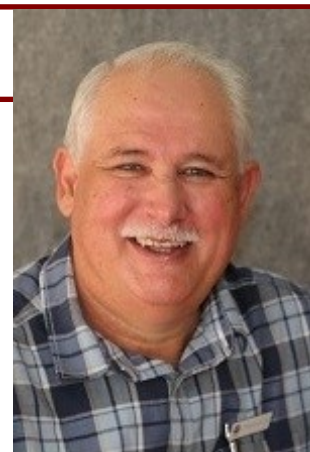




## Reflection - Ps Graham Huth



Don't you love it when a plan comes together? There is nothing like having a clear idea of what you want to achieve, and seeing it fall into place seamlessly – such as a long-awaited holiday, a family gathering, or a Christmas morning service. But what happens when things don't quite workout the way you planned?

Unfortunately, for many in the Presbytery, that sums up 2025. Despite initial excitement and expectations that the year would bring new vision and fulfilled promises, those hopes have not eventuated.

Well, that is why it is so wonderful that as the year closes, we hear the one story, the only news that can truly provide hope. It is one that will put us back on course with all the motivation and strength necessary to continue no matter what the new year will bring. That story is the Christmas story.

You see, the Christmas story is also a story of interruptions, wonderful surprises, unexpected revelations, and of plans forever changed.

Take Mary for instance, a young teenage girl looking forward to a safe, but otherwise content life as a housewife to a tradesman. Suddenly life takes a complete turn when told by an Angel that she was to be the 'virgin' of Hebrew prophecy, and would be the mother of the promised Messiah. Life changed forever.

(Cont. next page)

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Join us on [Facebook](#)



Presbytery [Webpage](#)



[admin@maryburnettpres.org.au](mailto:admin@maryburnettpres.org.au)



Admin 0417 509 433



UCA Qld Synod [Webpage](#)

Please submit newsletter articles to the admin officer at [admin@maryburnettpres.org.au](mailto:admin@maryburnettpres.org.au) by 26th of the month.

Consider poor Joseph suddenly knocked for six with the revelation his fiancé is pregnant, and he is not the Father, God is. How does he explain this to his family and devout Jewish community?

Don't mention the need to travel to Bethlehem on the orders of the King and Roman authorities for the purpose of a census, just at the time the baby is due.

And then there are the shepherds watching their flocks when suddenly interrupted by a group of loud, scary looking Angels appearing out of nowhere. This was no 'Silent Night'.

All these characters had their lives turned upside down by the events God had put into place long before they were even born. None of them would have ever realised afterwards of the importance of these interruptions in their lives to the unfolding of the greatest story ever told.

What we need to realise is that we too are a part of that same story. And God still intrudes into our lives. He still reaches out to disturb us when we need it, to ensure we don't get comfortable heading in directions, or following human schemes that are well-intentioned, but take us away from the plans God has for us.

By staying open to God's plans, we can reassess the interruptions in our lives. Are they problems to bemoan, or opportunities for growth? Maybe, just like Mary, Joseph, an Innkeeper, some shepherds and some wise men, God has a better plan, and God is using obstacles and roadblocks to steer us down better new paths.

What will 2026 be like? Who knows? What is important though, is to not be so worried about possible interruption or disruptions that we close our eyes to new possibilities. I believe God is still reaching out to intercede in our lives; to bring renewal, hope, purpose, and understanding of the love of God revealed in Jesus Christ.

I pray that this Christmas brings you a fresh experience of Christ, giving you renewed joy in your life—a joy that is open to everyone who seeks and welcomes him.

Have a Happy and Holy Christmas.

Pastor Graham Huth



# Graham's Diary

## December

4 PRSC Meeting - Gympie  
10 PSI  
11 Placements  
21 Conclusion Service—Brian Nagel, Buderim

## January

19-20 Presbytery Strategic Planning  
21-22 Presbytery Capacity Workshop  
28-30 PSI Annual Retreat

## Presbytery Meeting Dates 2026

*Save the dates now!*

**7 March - Murgon Uniting Church**  
**18 July - Buderim Uniting Church**  
**14 November - TBA (in the north)**

### **Corinthians 12:12**

*For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.*

## **Mary Burnett Online Services**

[Blackall Range](#) - Website      [Buderim](#) - YouTube  
[Bundaberg](#) - YouTube      [Caloundra](#) - Facebook  
[Cooroy/Pomona](#) - Facebook      [Hervey Bay](#) - YouTube  
[Gympie Uniting Church](#) - YouTube      [Kawana Waters](#) - Facebook

Apologies if I've missed anyone, please let me know.

