

July 2016

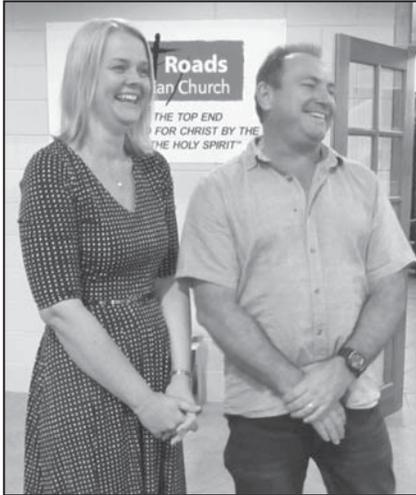
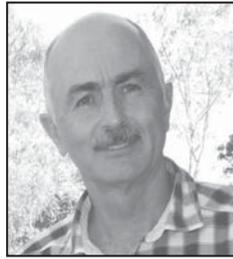


**BELONGING
PEOPLE**



Happy 50th Anniversary Darwin Baptist Church!

The New President's Message



Jo and Neil Wright

Moving into any new role can always be a little daunting, especially when the predecessor has made such an awesome job of it. Our out-going President, Neil Wright, has served BUNT with diligence and faithfulness for the last couple of years and, on behalf of the Union, we say 'thankyou' to both Neil and Jo for your service. Neil, your quiet manner, sense of humour, and wisdom has been so appreciated by us all. And Jo, without your support, coping with Neil's trips away, the phone calls, meetings and general extra work load, it would have been impossible for Neil to 'do the job'. Thank-you both.

On behalf of the Union, we also say a big 'thankyou' to Bob Adams for your 32 years of service on the BUNT Assembly Board, including 29 years as Secretary. Your depth of knowledge, insight and understanding will be missed.

It seems BUNT has been going through a time of change for several years now, a season which probably began when Mike Mills (South Australia Baptist Union) came on board as Director of Ministries. Even our recent Assembly was a departure from the way it had been done previously and had the highest attendance for many years. I find it interesting that God has brought me into this role at this time, a responsibility I would probably have avoided if it hadn't been for the quiet nudging of the Holy Spirit. It's going to be both interesting and exciting to see where God takes us as we watch His plans and purposes unfold over the next few years. **God Bless,**

Bruce Clow

MAKING OUR CHURCHES 'KID SAFE'



Baptist Churches in the NT recently held a specialist child protection training program specifically designed for churches with an emphasis on making churches safe for children and young people. 46 participants from Baptist Churches from as far afield as Nhulunbuy and Katherine met in Palmerston to learn more about understanding and responding to Child Abuse and sexual exploitation.

Carl Collins, Executive Director of CACET Global – Child Abuse Consultancy Education and Training - which is based in South Australia, visited the NT to deliver the seminar. He explained to participants how to identify and deal with people who may infiltrate churches to prey on children.

NT Baptist Churches have adopted child safe programs in their churches and require all people who work with children to hold an NT Ochre card in addition to undertaking CACET specialist training which is held each year in the NT. CACET designs and delivers specialist child protection training programs both in Australia and overseas.

Participants at this latest training session agreed that the day was worthwhile and informative. Such training is an important investment in the safety of children in our church environments and those who work with children in our churches need to avail themselves of this excellent course.



Carl Collins

Andrea Adams



Darwin Baptist Church Celebrates 50 Years of God's Goodness



June was a busy but exciting month for Darwin Baptist Church as we celebrated our 50-year anniversary! Under a big marquee on a beautiful dry season morning, everyone (our combined 9am, 11am and 5pm services) gathered together to praise God for his love, kindness and blessing over the years.

Sons of Korah, an Australian-based Christian band, led our worship; church members of different ages and from different eras offered prayers of thanksgiving; we had a time of reflection and remembrance; we cut a celebration cake and then joined together for a celebratory lunch.

