

July 2011



**BELONGING  
PEOPLE**



**Easter Baptisms at Lajamanu**

## *From the New President*

It is an honour and a privilege to be the President of BUNT and I hope I can do a good job serving you. I have big footprints to follow coming after John Whitbourn, but I know the Lord God will lead me in the right direction. It may take a few months to get the feel of everything but I hope to visit all the Churches in our NT Baptist Family during the next two years. In the meantime please get in touch with me if there are things you want to discuss.

I believe that nothing has a greater eternal impact than our mission to tell others about Christ. *“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.*

*And surely I am with you always, even to the very end of the age.”*

*Matthew 28:19,20*

May the Lord be glorified always!

*John Baynes (Rev.)*

**08 8972 1519 home**

**0427 186 011 mob**



*John & Carmen  
Baynes*

## *Families join in Easter Craft at Bush Church*



The Baptist Bush Church has been involved in numerous social gatherings in the last few months. This Easter we celebrated with our annual Easter Craft Day. Numerous families from the community come to join us. The office of Youth Affairs sponsored the event by supplying a jumping castle with a waterslide which added to the fun. Apart from this, a church service and picnic at Berry Springs, and boxing tournaments, we also joined in the Pentecost celebrations in Palmerston, making damper on the BBQ and giving away Bibles.

Another event that we were blessed by, was the Ladies Coffee and Dessert Night, hosted by the Darwin Baptist Church. It is really encouraging to see the churches working together in this way. Darwin Baptist Church also hosted an Alpha information evening which the Baptist Bush Church attended; consequently the Bush Church is now running a Youth Alpha course. It is the Bush Church Boxing Club members who are attending the Youth Alpha course, and we are excited and have great expectations of what the Lord is doing. Please keep the boxers and youth leaders in your prayers. Part of the course is a camping trip, so hopefully next Belonging People we'll be able to report on the many fish we caught!

*Pastor Sharon Crook*

# Double Miracle Man!

Over Easter this year, we were at Lajamanu for the annual convention of NT indigenous Baptist churches, and it was a very full weekend of meetings and activities, with much blessing! On Easter Sunday afternoon, a number of believers were to be baptized. The local creek had been filled by recent rain, and made a delightful setting for this moving ceremony.

We were standing on the bank just before things got under way, when a lady came to us and asked “Do you remember that little baby Colin, the one who died, and God made him alive again?” “Yes of course we remember. That was an amazing day!” “Well, that’s him standing there - waiting to be baptized!”

Wow! How amazing! We’d not heard news of Colin for years, though we will never forget the day at Yuendumu more than 30 years ago when our early morning peace was shattered by a frantic knocking on the front door. A distraught lady called out “Quick, a baby is dead!!” It was no time to ask questions, so we ran with her - to the church building – which was packed full, at 7 a.m. on a weekday morning!

Two nursing sisters were there, but doing nothing. The looks on their faces said “There’s nothing anyone can do now.” The baby’s mother had gone to the sisters earlier, desperate for help, asking them to call the Flying Doctor plane. But they wouldn’t, saying “It’s too late- the doctor can’t do anything for this little one.”





That's what we walked into - a church full of people, some crying- and many praying loudly and fervently, surrounding the lifeless little body that lay on the communion table. Suddenly, there was a movement, then a cry from the tiny mouth. The sisters gasped in amazement, then grabbed the little boy and whizzed him off to the clinic for a thorough check over. Sure enough, he was alive and well!

News flashed around the community, and the story told and retold over the next days and months. "Little Jakamarra, poor thing! He was finished properly, but Wapirra (the Father) made him alive!"

What a thrill to be there on the day he was baptized!

Over the intervening years, Colin had been a rebellious teenager, had become a heavy drinker, and had spent time in jail. Now he was standing in baptismal waters, bearing testimony to his faith in Christ, and to the miracle of new life as a follower of Jesus. He's a double miracle man! Praise God!

*Rev. John Whitbourn*

# BUNT ASSEMBLY 2011



**Peter Christofides**

**R**ev Dr Peter Christofides was the speaker at this years Assembly. His short pithy devotionals encouraged delegates to keep their focus on ‘Christ and Him crucified’. From Hebrews 12:2 Peter challenged the gathering about their priorities, saying that it is easy to deviate from what really matters. **“God has called us to keep the Main Thing the Main thing”**, Peter said. He urged those present to focus on what God was doing; to look at God in the situation, not merely at the situation. “It is God who grows the seed we sow and so we need to rejoice every day in what He is doing in our lives and in our churches.”