## **Pastoral Relations & Standing Committee**

### **2026 Meetings**

**Submissions accepted for consideration up to 1 week before meeting.  
(Z = Zoom)**

<b>12 Feb (F2F)</b>	<b>12 Mar (Z)</b>
<b>10 Apr (M Office)</b>	<b>14 May (Z)</b>
<b>11 Jun (F2F)</b>	<b>9 Jul (Z)</b>
<b>13 Aug (F2F)</b>	<b>10 Sep (Z)</b>
<b>8 Oct (F2F)</b>	<b>12 Nov (Z)</b>
<b>3 Dec (F2F)</b>	

All ministry agents are required to have a Professional Supervisor. Professional Supervision Covenant forms are available on the [Presbytery website](#).



## Presbytery Office Closure

The Mary Burnett Presbytery Office will be closed from 25th Dec - 5th Jan, reopening on the 6th January 2026.

## 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence

Every 10 minutes, a woman is killed. #NoExcuse. UNITE to End Violence against Women

The United Nation's international campaign 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, takes place each year from 25 November (International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women) until 10 December (International Human Rights Day). It is an opportunity to revitalize commitments, call for accountability and action from decision-makers, as the world approaches the [30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in 2025](#) – a visionary blueprint for achieving gender equality and women's and girls' rights everywhere.

[Read the concept note.](#) [Read more here](#)

(source Uniting News 23/9/25 & website)

## 2025 Edition of the Uniting Church Constitution and Regulations



The 2025 edition of the complete Uniting Church Constitution and Regulations is now available - an essential resource for leaders in the councils of the Uniting Church. (Source UCA National Update 19/11/25)

[Download the PDF](#) from uHub, the Assembly's central resource hub, or [order a printed book](#) from Wayz-goose.

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## SHINING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST ON THE BLACKALL RANGE

Churches in the Blackall Range cluster are planning several activities to celebrate Advent and Christmas in their communities.

### ADVENT GATHERINGS AT PALMWOODS

Palmwoods church is holding several Advent Gatherings in coming weeks. On Sunday 30 November, Pastor Kay Nixon will invite participants to share their Christmas thoughts and memories. Then people will be invited to make greeting cards for those folk who are unable to get to church. The monthly Harvest Swap in conjunction with the Community Garden is scheduled for Sunday 14 December at 9 00am. Come along with your extra produce, seeds, cuttings, jars of honey, swap with others and stock up for Christmas. Then on Sunday 21 December at 5 00pm, Christmas in the Garden at the Soil and Soul Community Garden. A family friendly celebration with songs led by John Wright on guitar, story for the children and a bring and share afternoon tea.

### COMMUNITY CAROLS AT MALENY

In 2024, the combined churches of Maleny welcomed about 280 people to a Community Carols in the grounds of the Baptist Church.

This year, the Range Churches Together plan to build on that excellent response, and this is set to become an annual event, celebrating the Christian Christmas. The Maleny Uniting Church shares with other churches in the planning, supporting and running of the carols evening. Included are children's activities, refreshments, a "Bethlehem Experience", music provided by a Salvation Army Band, and community carols singing. Christmas message material will be distributed, and the Uniting Church will be providing volunteers to set up, attend to First Aid needs, meet and greet visitors and provide resources for the activities.



### CHRISTMAS AT EROWAL RESPECT AGED CARE CENTRE

The Maleny congregation will again participate in the annual Christmas Carols service for clients and staff at Erowal Respect Aged Care. To be held at 11 am on Tuesday 23 December.