However, one of the most special parts of the service occurred when the church stood and together in one voice, declared the same pledge our 23 founding members made the day the Darwin Church was formally constituted;

"We do now declare ourselves to be a Church of the Lord Jesus Christ, banded together in love to Him and to each other. With thankful hearts we dedicate ourselves afresh to Him."

This Prayer of Thanksgiving was offered by Lincoln Agnew during the open air service:

"Our Heavenly Father,

Today we come before you in humility and adoration to give you glory as you so freely give glory and grace to us. Two thousand plus years ago your Holy Spirit breathed new life into a small community of bewildered and some doubtful Jesus followers to form the beginnings of a body of believers called the Church.

Amazingly, by your grace Father, we stand here as a part of that body through the faithfulness of those who have gone before us. From the Apostle Peter to the founders of our community here at Darwin Baptist Church, we acknowledge and thank you for the vision of those people some 50 years ago that moved them beyond just thinking that forming a local church was just a good idea, this small group, obedient and faithful to your call, willing to follow you and help "proclaim you throughout the nations".

Thank you that they thought right to build a facility from which to serve, providing for future generations, becoming a gathering place for worship as it is today. So from architect to engineer, with loans and labour, with child-like faith, a sure hope and love for God and mankind, this Church exists and lives by the good works of many, melding into the wider church with Christ Jesus as our Shepherd.

Thank you Father."

Kate Woods



Pastors Warren & Mal



Kids celebrate with praise

Katherine Christian Convention

The 49th Katherine Christian Convention was held on the Anzac Day long weekend at Morrow's Farm at the Katherine Low Level.



Carmen assists at the SU Children's Program at KCC

The Children's ministry, sponsored by Scripture Union NT and led by Glen Simpkins and other SU volunteers, was again a great hit with over 90 children participating. Bible stories were told in Kriol and in English and the theme was the Death, and Resurrection of the Lord Jesus. Action songs, skit and dramas, games and craft made it a wonderful program.

The KCC Guest Speaker was Jono Wright who spoke on Law and Grace. The traditional Song Festival was held on Saturday and Sunday nights with Katherine Warlpiri Baptist Church, Lajamanu and Knuckey Lagoon Baptist men and women singing on stage along with other communities

People came from over 73 places around the NT and Australia. with 560 campers coming from remote Aboriginal communities. Around 1,500 people came to Katherine for this great time of fellowship and teaching as well as meeting new friends from across Northern Territory. God is worthy to be praised! Great things He has done!

Easter Celebration

People from Katherine Warlpiri Baptist Church and Knuckey Lagoon Baptist Fellowship travelled to Lajamanu for the combined Easter Celebration with Yuendumu, Ali Curung and Willowra Baptist Churches where we celebrated the death, life, and resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

At the Easter service held at Lajamanu Baptist Church we presented music and songs. Pastor Jerry (Jangala) Patrick shared God's Word. It was a great time of fellowship, prayer, testimonies and making acquaintances for everyone during this combined Easter celebration of Aboriginal Churches in the outback of Northern Territory.

Carmen Baynes



Belonging People

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CASUARINA FAREWELLS PAUL & DAVINA

On Sunday 15 May, during a special time of thanksgiving, Pastor Paul and Davina (Dee) Avery were farewelled after four and a half years of ministry at Casuarina Baptist Church. In expressing the Church Family's appreciation, Peter Kent acknowledged the big step of faith that Paul and Dee made in leaving NSW in 2012 to travel to Darwin and launch into the unknown. Since arriving they have embraced the 'multi-culture' of Casuarina Church and have become 'died-in-the-wool' Territorians enjoying and appreciating all the North has to offer.



"Paul we are thankful that you have fearlessly preached the Word of God to us and stood up for biblical values on many issues of community concern. We know you have a heart for the lost and those who struggle at the margins of church life and have made sure that your circle of friends includes those who do not yet know the Lord."