## **Hospitality**

The Assembly was held at Darwin Baptist Church on Saturday 17.June 2011 and attended by delegates from most of the non-indigenous churches. Circumstances made it too difficult for Indigenous Leaders to travel to this Assembly and they were greatly missed. Everyone appreciated the hospitality extended by the Darwin Church and the excellent catering provided by Daryl and Glenys House of Mobile Mission Maintenance.

## **Women’s Ministry NT**

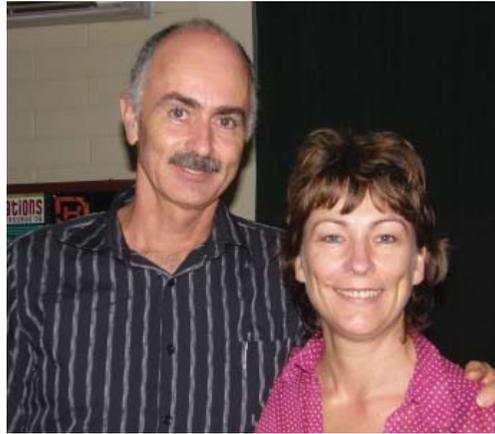
At the Assembly a proposal for **Women’s Ministry NT** was formally adopted as a ministry of BUNT, with Toni Rehrmann as the inaugural Leader. This is expected to be a fruitful ministry as women of the Territory are encouraged and equipped to impact their families, communities, churches and work places for God.

Another key decision was the adoption of a **Memorandum of Understanding** between BUNT and the SA Baptist Union which provides for closer personal and administrative co-operation between the two Baptist Unions.

## Changing of the Guard

After 28 years serving as BUNT Secretary, **Bob Adams** stepped down and **Bruce Clow** was elected to this key role. **Rev John Whitbourn** completed his 2 year term as President and **Rev. John Baynes** was inducted as the new President in a special ceremony at the Saturday Evening Dinner.

Special guests were **Rev Paul and Mrs Kate King** from Knightsbridge Baptist Church SA. Paul previously pastored at Darwin Baptist Church and was instrumental in first bringing John Baynes to the Territory from Alaska.



**New BUNT Secretary,  
Bruce Clow with wife, Sue**

## Remembrances

A poignant part of the Assembly was a Reflection on the life of **Mary Napurulla Rockman**, an outstanding servant of the Lord and a leader of the Indigenous Church, who went to be with her Lord last year. Her ability to reach out to all people, indigenous and non-indigenous, and the way she impacted so many lives was remembered with gratitude. It was agreed that consideration would be given to ways in which her life and work could be honoured.

Assembly also noted with sadness the recent deaths of **Rebecca Wright**, the sister of Pastor Neil Wright of Cornerstone Church and also of **Toni Redman**, wife of Murray Redman and mother of Madia and Nialin. The Redman family played a big part in the establishment and early growth of Palmerston Baptist Church, now Cross Roads Christian Church. Our thoughts and prayers are with the bereaved families.

*More on page 9*

## Secretary's Super Service

**W**ay back in 1983, **Bob Adams** was elected as the secretary of our Family of Churches, and he has held that position ever since. Surely this is some kind of record in Baptist circles! Yet it's not just the fact that Bob has held the Secretary's office for all these years, it's the way he has held it.

He has been absolutely diligent in every respect. Things that needed to be done have been done with competency and commitment. Bob has been acutely aware that the business of our Family of Churches is not simply administration and the like. It is actually the business of God's Kingdom, serving our churches, which in turn impact the whole world. As such therefore, it deserves our full attention and dedication, and Bob has demonstrated this by his faithful and Kingdom-oriented commitment.



It has been a joke among us over the years that, because we are a small family of churches, our records are kept in a box under the Bob's bed. It has also been said that the myriad details of NT Baptist life are stored in Bob's mind, and he is able to disgorge them at a moment's notice. There is a lot of truth in the latter, even if the box under the bed is not quite accurate!

As a family of churches, we record our deep appreciation of Bob's service over the years he has been secretary. He has given unstintingly of his time and energy, and has served us with care and thoughtfulness.

It's doubtful that Bob will now sit back with his feet up, and so we wish him all the very best for the days ahead.