### MONTVILLE REFLECTION GALLERY

During Advent the Montville church will remain open to the public. At the front of the church in the area near the Communion table, there will be a big gift beautifully wrapped and tied with a big bow. The words LOVE, FORGIVENESS, ACCEPTANCE AND HOPE will be displayed on the symbolising Jesus, God's gift to the world.

Christmas banners made by church members will be displayed on the walls of the church. These too will feature the words, love, joy, hope and forgiveness.

Montville church members have prepared Christmas craft items which will be given to the children of the Montville School by the RE teacher.

We are thankful for all who have worked so hard to shine the light of Christ on the Blackall Range.

Murray Robertson  
Blackall Range Uniting Church

This Christmas, President of the Uniting Church in Australia, Rev Charissa Suli, invites us to remember that God's light meets us wherever we are – in both joy and sorrow.

In her main Christmas message, Rev Suli recognises that many are carrying mixed emotions after a year marked by fires, floods, rising costs and global conflicts. Yet she reminds us that the Christmas story still speaks today: "Do not be afraid. For today, a Saviour is born".

Rev Suli shared glimpses of this light at work – in the red dust of Oodnadatta where an Aboriginal community opened a long-awaited church, in celebrations strengthening ties between Australia and Tonga, and in communities around the world standing for justice and compassion. "Different places, different stories – but the same light, Christ's light," she said.

Rev Suli also shared a "Blue Christmas" message for those finding this season difficult.

She encourages the lighting of a candle for those whose absence aches, speaking aloud the names that live in our hearts, and trusting that "God comes not only in our celebration, but also in our pain".

### [Watch and Download](#)

(Source UCA National Update 10/12/25)



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# AXIOS

AXIOS (ἄξιος): WORTHY, DESERVING, SUITABLE

UCQLD  
Young Adults

# YA WEEKEND

Join us in 2026 for a weekend away camping at Samford



**JAN 30 - FEB 01 2026**

SAMFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH



---

Let me know what's happening in your congregation  
[admin@maryburnettpres.org.au](mailto:admin@maryburnettpres.org.au)

## Christmas @ Kawana Waters

28 Nov Date Night "Day Care" 6.30pm Parents can leave their children at the church for two hours to either go for dinner or Christmas Shopping Details on website or Facebook

30 Nov Christmas lights 6.30pm Switching on Christmas lights

12 Dec Nativity Festival 400pm Petting zoo, crafts, etc

19 Dec Outdoor movie night 6.30pm at Bokarina beach. Details on website or Facebook

24 Dec Christmas Eve Service 6.30pm

25 Dec Christmas Services 7.00 & 8.30am



## Uniting World Everything in Common Gift Catalogue Out Now.



**"All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need."**

**(Acts 2:44-45)**

For just \$15, our **Bring the Light card** helps provide basic, small-scale solar technology so that children in the Solomon Islands can study after dark, or families in rural Bali can tend to their food gardens late after their day jobs, or even help power water pumps in Zimbabwe.

It's a practical and life-changing gift to give on behalf of a loved one this Christmas.

For this and the full range of life-changing gifts, visit our **Everything in Common website** and knock off some of that Christmas list!



Advent resources (the Resource) titled "Shine the light of hope, peace, joy and love this Christmas" is available on the Hub. Based on the Lectionary readings, this intergenerational resource includes:

- weekly worship gathering resources (Advent 1-4, Christmas Day)
- a community/family resource (The Great Light Challenge)
- small group/@home material.

For assistance or enquiries email the Ministry & Mission team at [mission@ucaqlld.com.au](mailto:mission@ucaqlld.com.au).

[Access the Resources here](#)

### **Prayer**

God, You made heaven and earth and everything in them.  
You always keep Your promises and never let us down.  
Renew Your church to be like You -  
Standing up for those treated unfairly,  
Feeding people who are hungry,  
Setting free those who feel trapped.  
Open our ears to hear the truth of who You are,  
Strengthen our arms to lift up those who feel beaten down,  
Increase our love for the ones who are different to us,  
Help us create time and space for those who feel alone and forgotten.  
Make Your church a place where Your justice and love are real,  
Where people see You at work through us.  
You are God forever,  
May we see Your kingdom come,  
On earth as it is in heaven.  
Amen.