Peter also highlighted Paul's support for, and participation in, community outreach ministries especially Food for Life, his regular Thinkspots to the Craft Group and the introduction of the very popular Christmas Lunch. He noted how Paul was there for people in times of both celebration and sadness.

Dee has blessed the church with her significant contribution to the worship ministry and her involvement in women's ministry and bible studies as well as sharing some great graphic design work. The Church family has appreciated the many ways in which she has supported and encouraged Paul in his ministry.

The Avery Family plans to stay in Darwin and wait to find out what God has planned for them next. Please hold them in prayer.

Andrea Adams

'Connecting with Community' BUNT Assembly 2016

Connecting with Community was the theme of the 47th Baptist Churches of the NT Assembly held in June at Cross Roads Church Palmerston. This lively and inspiring weekend of praise, sharing and teaching saw the highest attendance for some years. Special thanks go to the worship team who led us in praising the Lord and to Cross Roads Church who provided a warm and friendly setting as well as refreshments and meals from Friday evening right through Saturday.



The Friday evening commenced with a sausage sizzle and good fellowship. Later guests shared in worship items from three local churches and a power point presentation of Rev. John and Carmen Baynes' ministry to the indigenous churches in Katherine and Knuckey Lagoon.



Continued next page

BUNT ASSEMBLY

continued

The special guest speaker was **Brandon Chaplin**, Senior Pastor at Blackwood Baptist Church, S.A. and Chaplain of the Port Adelaide Football Club. Brandon gave an introductory talk at the Friday night combined Churches worship. On Saturday morning delegates met again and Brandon introduced the following topics during the morning: 'The Church to Church - how we operate within ourselves', 'The Church to the World - how we connect with our local community'. Following the Saturday evening dinner Brandon spoke movingly of his personal experiences on 'Dealing with Acute Grief and Loss while Leading'. The BUNT Assembly Board, on behalf of all attendees, thank Brandon for his enlightening and thought provoking messages. Brandon's wife, Linda was also a welcome guest at Assembly.

Global Interaction Support Worker, Rev. Bill Morrison reported on the five indigenous churches that he and his wife, Pauline, are working alongside in the Northern Territory. These are Kalkaringi, Lajamanu, Yuendumu, Willowra and Ali Curung.



Brandon & Linda Chaplin



Bill & Pauline Morrison with Tim and Claire Cowen



*Praying for the new President,
Bruce Clow and wife, Sue.*



*Director of Ministries,
Mike Mills*

On Saturday afternoon, Mike Mills, BUNT Director of Ministries, led the devotion from Paul's letter to Timothy on running the race through the different seasons of life. Then the Assembly Business meeting was held when reports were received and the Budget approved for the 2016/2017 Financial year. Churches were also advised that the BUNT Assembly Board has been developing a new Constitution, with the latest version being posted on the BUNT Website.

The following people were elected to the BUNT Assembly Board:
President : Pastor Bruce Clow , Immediate Past President : Pastor Neil Wright, Secretary and Treasurer : Mrs Vivian Carson, Committee Members : Pastors Mal Sercombe, Toni Rehrmann and Ernie Mitchell, Reverend Paul Avery.



BUNT Assembly Board: Mal Sercombe, Ernie Mitchell, Viv Carson, Neil Wright, Paul Avery, Bruce Clow. Absent: Toni Rehrmann

OUR BROTHERS & SISTERS IN THE BUSH CHURCHES

Global Interaction Support Workers, **Bill and Pauline Morrison** write, "Travelling between the five communities is a great privilege with many experiences and new friends being made each visit. On a recent trip to Alice Springs we enjoyed catching up with some friends, a bit of shopping and sightseeing and on Sunday attending the Alice Baptist church. It was a great time to meet up with Yapa family and friends.

It is the middle of the year and much is happening all over the Northern Territory churches. The leaders of the five churches and the church families would like to thank everyone for your prayers and support. It is encouraging to see the Global Interaction philosophy working out effectively in the Indigenous Churches."