**Rev. John Whitbourn**



Neil, Sharon  
& Wilhelmina

*Good  
Fellowship  
At*



Dot, Pauline & Viv



Ellen & Kate

*BUNT  
Assembly  
June 2011*



Paul, Peter & Mal

# Darwin Baptist Church 'Women Together'



**Alik Flodine**

During June our 'Women Together' hosted a Coffee and Dessert evening which focussed on the theme of Intentional Living. Our guest artist was Alik Flodine, a gifted Christian singer, communicator and author. We invited women from several churches across Darwin and a number of people invited friends. It was a great opportunity for introducing unchurched friends to the Gospel message, which was communicated in a very relevant and personal way by Alik.

The evening was a wonderful time of worship and teaching and many ladies lives were touched and

challenged. One of the biggest blessings of the evening was to have some of the menfolk of our church come and assist with set up and pack down. We gratefully appreciated their willingness to serve in this way.

Part of our vision for these evenings is to give women an opportunity to be involved in advocacy for women and to be made aware of social justice issues. Over this past year, along with other Baptist Women of Australia, we have been supporting the work of Freeset, based in Kolkutta, India which brings women out of prostitution and trains them to sew jute bags and T-Shirts, providing them with a form of work that brings freedom, dignity and security.

*Toni Rehrmann & Dot Meakins*



**The lawns of Darwin Baptist Church, under a new moon, provided an ideal setting for the Women's Coffee and Dessert Evening**



# CROSSROADS MISSION TRIP



Over recent years two of our guys have made a number of trips to East Timor, establishing a relationship with a small number of missionaries in Dili plus an indigenous Pastor in the town of Los Palos. Mid April saw five of us make a four day trip to Timor to cement those initial relationships and see how we as a church may be able to contribute. Extreme poverty, abuse and the spiritual

climate was disturbing, with evangelical Christians being targeted by certain sectors of society. As was said to the church on our return, 'Its only an hour away - how can we not do something?'

International evangelist **Carl Butler** was back with us for a weekend and spoke at the Church's first Men's Camp in who knows how long! Before the camp was over the guys were saying 'Lets do it again next year – but longer'. Carl also spoke at two services on the Sunday. Its always exciting to see people being touched so powerfully through Carl's ministry.

We also had the privilege of **Aliki Flodine** ministering in a Sunday morning service and that too, was a powerful and rewarding time.

*Pastor Bruce Clow*



**A Wheelie Bin makes a handy pulpit for Carl**

## BUSY WITH A PURPOSE AT ALICE SPRINGS

2011 is proving to be a very busy year for Alice Springs Baptist Church. The month of April was a busy time for the church as youth from all over town gathered for Easter Camp, a weekend retreat for High School students. It was a big camp with over 50 students participating. In town we were also busy with the Service of the Shadows on Thursday, the Good Friday service and of course the Easter Sunday celebrations.

The month of May began with a baptism when Sophie Higgins made her profession of faith and was baptized. The next weekend we held the Bizarre Bazaar, a community outreach and fundraising sale. The sale went really well and the funds raised will be used for regions of Australia and the world impacted by natural disasters. Midway through the month we had a women's retreat at Ross River Resort. It was a great time of fellowship and all who attended were blessed by the messages and testimonies of the women sharing.

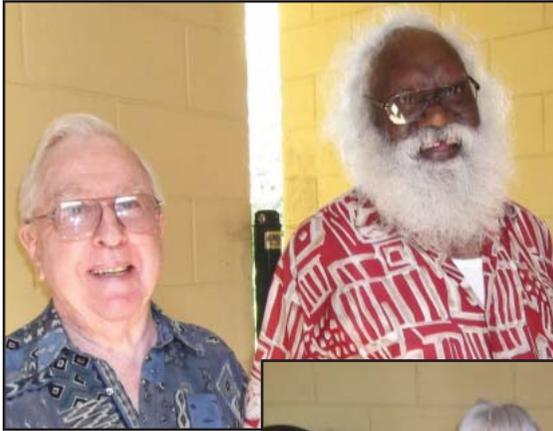


In the next couple of months we have the Alice Springs Show, a two day event which draws a majority of the town. We have a stall at the show and this year are running it as a coffee shop. That's followed by a week long Holiday Bible Program for children in primary and middle school.

All of these things are keeping us busy but we're not busy without a purpose, we still desire to use all of these opportunities to declare Christ and His Good News!

