

July 2012

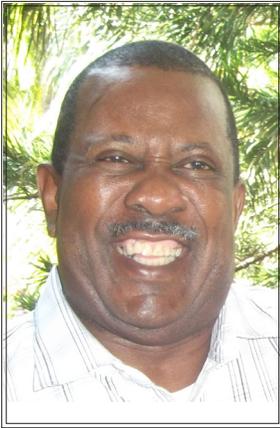


**BELONGING
PEOPLE**



Nhulunbuy Church and MAF on Outreach

From the President



In April I made my second visit as BUNT President to Kalkaringi-Daguragu Baptist Church, 800km south of Darwin, and was invited to preach on Easter Sunday about the resurrection and the life of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Other Aboriginal Churches also joined us during this Easter celebration along with people in the local community. We had great fellowship together, with a moving procession of the Cross as well as sharing in the Barbecue on Easter Sunday night

which was held at Daguragu. On three nights there were rousing Sing-Alongs with each church participating. It was a joy to witness eight people baptized on Sunday morning and Pastor Jerry Jangala playing the boomerangs and singing the Easter Purlapa. Thanks to Bill and Pauline Morrison for accommodation at the Mission House. Praise be to God!

Together, as the Baptist Family of Churches in the NT, God is using us in mighty ways. Let us continue passionately proclaiming the uncompromising Truth of Christ here at home and around the world. I challenge you to be encouraged to serve Him with perseverance.

Let us not give up meeting together as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Hebrews 10:25

In His Service
John H. Baynes

Aerial Outreach at Nhulunbuy



Kate and Edward Brazier with MAF pilot

Nhulunbuy Baptist Church has been partnering with Missionary Aviation Fellowship in an outreach to the aboriginal community of Garrthalala, on the coast south of Gove. The community has agreed for a team to present an outreach evening there on a regular basis during the week. Garrthalala has a type of boarding school where children from other communities come in to stay and attend school during the week and then go home on weekends. A weeknight was chosen as most of the schoolchildren are not there on weekends. A team of between two to five people take the 20 minute flight in a MAF plane every two weeks on a Wednesday afternoon and then fly back the next morning. To drive the same distance would take two and a half hours. Nhulunbuy Baptist Church is funding half the cost of the flying.

Front Cover: MAF pilots, Nhulunbuy members along with Eunice and Bungoli from Yirrkala, prepare for outreach flight

Rev. Dr. Lloyd Kent



Lloyd and Win Kent pictured at their 60th Wedding Anniversary in February this year

The Rev. Dr. Lloyd Kent went to be with his Lord in April this year, after losing his final battle with cancer. He was a history- maker and visionary, a man of unwavering faith.. Lloyd could well be called the founding father of Baptist work in the Top End of the NT. He and Win travelled to Darwin from Melbourne in 1963 with the specific aim of establishing a Baptist Church in Darwin. Not only was this achieved, but Lloyd's vision and energy drove much of the development of Baptist work in the Top End, including the establishment of other churches at Casuarina, Katherine and Palmerston. He was instrumental in the setting up of a number of other Baptist ministries in the NT and was an inaugural committee member of the Baptist Union of the Northern Territory serving as Secretary during its early years.

His warm nature reached out to people of all kinds, and his legacy is seen today in the lives of many people across the NT. Lloyd was deeply committed to indigenous folk, and sought to involve them in the wider life of Baptists in the NT and beyond. Lloyd's contribution to Baptist life, ministry and mission was expressed through tireless commitment, great faith and at times significant personal cost. To Win and the family, who travelled with him through these times, NT Baptists say a big Thank you! The thoughts and prayers of the wider NT Baptist Family are with Win, Peter and Andrew and their families in their loss.

We honour Lloyd for his vision, his energy, and his love for people, and give thanks to God for his life and ministry among us. Lloyd has run the race and fought the good fight and has now received his crown from his Lord and Saviour. To God we give the glory and praise!

Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God." William Carey

EQUIPPING AT CROSSROADS

“Equipping” continues each Sunday fortnight at **Cross Roads Christian Church**, with teaching on spiritual principles and prayer ministry. Just recently we had a closer look at Freemasonry and the impact which it can have in families. Once again its been exciting to watch different ones growing and developing in ministering the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Ladies Ministry also continues well with several again going down to the Colour Conference in Sydney. A development from this has been a higher level of involvement with the A21 programme, helping to address the complex issues surrounding human trafficking.

Two teams from CRCC have recently gone overseas – one to East Timor and the other to Cambodia. In both countries the need is heartbreaking and overwhelming, with the opportunities to help and share the gospel being endless. We’re looking forward to another team going to Timor in November.

Barbara Edwards from Eaglenet Ministries came and spent a weekend with us during February, running Stage One of the “Pulse” prayer course, teaching and training around 25 in the principles of Intercession. Those who attended found the course so helpful, and sometimes ‘challenging’. It has been so encouraging to see how the level of interest in, and efficacy of prayer seems to have gone to a new level.

Evangelist Carl Butler was back – his fourth visit – for a weekend in May. Carl runs evangelistic crusades in Africa where thousands are giving their lives to Jesus. From his ministry with us its been encouraging to hear reports of healings and new freedom which many are now experiencing. The Men’s Breakfast had the highest number (from CRCC) attending of any men’s event we’ve held so far – exciting times!!

The Outreach at Palmerston Markets is also going well, with visitor numbers to the stand increasing week by week. Those staffing the stand are reporting quite a level of interest, with several Bibles, books and other material either being given away or sold each week. There’s been some ‘interesting characters’ and challenging questions - but that’s all part of it!!



Pastor Bruce Clow



Global Interaction Boss Visits

General Director of GlobalInteraction, **Heather Coleman** visited the Red Centre in March meeting up with all the Church Support Workers who travelled to Alice Springs for this valuable time of review and planning.



Heather then hit the road with Norm and Karen Roberts visiting the communities of Yuendumu, Ali Curung, Willowra and Yuendumu.

The situation at Yuendumu continues to cause deep concern to Norm and Karen, with tribal fighting flaring up at intervals and injuries being inflicted. The local Baptist Church at Yuendumu is well placed to help bring peace to the community, but some church people have been drawn into the conflict. This feud has been raging for a long time and we are asked to pray for God to intervene and bring peace to the community and the church.

Norm and Karen Roberts have travelled extensively through Victoria and in Adelaide for 5 weeks in March and April, sharing news and prayer matters of the Yapa churches with many of their supporters. Norm tells how churches and individuals have eagerly responded to the Yapa stories and embraced them in an overwhelming way on their journey. Praise God for Aussie Baptists! In the Roberts' absence, faithful stalwarts, Ken and Jane Norris, were on hand again to relieve them in the Red Centre.

Continue to pray for good outcomes for the people and community of Yuendumu and for God's peace to be theirs.

Resolving Conflict at Darwin Baptist

Conflict has been a major issue at Darwin Baptist Church over the past few months... but not because we have been experiencing it. Instead we have been working through what the Bible has to say about it through Resolving Everyday Conflict, an eight-lesson study. While there are several reasons our church leaders chose to devote several months to this issue, one of the main motivations was the fact it is mission-based.

“There is a lot of conflict in the world around us and we have an opportunity to speak peace into conflict situations in a way that nobody else can when they don’t have a relationship with the Prince of Peace,” said our senior pastor, Mal Sercombe, when introducing the series to the church. I think there is a deeply missional edge to what we are going to be looking at. I am excited about the potential of 200 ambassadors of peace being in this city. I’m excited about what that might mean in neighbourhoods and in workplaces and just in casual interactions around the place if we can just show a different way.”

With our connect groups each week and through sermons every Sunday, we have covered topics such as ‘the root cause of conflict’, ‘when to overlook an offense’, ‘what makes a good apology’, ‘what forgiveness really means’ and ‘how to deal with difficult people’.

The teaching has been challenging, but extremely valuable. While Jesus said "blessed are the peacemakers", many of us were unsure how to actually deal with damaged relationships with our husbands or wives, family members and even work colleagues or bosses. Having completed the study, so many of us can honestly say our lives have been touched by this material.