*(source Uniting News 09/12/25)*



GIVE HOPE  
A NAME  
THIS CHRISTMAS

This Christmas season, you're invited to shine a light on Wesley Research Institute's groundbreaking discoveries that are paving the way for personalised treatments that offer the best chance of success.

Wesley Research Institute's free gift stickers feature stunning images of human cells captured under the microscope (see the image above). Each colour indicates a different biomarker, and these images act like a Google Map for scientists, enabling them to zoom in and better understand and treat serious diseases. It's cutting-edge science that's helping to transform lives.

Claim your FREE stickers: [Give Hope a Name This Christmas - Wesley Research Institute](#)

### Want to do even more this Christmas?

Make a donation to the Wesley Research Institute and help scientists discover new ways to improve outcomes for people facing serious illnesses, like cancer.

[Donate Now](#)

Have you read any good books recently?  
Email your review to me at [admin@maryburnettpres.org.au](mailto:admin@maryburnettpres.org.au)

DO YOU HAVE A TERTIARY STUDENT NEEDING  
'A HOME AWAY FROM HOME' IN BRISBANE?



Residential College

## 2026 ENROLMENT APPLICATIONS OPEN!

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

A SAFE, NURTURING AND SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR YOUR CHILD  
UNDERTAKING TERTIARY STUDY IN BRISBANE.



Save the date:

Please join Synod online for the [Moderator's Shared Blessing for Education](#) on Monday, 23 February 2026, 8:00–8:15am.

### **Presbytery Office**

Maroochydore Uniting  
Church  
6 Millwell Rd  
Maroochydore  
Mon - Fri 9am -  
3.30pm



*Drop in for a cuppa* \*Except - PRSC face to  
face meeting days - see page 3 for dates

### **Presbytery Postal Address**

Mary Burnett Presbytery  
PO Box 1635  
Sunshine Plaza  
4558





# Being God's Hands and feet: Creating Projects That Change The World

AID AND DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE  
9AM - 4.30PM | SATURDAY JAN 31  
LEVEL 1, 60 BAYLISS STREET, AUCHENFLOWER

Connect with followers of Jesus, development practitioners, and organisations focused on creating sustainable impact in communities around the world and in our own backyard.

FIND OUT MORE



**Be inspired. Be equipped. Be part of the change.**



## NO EASY ANSWERS: EXPLORING LIFE'S BIG QUESTIONS IN THE BIBLE'S WISDOM LITERATURE



Wisdom Literature Conference | 6th-7th February 2026  
Level 1, 60 Bayliss street, Auchenflower

Join Dr Rachel Krohn and guest speaker Dr Sally Douglas for two days of deep conversation, honest reflection, and spiritual insight drawn from the wisdom books of the Old Testament.

Join us for just one  
day or both days!



DR RACHEL KROHN DR SALLY DOUGLAS

FIND OUT MORE

<b>Date</b>	<b>Course</b>
25 Feb	<b>Congregational Renewal</b> – Rev Paul Clark
4 Mar	<b>Congregational Renewal</b> – P Clark
11 Mar	<b>Recruiting &amp; Releasing Volunteers</b> – Rev Barry Allen
18 Mar	<b>Ministry with Seniors</b> – Rev Gerda Olafsen
25 Mar	<b>Preaching outside the Church</b> – P Clark
1 April	<b>Frontier Services</b> – Frontier Services
22 April	<b>Flourishing Creation</b> – Emily Murray
29 April	<b>Welfare Ministry in Churches</b> – P Clark
6 May	<b>Youth Ministry</b> – Hannah Legge
13 May	<b>Governance 101</b> – Simon Moore
20 May	<b>Uniting Early Learning</b> – Belinda Briggs
27 May	<b>Ministry in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century</b> – P Clark

Anyone is welcome to join us for one or more workshops to enhance their ministry practice/ experience.

Course offerings are subject to change - please contact to confirm. All training is offered free of charge to Uniting Church attendees.