*Shannon Anderson*

*Dry Season Visitors  
to the Top End*



**Rex Granites** of Yuendumu  
with Lloyd Kent at  
Casuarina Church

**Janet** (Willowra),  
**Lorraine & Serena**  
(Yuendumu) with  
Win Kent



**Di Van Cooten**, previously  
with GiA in West Timor,  
pictured with Jacqualina  
Vreeling at Casuarina Church

**Mandy and James Cox**,  
previously with the  
Wateringhole Community  
and now living in Canberra,  
celebrated Mandy's 50th  
birthday in Darwin



## *Kalkaringi and Lajamanu*

It's been an exciting six months for the Churches at Kalkaringi and Lajamanu. The new Kalkaringi bus arrived in March driven from Victoria by Bill Morrison and his friend Ted Francis. Bill is seen here handing over the keys to Daniel Palmer.



The Easter Purlapa this year was hosted by the Lajamanu Church. There was great rejoicing when 18 believers were baptised in the local creek. Old friends, Barry and Lois Downes were welcome visitors over the Easter weekend.



Christians at Kalkaringi and Lajamanu were very happy to welcome back Pauline Morrison in May and to see how God has answered prayers for her healing.



# Going Bush Again

We were very privileged this year to make a return visit to the NT during April, taking in the Yapa Easter Celebration and the Katherine Christian Convention. How can one fully express the joy we had in meeting up with so many people with whom we have worked for so many years?

To sit around camp fires at night at the Holy Ground at Lajamanu and see leaders take up the challenge of sharing and singing God's Word did our hearts good. How we thank God for those many hours of sharing years ago with many of these leaders. To share in a baptismal service at Hooker Creek one Sunday morning and after partake in the Lord's Supper beside the creek bed, filled us with joy.

To talk with young people who we taught at school, to see their children proudly brought to us, to sit and talk with the old people who are still walking with God..... we were blessed beyond measure.



Thank you too to all those who made this trip possible by providing, accommodation, a vehicle and making the time to meet up with us at various locations

Saying goodbye was too hard, but we are all on a journey and the great hope we have is that we will meet again one day around His throne.

**Barry & Lois Downes**

# Family Picnic Day with Katherine Baptist

After church on Sunday, 15 May, we had a Family Picnic Day at the Low Levels Nature Park. Pastor Peter Leith showed the children how to make rope with his rope-making machine, there were fun games including boot throwing and a water relay race, as well as face painting. The adults had as much fun as the kids!



# Baptist Care Foodbank Expands

## 20,000 meals in two months



The vision of a Baptist Care Northern Territory has rapidly become a reality. This has been made possible by the active participation of the churches and a great deal of prayer. The new board of Baptist Care is very conscious of the Lord's guidance and provision in the development this ministry.

Foodbank Northern Territory established by Baptist Care now assists 40 community service organisations who supply food to struggling families. Over the last two months food enough to provide 20,000 meals was distributed by Foodbank.

The organisations being assisted are overburdened by the numbers seeking assistance and are welcoming the development of Food for Life outlets. Baptist Care's initial concentration on the development of the Foodbank has been necessary in order to obtain adequate food to supply the Food for Life ministry.

These affordable food outlets will provide access to nutritional food by vulnerable people experiencing disadvantage. The outlets will also provide opportunity for church members to minister to a range of needs that are not always as immediately obvious as the need for food.

Similar outlets in Sydney are now being located in Baptist Churches and staffed by church members who befriend and assist those coming for assistance. The churches in Darwin now have an opportunity to be similarly involved and the form these outlets will take is under consideration, so please pray for wisdom in how to operate these efficiently and effectively to feed the hungry.

As always we value your prayers, giving thanks for the Lords provision and for the resources to meet ongoing operating costs. The food is provided free to organisations with a small handling fee charged, but this is not sufficient to cover our overheads. We put our faith in God and trust He will provide.

Volunteers are always needed on Tuesdays between 4 and 6pm, and at other times throughout the week. Volunteer truck drivers are needed on Mondays and Thursdays. You don't need a special truck licence but must be competent driving a large vehicle.

Donations can be made through your church or at [givenow.com.au](http://givenow.com.au). For further information please contact Peter Fisher on 0401 560 980.

*Peter Fisher*



**Refrigerated Van donated by Woolworths**



## Katherine Christian Convention May Day Long Weekend



## ‘Giving Ourselves to God’ at KCC

A good time was had by all who attended the annual Katherine Christian Convention. Numbers were down from previous years, although there were still over 300 people in attendance. This was partly due to the wet; a number of Indigenous communities couldn’t get through to Katherine because roads were still flooded.

Lajamanu and Kalkaringi Baptist Churches led some of the Praise and Worship sessions along with Christians from other NT churches.