Kate Woods



NEW WORK - KNUCKEY LAGOON OUTREACH

With the blessing of the Katherine Warlpiri Baptist Church and support from BUNT, John and Carmen Baynes are planting a new church at Knuckey Lagoon, Darwin.



“After many months of praying we praise God for the opportunity to start a new outreach ministry at Knuckey Lagoon Aboriginal Community in Darwin. We had our Kick Off in December 2011. Please join us in giving praise to the Lord for this outreach opportunity.”

Each week John and Carmen drive from their home in Katherine to the outskirts of Darwin. Around six interested adults join in a time of sharing and teaching each Sunday and between 16 – 20 children are keen to be part of the Sunday School. In response to community requests a Sunday evening meeting has also started up.

Prayer Points for Knuckey Lagoon Aboriginal Community:

PRAY for God's favour as we seek to follow the Lord in planting a church .

PRAY for us and for the people we encounter and engage with the gospel.

PRAY for strength as we serve and for guidance as we reach and disciple men and women into a loving relationship with Jesus Christ.

PRAY for the Children's ministry and for Carmen as she engages with the kids.

PRAY for God's provision for a 14 Seater Hi Ace Van and a Bus Driver to pick up people for Church services, Bible studies and Prayer Time.

**Thankyou for
praying.**

***John and Carmen
Baynes***



Alice Springs Women's Retreat

The month of May is here and gone and in Alice Springs autumn equals the annual Women's Retreat. Last year was the first Women's Retreat and was a great success; this year the planning committee put together another fantastic women's event.

The theme was "Precious Vessels" and we focused on stories about vessels in the Bible. Our speaker was Ann Eckert. Her words of wisdom and gift for telling stories combined to clearly teach the word of God on the topic of vessels. We discovered how we may both be and have vessels in our lives to offer to God. With over seventy women attending the weekend in part or full, this was a great opportunity for women of Alice Springs to pull aside for a time of fellowship and growth. Thanks to the planning committee for all their hard work and to Ann, the worship team, and small group leaders for drawing our eyes towards Christ!

Shannon Anderson



Easter celebrations at Kalkaringi



A highlight for the Church was Easter when many people came from near and far to celebrate Jesus' death and resurrection.

- **Good Friday:** A welcome from the Traditional Owners at the church then 120 folk walked up to the hill, with everyone having turns carrying a large cross. The cross was then erected at the top of the hill, where it continues to overlook the community. This was a very special time for the church, placing the cross where it could be seen throughout the community. Since then, many people from the community have walked up to the hill for their own quiet reflection. Some of the smaller children are calling it 'Ngaji Hill'(God's Hill)

- **Baptism classes** were held on the Saturday afternoon. Evening Sing- along was held at the school basketball court, led by Ellen, with sharing from all communities.

- **Sunday service:** The Kalkaringi church men led Sunday morning service with great worship, Bible reading and communion. John Baynes, BUNT President, spoke on John 3:16-18.

• **Baptisms:** How amazing it was to share in 8 Baptisms at Watties Creek! It was a perfect day with children swimming around their family as they were baptised. Awesome encouragement and prayer following the Baptisms.

• **Fellowship:** A big Crowd of 300 or more joined in a Barbecue and Sing-a-long at Dagaragu church on Sunday evening.

“Celebrating Jesus, what He means to us, singing, joining with other Christian people and being baptised really blessed me over the Easter weekend”. Pansy



New Sunday School Building: Kalkaringi now has a Sunday School building which a team from Mobile Mission Maintenance erected. These folk were a blessing to the Kalkaringi Church folk, spending time with them at morning tea, Bible study and prayer times. A job well done by all!



Casuarina Gears Up For New Ministry

Over the last few months, Casuarina Church has been planning and praying about the possibility of operating a **Food for Life** outlet based on the church property. Things have been falling into place under God's hand and this new ministry recently commenced on 28 June.