**Empowering communities to encounter Jesus
in their own distinctive ways**

Lajamanu:

Lynette Tasman and Andrew Johnson from the church are undertaking training with World Vision for Channels of Hope a course that is training for Domestic violence. This is a localised program that is being changed to fit into community learning methods and will be run by Indigenous folk on community. This is a very sound and Bible based training. Please pray for Lynette and Andrew as they continue their training.



Three women, Sharyn and Vicki from Brisbane and Anita from Melbourne, visited to meet with women of the church and community following a successful cultural exchange in 2014. Two days were spent out bush enjoying laughter, sharing and of course bush tucker, e.g. kangaroo tail, bush turkey, nuts and bush bananas.

Kalkaringi:

1. Men's study continues to be a great time of Bible teaching, sharing and prayer for the men who attend. The women have been studying the book of Ruth.

2. Freedom Day Weekend 50th celebrations planning is well under way and the community of Kalkaringi and Daguragu are abuzz with preparations. It is great to see the community being encouraged to take part in the festivities and be given responsibilities to undertake over the

weekend. The church will be opening the Saturday concert and we will be running a BBQ, and cake stall at the weekend.



*A church lady, Connie, painting
at Old Wave Hill Station.*

Yuendumu:

Yuendumu church leaders are working together to take Sunday services and singalongs in the evening. There is great enthusiasm shown for the Wednesday evening Bible Study that is held at the church. The op Shop is busy with folk coming in to buy warm winter clothes and to have a chat.

Willowra:

Willowra church is preparing to start children's activities at the church on Sundays and during the week. The leaders see that it is important to provide teaching and a place for children to learn about Wapirra in the community. Please pray for the ladies as they begin this ministry.



Ali Curung Praise



Ali Curung ladies lead worship

We are enjoying great numbers at Sunday Morning services, with a few visitors joining us over the winter months. Singalong is a nightly occurrence with Jimmy Friday and Lenny Nelson and our choir of ladies leading us in worship .

Deborah and Dianne are doing a fantastic job with the kids teaching them of the Love and Power of Jesus through dance. We are getting up to 60 kids coming along to singalong each night, to dance in worship. Many ladies are joining together for Bible study and prayer on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, while the men are meeting on Thursdays to delve into the Word. The ladies are having a great time helping out at the op shop, chatting and laughing as we sort through and sell the clothes that have generously been donated.

We have had some beautiful people give their lives over to the Lord and many have been baptised. The community of believers is growing in number and is growing in understanding and in faith. Please continue to pray for us down here in the south as we seek to share the love of Jesus by serving our community.

Deb Aldridge

The Cross at Ali Curung

God willing on Friday 15 July the Ali Curung Cross will be raised, followed by a "Celebration weekend" on the Desert Springs Farm, 8 km east of Ali Curung. The celebration will be about what God has done and doing in this great land. The local community wanted the cross to be between Ali Curung and the highway, so it will help everyone to remember what Jesus did on the cross. It will have LED lights on it and will be able to be seen from the highway 12 km away.

It has been said that the cross is the true symbol of reconciliation; Jesus reconciled us back to God by dying on the cross.

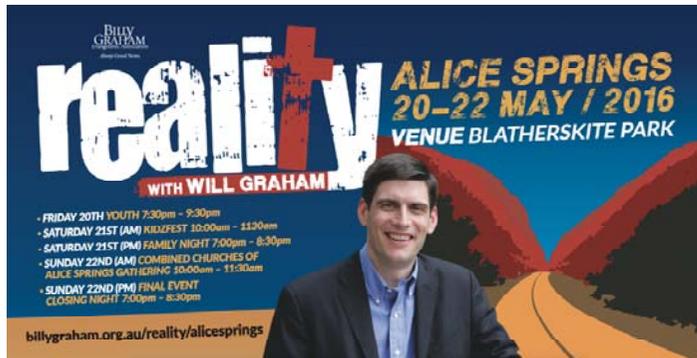
There is a lot of excitement about the weekend with people coming from lots of communities in Central Australia and even from other states. We hope that there will be many people come together this weekend to celebrate our great God and proclaim his goodness.