Phil Zamagias of the Bible Society did an excellent job as MC. He officially handed over his position of the ‘Flying Bible Man’ to David Curtis during the weekend. Guest speaker was Rev. Tom Sloc- kee who spoke on ‘Giving ourselves to God’ from Romans 13 and 14.





### *Asylum Seekers Baptised at Casuarina*

Over the last few months a number of Asylum Seekers from Iran and Sri Lanka, living at the Darwin Detention Centre, have been worshipping at Casuarina Baptist Church. Most of these people have previously been detained on Christmas Island having arrived there by boat and have come into contact with Christians there, some coming to know the Lord as Saviour. One of our Church Leaders, Solomon Perumal, visits Christmas Island regularly as part of his work and has become a friend to many of them.

God has been gracious and recently 12 of the Asylum Seekers including two women were baptised in a blow up pool after the Morning Service by Pastor Peter Christofides. Two of their young children were dedicated on the same morning. Pastor JohnWhitbourn regularly visits these people and ministers to them. The Church is praying for these new believers as visas are granted and they move out into the community or interstate.

The Church family sadly farewellled Rev. Dr. Peter Christofides, Maria and Michael at an after-Church Brunch in early July before they left for Perth where Peter is to take up a lecturing post with Vose Seminary. Rev. Arthur Payne and his wife Jane have come from Perth for a two month interim ministry and have been warmly welcomed at Casuarina.



## GLOBAL INTERACTION

**Our Missionaries serving in the NT need our continued prayers for health and wellbeing and to know the Lord's guidance in their everyday life. Please pray regularly for them.**

**Norm and Karen Roberts** (Team Leaders, Central Australia) are thankful for the prayers of many during Norm's time on sick leave. They are due to return to Alice Springs on 9 August. Pray that both Norm and Karen will be strengthened and sustained and know God's hand every step of the way.

**Bill and Pauline Morrison** ( Kalkaringi and Lajamanu.) Pauline returned to the field in May after surgery earlier this year. A recent spider bite resulted in Pauline being airlifted to Darwin for observation and treatment. Praise God that her recovery was rapid and she was able to return home shortly after.



With compassion and cultural sensitivity, cross-cultural workers with Global Interaction are empowering communities around the world to develop their own distinctive ways of following Jesus.

### **2011 support envelopes have been distributed in our churches**

Our cross-cultural workers need our financial support to continue.

Please prayerfully give through the envelopes or the on-line facilities on:

**[www.globalinteraction.org.au](http://www.globalinteraction.org.au) click on **Support** then click on **DONATION****

**Di and John Gronow**

**Global Interaction NT reps**

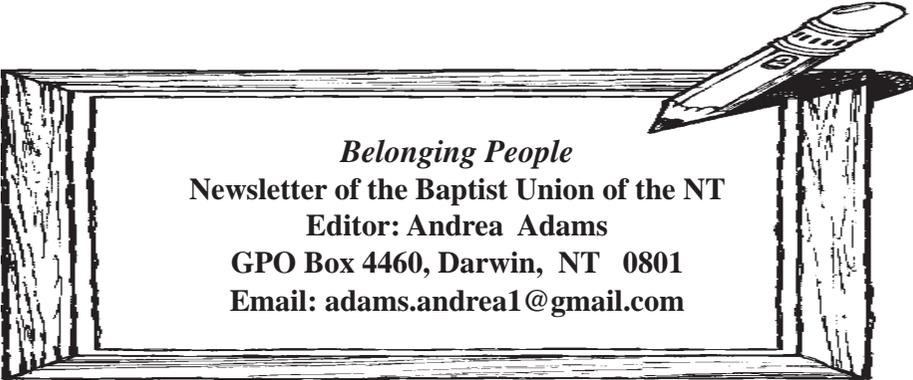
**Ph: (08) 8948 1393 / 0401 118 304**

**Email address: [jgronow@bigpond.net.au](mailto:jgronow@bigpond.net.au)**

## PRAISE THE RISEN LORD!



**Nhulunbuy Combined Churches celebrated Jesus' Resurrection at a Dawn Service on Easter Sunday on the beach. Geof Dunlop of Nhulunbuy Baptist Church led the special time of Praise and Worship**



*Belonging People*  
Newsletter of the Baptist Union of the NT  
Editor: Andrea Adams  
GPO Box 4460, Darwin, NT 0801  
Email: [adams.andrea1@gmail.com](mailto:adams.andrea1@gmail.com)