Part of one of the buildings has been divided off, and shelving placed in one section and tables and chairs in another. The goals are three fold:

- **food** is available at nominal cost to people holding a Government entitlement card
- **training** will be provided for people needing to acquire basic work skills
- **spiritual help** will be available to those who express that need

The shelving holds goods to supply physical needs, the shop provides work skills, and an area where refreshments are served and people can talk, completes the scene.



Annette Kent is our hospitality person, and has a band of volunteers ready to assist. A training day was held recently to give guidelines and help for the volunteers.

Christa Coetzee is our shop manager, and oversees the distribution of food. Annette and Christa have been busily planning the setting up process with the practical help of others in the church and the prayer support of many.



Why Food for Life?



God's heart is for the poor.

Matthew 25:35- 40

35 "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, 36 I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me....."

40 The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

- A very practical way of meeting a genuine need that has been identified as a gap in service provision
- Located at church so people make the connection between low-cost food and God's love
- Meets people's deeper needs and points them to Jesus

Food for Life operates under the auspices of:



Baptist Care NT exists to express God's love in addressing profound human social, emotional, physical and spiritual needs, through direct support services, advocacy and encouraging self-sufficiency, empowerment and community development. This is achieved in partnership with churches where possible and the wider community where appropriate.

Baptist Care Northern Territory has established **Foodbank NT** to ensure adequate supply of food for Food for Life services while also supporting welfare organisations in their food related programs.



For more information on Food for Life and Foodbank NT contact Peter Fisher on 0401 560 980

BUSH CHURCH BAPTISMS

The most exciting news for the Baptist Bush Church has been three baptisms whilst the church was camping at the Katherine Christian Convention. Ryan Damanik, Neils Andersen-Brock, and Michael Murphy were baptised. About half an hour after Michael was baptised he was helping to baptise Neils and the next day they were sharing their testimonies. The baptisms were a great encouragement for the church. Praise the Lord for His saving grace! We would appreciate it if you could uphold these young men in your prayers.

We have been blessed by the Seventh Day Adventist Church which has given us pillows, blankets and other goods to share. The church has also been hosting cooking classes in conjunction with Australian Indigenous Ministries and we have our first movie night planned for the Marrakai Ministry. Praise the Lord for all of these wonderful opportunities to work together and witness to others.

Pastor Sharon Crook



BUNT ASSEMBLY 2012

This year the Assembly was held at the **Baptist Bush Church** at Humpty Doo on Saturday 16 June. Delegates enjoyed warm hospitality and were blessed with stimulating discussions covering a number of significant issues. **Cross Roads Christian Church** hosted a fine evening dinner for delegates and spouses. More on the Assembly in the next issue of *Belonging People*.

Katherine Baptist Folk Enjoy BBQ and Picnic



We have had a couple of church community events lately. One was a barbecue and a swim at the local pool in March which is always great fun! Another event was a picnic at Edith Falls on Anzac Day. This was well attended and everyone had a great time talking, walking, playing and eating!

Caron Leith



When Beauty Meets Compassion

The second of three **Women Together** Conferences was held on a beautiful dry season evening in early June at Darwin Baptist Church. All three Conferences centre around the theme of Beauty and at this one women were challenged to consider their response to a needy world. Around 95 women attended and were treated to beautifully decorated tables, inspiring music and a delicious supper.

Speaker, Karen Wilson, National Director for Baptist Women in Australia, presented a lively, humorous and thought provoking talk using her own experiences in coming face to face with the poor and broken. About a third of the women attending came forward in response to Karen's call to live courageously for Jesus.

Jules Parker the Donor Relations Co-ordinator for Baptist World Aid Australia was also present to talk about the work of Freeset in India. This Christian project which has been running for ten years releases women from prostitution and provides education and skills that lift them out of poverty. Following the Women Together Conference, Jules along with Karen Wilson and Toni Rehrmann of Darwin Baptist Church were flying to Kolkata to experience firsthand the work of Freeset.

An offering taken during the evening raised an amazing \$7,500.00 for the work of Freeset in the prevention of trafficking of girls and young women to be used in the Murshidabad area which has been identified as a focus for this human trade.



*Key speakers,
Karen, Toni
and Jules*

MOVING HOUSE!