Paul McLaughlin



'REALITY' IN ALICE SPRINGS

Multitudes gathered in Alice Springs, between May 20-22, for a weekend of 'Reality'. This was a combined churches event partnering with the Billy Graham Association to host Will Graham (Billy's grandson) over a weekend of evangelistic outreach.



People with a heart for revival came from all over Australia, as well as Canada and the U.S, to be part of this historic

event and to pray for Central Australia and for our nation. Vision Radio broadcast aspects of the weekend, including the Thursday night prayer launch, with listeners from all over the nation partnering in prayer for the weekend.

The weekend began on Friday with a Youth Night, then on Saturday a 'Kidsfest' was followed by an Outback Spectacular music event. Saturday and Sunday night were family nights with bands playing and Will Graham preaching. Each of these events drew amazing crowds and saw hundreds make responses/decisions for Jesus.

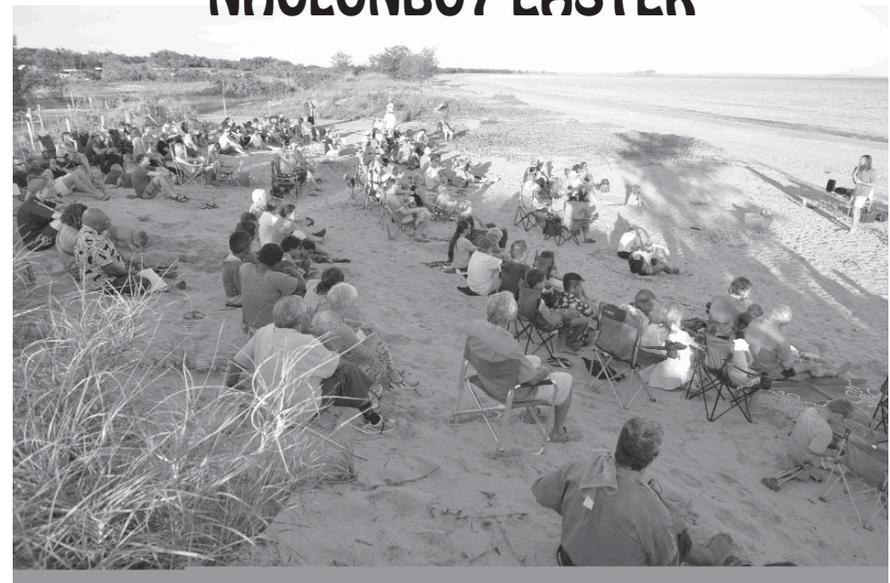
Steve Grace had travelled to the surrounding Aboriginal communities prior to the weekend extending the invite to come...and they came! Sunday Morning was a combined service of the churches of Alice Springs, led by our Baptist pastor Nigel and worship team. Australian evangelist, Bill Newman, inspired us to pursue the Holy Spirit's anointing for the purpose of revival across Central Australia and our nation. The coinciding earthquake seemed a fitting confirmation of the Lord moving in the 'Heartlands'.

Reality has brought a new level of unity to our churches, working together for a common vision and purpose. This unity has been expressed for many months in the preparation for Reality and many are keen to continue this unity in prayer, and consider other ways we may continue to partner in reaching out to our community. At the forefront is the challenge of following up those who responded to the gospel. *Please pray for us as we aim to do this well.*

Amanda Dunn



NHULUNBUY EASTER



Nhulunbuy Baptist Church shared in a combined churches Easter service on the beach. This was a great time of worship and fellowship amongst Christians in town, with a BBQ breakfast afterwards before the hot sun drove everyone home.