Please Register your attendance to receive access to course resources. To enquire/enrol in any of these workshops, email [ask@trinity.qld.edu.au](mailto:ask@trinity.qld.edu.au) or phone [07 3377 9950](tel:0733779950)

The Queensland Synod in partnership with Queensland Health is offering a **certified Mental Health First Aid (MHFA)** training (at no cost), free for Ministry Agents & lay leaders in the Metro area-Brisbane. The training is face to face; participants who complete training will be accredited as MHF Aiders for 3 years.

Dates have been secured for January training:

- **Tuesday 6th January, 2026**
- **Monday 12th January, 2026**

Let's work together to build a culture where mental health is supported, understood, and prioritised. Questions? Reach out to [health.safety@ucaqld.com.au](mailto:health.safety@ucaqld.com.au).

**Download the poster** to learn more about this offer from the Queensland Synod  
Visit [Mental Health First Aid Australia](#) to learn more

Make the most of this opportunity and [Register your interest here](#)



## What is the Red Bag Appeal?

Too many Queenslanders risk sitting at an empty table by an empty Christmas tree.

Children are already missing out on the joys of childhood, with parents even skipping meals to feed them.

## How can you help?

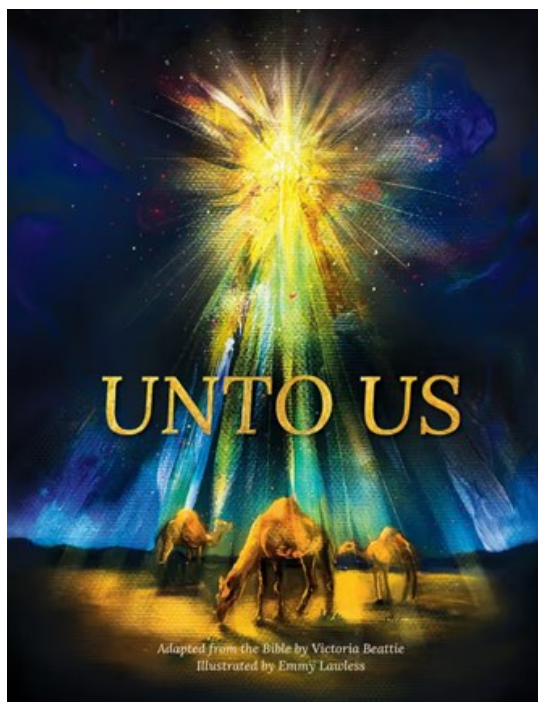
1. From **Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October**, collect a Red Bag from any of the 11 participating Storage King.
2. Fill your Red Bag full of Christmas Goodies.
3. Return your Red Bag to Storage King by **Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> November**.
4. Bags are checked or re-packed.
5. From Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December, Red Bags are distributed through several WMQ services, including our Emergency Relief Hub in Fortitude Valley.

Find the [Red Bag Shopping List and Locations here](#)

## Don't have time to shop?

Visit our website to see how you can donate online or volunteer your time: <https://redbagappeal.org.au>

(Source Uniting News 05/11/25)



## Christmas Nativity Resource - "Unto Us"

A brand new Christmas resource has just been launched, written and illustrated by two local Brisbane women: Unto Us. From the quiet fields of Bethlehem to the shining star that guided the wise men, this story captures the wonder, peace, and joy of the night when heaven came to earth.

"Unto Us" is now available at [Koorong](#) and also on [Booktopia](#).



## Smile!

I'm thankful that I can help out people with my new hobby electrical repairs.

They seem to be shocked by it though !



## Please pray for our chaplains

- \* Ps Theo Masselos (Buderim PH)
- \* Rev James Stevenson (Buderim PH)
- \* Ps Kristen Porter (Buderim PH)
- \* Rev Keren Seto (St Stephens)
- \* Ms Donna Hamill (St Stephens)
- \* Ps Jim Hall (Bli Bli/Gympie)
- \* Mr Craig Doherty (Sunrise Beach)
- \* Mr Peter Robertson (Hervey Bay)
- \* Ms Jo Mould (Kingaroy)
- \* Mrs Helen Cifuentes (Caloundra/Maleny)