Darrel and Glenys House with their children, Nathanael and Jacinta, have been a big part of the Darwin Christian scene for the past 10 years through their dedicated commitment to Mobile Mission Maintenance in the Top End and their active involvement at Darwin Baptist Church. Many churches, schools and missions of various denominations have benefited enormously from the building efforts of Darrel and his teams of volunteer tradesmen from interstate. Glenys has headed up the MMM Auxiliary Team – holding Craft stalls and providing a top class Catering Service for private and church events with all proceeds going to the work of MMM. Now the Houses are moving house – to Tasmania but their legacy will live on in the Territory and their service to Jesus will continue to bear witness to Him.

Glenys writes, “Life’s a journey and for the past 16 ½ years, our MMM journey has taken us to some wonderful places where we have met, many special people. We count it a privilege to have served in the ministry and we leave with lots of wonderful memories! Thank you for your friendship, fellowship and the fun we have enjoyed together.

We are looking forward to the adventures in the next part of the journey. We will be building a house in Glebe Hill, Hobart, Tasmania on land that has been given to us. For the rest of the unknown story, we trust God to lead us in the areas that He wants us to be involved in. Thanks for travelling with us and enriching our lives!”



Glenys, Darrel and Jacinta House

Getting To Know Paul

Rev. Paul Avery is the Pastor of Casuarina Church



Please introduce your family.

I am married to Davina (aka Dee) and have two sons, Anthony, 18, and Jack, 12.

What did you do before coming to Darwin?

Many things! When I left school I worked in the wine industry for five years, then I was a professional Fire Fighter for ten years. With my wife, Davina, I was a live-in support worker at a Drug Rehabilitation Farm. I have also been a High School worker before attending Bible College and studying for the Pastoral Ministry.

What events led you to Casuarina Baptist?

I wasn't looking for a Church when I unexpectedly received a general email from the Baptist Union of NSW regarding a pastoral vacancy at Casuarina Baptist Church. It sounded interesting. Dee and I talked, thought and prayed about it before applying for the job. I now have a strong conviction that this is where God means me to be and that He has called me here for a long-term ministry.

LAJAMANU

OUT and ABOUT

Katherine Christian Convention: A group from Lajamanu took part in the discussion following one of the teaching sessions on Saturday. It was good to catch up with Graeme Paulson (past missionary) at Kalkaringi and Lajamanu after the Katherine Convention. He spent time with Jerry Jangala continuing discussions on Leviticus. (For more on KCC see pages 22 -23)



Warlpiri Recording: David Curtis, the Bible Society ‘Flying Bible man’, recorded Annette Patrick reading the Bible story of “The Sower” in Warlpiri. The cover for the CD was based on Annette’s painting of the story. The CD will be available to Yapa to encourage Bible reading in their own language.



Brighton Visit: Following an invitation from Brighton Baptist Church in Melbourne, Bill and Pauline, Lynette, Annette, Robyn and Desmond travelled to the cooler weather of Melbourne. We were all welcomed warmly while getting to know the church over a barbecue on Saturday night. We participated in a very moving Sunday morning! service.

Cafe Church on Sunday evening was a relaxed atmosphere as Desmond and the women shared their testimonies about how God has changed their lives.

A Life Changed By Ngaji



Michael George is a Gurindji man, a Traditional Owner and an Elder in the community. Michael and his wife, Mary, live and work in Kalkaringi with their two children. His Gurindji skinname is Jupunyi. Michael and Mary were part of the church folk who organised Easter. He works as an Indigenous Engagement Officer within Dagaragu and Kalkaringi. An IEO is a Government representative liaising between government and community. Michael has much influence in the community as an Elder, Traditional Owner and in his role of IEO.

This is his Testimony:

After witnessing an accident at the grid in 2011 he realised that he was sorry and needed to turn to Ngaji (God). Michael travelled to Darwin to visit the injured man in Hospital. Returning to Kalkaringi, there was a bright light ahead of him on the road. He believed it was Ngaji showing him the right way to go. It has been a great encouragement to the church to see the involvement and growth in Michael and his family as they attend church regularly to worship Ngaji.

