresCare on 31st December 2020.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P Strong', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Rev Dr Phil Strong
Moderator
Presbyterian Church of Queensland