Remember to pray for the Church at Nhulunbuy.



FOODBANK MINISTRY RESCUED *Praise God!*

May has been a big month for Foodbank NT.

It began with news that the Northern Territory Government has agreed to provide \$780,000 over three years to help Foodbank continue to provide food relief. The announcement, made in early May, ended concern we may have to close our doors before the end of the year. Thank you for your prayers and support. We are extremely grateful God is allowing this ministry to continue.

Mid-May we launched the Foodbank Hunger Report 2016, which showed:

- One in six Australians have experienced food insecurity in the last 12 months
- In the Territory, 7000 people receive food relief from Foodbank NT agencies each month
- Of these 7000 people receiving food relief, 25% are children
- Sadly, food relief charities in the Territory report they need 35% more food to bridge the hunger gap

Dry Season Food Appeal

In order to keep up with demand, we launched a Dry Season Food Appeal. Throughout the appeal we are asking the community to place cans of non-perishable foods into our purple donation bins at all Woolworths, Flight Centre and Power and Water outlets in the Territory. The response so far has been very encouraging, but we are praying we can surpass our need for an extra 5 tonnes of food.



Luca, Lara and Amy help with the Dry Season Food Appeal

Kate Woods



The annual **TOGETHER Territory Women's Conference** was held in May this year and like previous events, it proved to be a wonderful success. More than 200 women from all across the Territory, from all denominations and of all ages, joined together for an amazing time of fellowship and celebration. This year's theme was **He Is For You**, based on the verse: *"If God is for us who can be against us? He who did not hesitate to put everything*

on the line for us by sending His own Son - is there anything else He would not gladly and freely give us?" Romans 8:31.

The conference guest speakers, both those who presented at the 'Leadership' evening at Darwin Baptist Church on the Friday night and those who presented at the Grand Ballroom at the DoubleTree by Hilton on Saturday, were inspiring and encouraging. Thank you to Red Fulton, Robyn Hair, Megan Halvorsen, Toni Rehrmann, Charlotte Donald and Amanda Viviers.



The weekend also gave women the chance to give. Many, many pampering items such as nail polish, hand cream and soaps were collected for the Rahab Ministry to give to women working in the sex industry, while more than \$14,500 was raised for Baptist World Aid to help some of the most vulnerable and marginalised children in the world.



Kate Woods

Cornerstone Christian Fellowship

As I write this report we are about two weeks away from the final drawings for the church building being completed and pricing is starting to take place to enable us to determine the finances that we will need. This is a very exciting time for us and it will also be challenging as so many things begin to change.

Speaking of change, there has been a recent change in leadership. Our very capable and wonderful Cornerstone Kids leader, Jodie Harvey, has been working with Paul and Katrina Harley to transition them into their role as the new leaders for the children's ministry. Jodie has been amazing in her dedication to young souls and we are so grateful for what she has accomplished. We pray that under the leadership of the Harleys this ministry will continue to be a blessing to the families of Cornerstone.



Our youth will be having the inaugural Youth Camp this year at Dundee. . It is a milestone for us in terms of youth events, so we are believing it will be a catalyst for personal and relationship growth for them.

A special shout out to Neil and Margaret Holm in Queensland, who I know still get *Belonging People* and use it for their prayer time. Thanks.

Pray for us, that in transition to a permanent building we will flourish in love for one another and influence in the Greater Darwin region to grow God's Kingdom.

Thanks,
Pastor Neil Wright

Cross Roads on Mission

Missions is a topic 'near and dear' to the heart of most churches. For Cross Roads, opportunities in Asia continue to 'crop up'. Last year we had a total of 12 people serving in four different Asian nations in the space of 5 months. Early this year, and after a request for help, three of our guys and one from Cornerstone, spent a week in Dili helping build (and passing on a few construction skills to some of the locals) a training centre for local pastors. On completion we've been asked to help with the theological training.