“Now I want to love Ngaji, care for my family, spend money correctly and help others”.



K
C
C

Katherine Christian Convention has been held each year since 1968, over the NT May Day long weekend. It is evangelically-focused and is probably a unique Christian event in Australia. KCC is an outdoor event, thanks to the blessings of the Top End dry season. Shady trees in the main stage area make for an interesting congregation spread during the day. Children's and Youth activities are held in nearby specially prepared outdoor venues. Many folk at KCC come from remote communities in the Top End, and travel hundreds of kilometres over challenging roads and rivers to attend. Even "townies" from Darwin must traverse 320 km down the Stuart Highway.

KCC is a "residential" convention. Many attendees camp on site, at Morrow's Farm on the bank of the Katherine River. Bruce and Janine Morrow make their property available for KCC and other Christian groups during the year. Without their facilities, hospitality and dedication, KCC could not operate in its present form. Opportunities for informal fellowship and sharing are many. The food canteen and Bethel Christian Bookshop next door are natural meeting places. The river beside the convention site is a beautiful spot for swimming and relaxing between meetings.



..... *A Unique Christian Event*

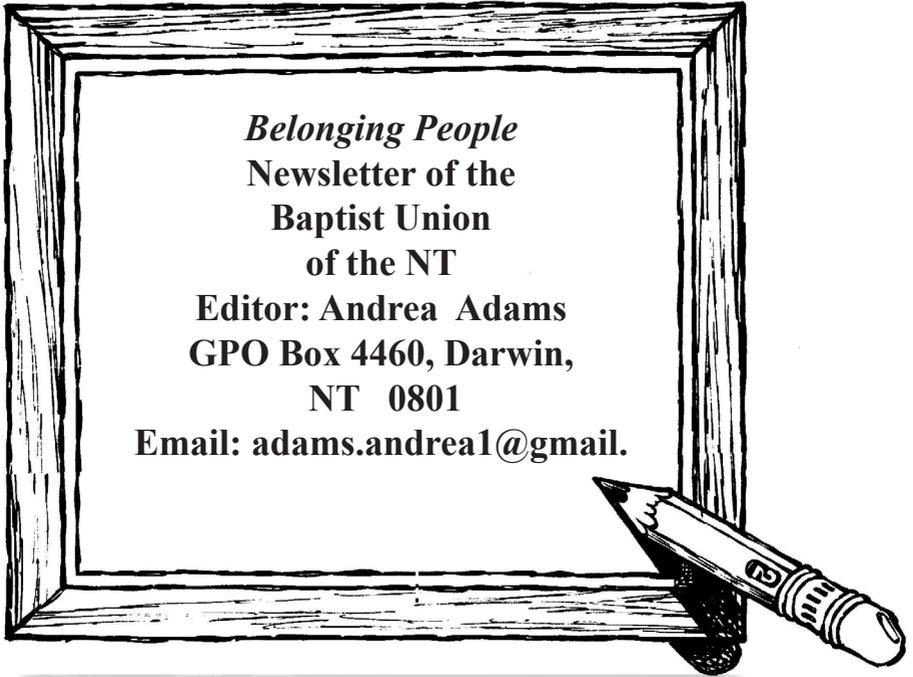
Saturday and Sunday night Celebration meetings are a KCC specialty. Folk from bush and town churches alike take the opportunity to present song, dance and testimony, often in their own language. For many groups, this is a rare opportunity to witness before people outside their own community.

The forty-fifth Convention was held on 5-7 May 2012. The guest speakers were Paul and Ann Eckert who used their story-telling ministry on the theme: *Trusting God - Abraham and Sarah*, from Genesis 12-25. The Mission Focus Group for this year was AuSIL, who are celebrating their 50th anniversary. Over 70 children attended the Children's program led by St James Anglican Church in Darwin and helped by volunteers, where the conference theme was continued in skits, stories, games and songs.

Your prayers for the KCC ministry are greatly valued.



Thanks to Jim Mathieson, Publicity Officer, for information on KCC.



Cornerstone Church Folk
Standing: Kym & Ian Fleming, Seated: Joanne & Pastor Neil Wright