## Dates for your Diary

### **2026 PRESBYTERY MEETINGS Start time: 9.00am**

7 March - Murgon UC  
18 July - Buderim UC  
14 November - TBA (in the north)  
Business meeting Saturday 9am

### **2026 PASTORAL RELATIONS & STANDING COMMITTEE MEETING** (Venue subject to change)

12 Feb (Gympie)	12 March (Zoom)
10 Apr (Maroochydore)	14 May (Zoom)
11 Jun (Gympie)	9 Jul (Zoom)
13 Aug (Gympie)	10 Sep (Zoom)
8 Oct (Gympie)	12 Nov (Zoom)
3 Dec (Gympie)	

**Start time: 9.30am** (gympie) or **1-3pm** (Zoom)

Submissions accepted for consideration up to 1 week before meeting.

### **SAFE MINISTRY TRAINING**

\* Ministers - 1 May – Maroochydore UC  
\* Ministers - 13 Nov - TBA

### **CODE OF ETHICS TRAINING**

\* 1 May – Maroochydore UC  
\* Ministers - 13 Nov - TBA

### **MINISTERS RETREAT**

\* TBA

### **INDUCTIONS, COMMISSIONINGS, SERVICES OF CONCLUSION**

- ◆ 21 Dec Conclusion Service Brian Nagel (Buderim UC)
- ◆ Official Launch Maroochydore Church Plant TBA

### **FINANCE, INVESTMENT & PROPERTY (FIP) MEETINGS** (4th Fri excluding Oct & Dec)

\* 23 January 2026

### **RETIRED REVS**

James 1:19

You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger;



Jesus knows me, this I love!

[www.maryburnettpres.org.au](http://www.maryburnettpres.org.au)

Are your details on our website correct?  
Please email changes to [admin@maryburnettpres.org.au](mailto:admin@maryburnettpres.org.au)

## **MARY BURNETT PRESBYTERY**

### **WHO ARE WE?**

The Presbytery, as a Council of delegates from congregations and agencies, are disciples witnessing the love and transformation of Jesus in order to better serve our ministry agents, congregations and other places of ministry within its bounds.

# Presbytery Contacts

**PS Graham Huth** (Presbytery Minister)  
presmin@maryburnettpres.org.au  
0456 556 528

**Mrs Naomi Cavalli** (Secretary)  
secretary@maryburnettpres.org.au  
0401 161 165

**Mr Peter Coombes** (Chairperson)  
chair@maryburnettpres.org.au  
0400 300 267

**Kylie Aalbers** (Admin Officer)  
admin@maryburnettpres.org.au  
0417 509 433

**Johan Frank** (Treasurer)  
treasurer@maryburnettpres.org.au  
0478 888 727

**Property Committee**  
Wendy Jensen - jensenlw@bigpond.com  
Kylie Aalbers - admin@maryburnettpres.org.au

**Safe Ministry** (Safe People, Safe Environment)  
Vacant

**Rev Dr Elizabeth Nolan**  
Professional Supervision coordinator  
Period of Discernment Coordinator  
CEM coordinator  
enolan1@outlook.com

God's love knows  
no bounds

## PASTORAL RELATIONS STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Ps Graham Huth  
Mr Peter Coombes (Pres Chair)  
Mrs Naomi Cavalli (Secretary)  
Mr Johan Frank (Treasurer)  
Mrs Wendy Jensen (Property)  
Mrs Kylie Aalbers (Admin, Property)  
Rev Neil Storey  
Ps Steven Fincham  
Rev Nathan Barton  
Mr Eamon Dunne

## POSTAL ADDRESS OF THE PRESBYTERY

Mary Burnett Presbytery  
PO Box 1635, Sunshine Plaza, Qld 4558  
Office Address: Maroochydore UC  
6 Millwell Rd, Maroochydore



REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



(See Luke 2:1-16)

12-19-2014

IT HAD A STAR ON TOP SO I FIGURED IT  
SHOULD HAVE A MANGER AT THE BOTTOM

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## WORK DAYS

Grahams day off varies, according to his schedule. Please leave him a message if no answer, and he'll get back to you when he's able.  
Thank you.