Rob and Deb from Global Interaction - (pictured) and soon to be based in Cambodia - will be with us for an evening on 2 July. It had recently been on our minds to resurrect our missions connection with Cambodia.



Plans are underway to send a team back to Timor-Leste late September to minister in a number of churches in several different towns. As I write, Sue and I are back in South Korea and will be ministering in several churches in Seoul. And on the local scene, there are one or two 'unusual' local opportunities beginning to appear on the radar. Seems the fields are white and ready for harvest.

Congratulations to Joe Harris and Alicia Hannuscheck who were married on 7 May and also to Dein Cantrill and Mary Butcher, married three weeks later on 28 May. Weddings are always special and it was a real privilege to be part of the journey.

Pastor Bruce Clow



Lloyd and Win Kent Memorial Scholarship



The Baptist Union of the Northern Territory (BUNT) established the Lloyd and Win Kent Memorial Scholarship Fund in 2014 as an ongoing tribute to the late Rev Dr Lloyd Kent and his wife Win Kent for their contribution over many decades to the Baptist Churches in the Northern Territory. An initial grant of \$5,000 was contributed by the Baptist Union of NT, which is topped up at the end of each financial year. Donations are also accepted from churches and individuals.

In 2016 there have been two scholarships awarded:

Josh Lehmann attends Darwin Baptist Church and commenced a six-month Discipleship Training Scheme with YWAM in Rogaland, Norway on 14 January 2016. Josh was awarded a \$500 scholarship.

Jared Clow, who attends Crossroads Christian Church, works on a full time basis in the NT Government. Jared commenced a Graduate Diploma in Theology on a part-time basis in 2015. At Crossroads Jared is actively involved with the music/sound and will be preaching from time to time. Jared's reason for studying this course was to better understand his faith and grow in his relationship with God. He believes that the more he understands, the better placed he will be to share this with people, both in the church and especially at work.

When applying for the scholarship Jared advised that the course has already been of great benefit, not only for his personal understanding but in enabling him to answer questions from non-Christian mates and colleagues. Jared was awarded a \$500 scholarship in 2016.

For more information on the Lloyd and Win Kent Scholarship visit the BUNT Website: <http://www.ntbaptist.org.au/bunt-resources/> or contact the BUNT Secretary, Viv Carson by email: bunttres@gmail.com or mobile 0422 201 191.

Finding Hope in Nepal



In March this year, Baptist World Aid Australia hosted a **Women in Leadership** trip to Nepal to see the work of their local Christian partners.

These leaders went to meet with communities and to hear their stories; they went to gain a better understanding of how the support of Australian Baptists is helping to break the poverty cycle.

Toni Rehrmann, a pastor at Darwin Baptist Church, is also the National Director of Australian Baptist Women and was one of six who went on the trip. "It was an amazing experience...life-changing to connect with the women that we've supported."



Toni Rehrmann

On 25 April 2015, Nepal was struck by a devastating earthquake which claimed the lives of thousands of people. Less than three weeks later a second earthquake killed hundreds more. The final death toll stood at 8,891 people. A year on and recovery in Nepal is slow, hampered by the monsoon weather and Nepal's volatile political climate.

"I found myself thinking: There's so much to be done, but how can I, one little person help?" Then Toni met Sita. She is the chairperson of a community saving group which is part of Baptist World Aid's Christian partner. Sita loaned money from her group to buy a couple of goats and then paid it back. She bought more goats and now they are having babies which she sells at the market. Sita also began to rear chickens and grow vegetables which she sells as well. Sita now has enough money to pay her daughter's university fees and send her three sons to high school. "Sita loved that she could now give her children a better start in life and a hope for the future", says Toni. ***Read more in the Be Love magazine, Winter 2016, in your church now.***

Thankyou to Samara Linehan of Baptist World Aid for this article.

Some of our N.T. Baptist Family

Nhulunbuy



Katherine



Knuckey Lagoon

