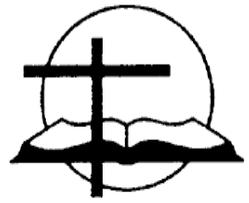


July 2017

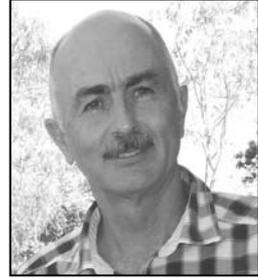


**BELONGING
PEOPLE**



Easter at the Kalkaringi Cross

President's Message



Most are familiar with the account of four guys lowering their mate on a stretcher through a hole they ripped in someone's roof. Crowds prevented access to Jesus but these guys were determined, even if it meant seriously anti-social behaviour. Their behaviour was disruptive: there was probably debris falling through, people scrambling to get out of the way. Noise. Reactions. Opposition. Radical faith always calls us to do things outside the box, things many wouldn't risk doing.

The future cannot be impacted without disrupting the present, which invariably means 'breakthrough'. Either the individual breaking out of the box or others breaking into the box to allow those on the inside to either see or receive a miracle.

Jesus saw their faith. Does Jesus see our faith or is it restricted to being outside the realm of His presence? Pulling our faith down to the level of our reason lowers the ceiling of our expectation, faith restricted by our own understanding.

The miracle took place in the box where Jesus was present but where the ceiling on radical faith and healing had been removed. Just as the sky was now the new limit, there's no limit on what Jesus can do. Only then came a divine reversal: the bed carried the man and now the man carries the bed. An impacted future.

Hunger for more drew a crowd to Jesus. While they knew the old religious mindset, by now many had new 'mindskins', already receiving new wine. Opposing a Kingdom 'mindskin' is a religious mindset, which requires breakthrough to bring change. Given the rapidly changing times and seasons, we need those new mindskins. Hungry people are in awe of Jesus and expect to experience divine reversals. How's your mindskin?

Bruce Clow



Food for Life now at Darwin Baptist Church!

The prayers of many were answered in March when plans fell into place to allow the Food for Life ministry to begin at Darwin Baptist Church. Food for Life, an initiative of Baptist Care NT, is a food provision service for people struggling to make ends meet.

Every Friday DBC sets up a small shop filled with grocery items such as bread, cereal, pasta, sauces, fruit and vegetables, and invites people with a government benefit card to come and fill their shopping bags with goods. Clients pay a small donation to build their self-esteem and sense of ownership, and to assist with the cost and transport of the food.

Morning tea is provided in the café and clients are encouraged to sit, relax and connect with others and with church volunteers. It has been extremely exciting and encouraging to see the Food for Life sign next to an open café door on Friday mornings. While client numbers have not been enormous, we understand it takes time to build trust and awareness of the ministry in the community.

We continue to pray for God's wisdom and thank Him for the blessing it is to service others. We also thank him for our enthusiastic, committed volunteers who come ready to serve week after week.

Kate Woods

New Pastors Take Up the Challenge at Alice Springs

Alice is a place of constant comings and goings. We (Rod and Nerida) arrived in January from the West to build up the church here and already have had many farewells and fortunately new people arriving as well. A couple of weeks after our arrival our new youth pastor Gavin and his medical wife Megan arrived from Melbourne ready to do mission in the NT. Nigel, our associate pastor and his wife Kate with daughter Alicia are in their third year in the Territory and have seen the Todd river flow a few times already!

We have discovered that a lot of people come from other countries to Australia making Alice Springs their first port(?) of call. There are many different religious groups as a result of this and quite regularly I find out another such group. I had my hair cut by a Punjabi lady who told me there were 100 Sikh families in Alice. They meet together to retain their religious and cultural traditions being very committed to their long held beliefs.



Pastor Gavin and Megan Brown

Jesus taught us to find a worthy person or person of peace when we come to a new village or enter a new group of people. It is our prayer that for each of these devout followers of various religions that we will find a “bridging” person who becomes our friend and is a gateway into their family group or cultural unit. Already they understand the culture and people trust them therefore how much better to reach the one so they can spread the gospel through their own people group.

Muslims are currently half way through Ramadan. It is a time of enhanced spiritual awareness and openness to a deeper commitment to their beliefs. We have just celebrated Pentecost where Peter quoted Joel as prophesying that the young men will see visions and the old men will dream dreams. We have heard many stories of Muslims seeing visions of Isa (Jesus) during Ramadam as Christians have prayed for them.

Many Imams and Sheikhs are coming to Christ in Northern Africa as a result of having had visions of Isa al Masih (Jesus the Messiah). The same can happen here. Let's pray that this unfolding of the Prophet Joel's dream occurs right here in the Northern Territory. Please let us know of any stories where you know this is already happening here.

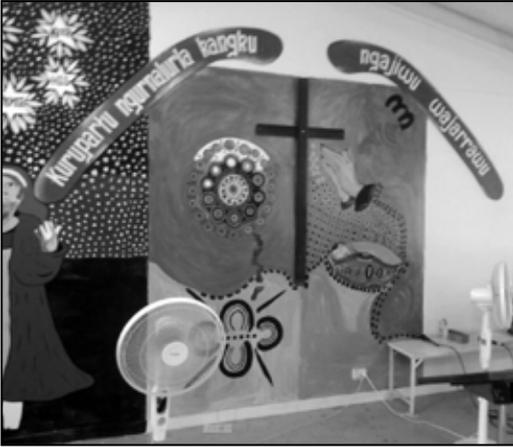
Pastor Rod Holmes



Alice Springs Lead Pastor, Rod Holmes and wife, Nerida

The Outback Churches with Bill and Pauline Morrison

Lajamanu and Kalkaringi



Easter

People came from many different communities to celebrate Easter and catch up with each other at Kalkaringi. Easter preparations included beautiful new paintings at the front of the Kalkaringi Church. There were some great sing-a-longs as all of the communities gathered together to worship God in their distinctive way.

Baptisms and Growth

Praise God for His leading and growth in the men in both Kalkaringi and Lajamanu. It was fantastic to share in the Baptism of five men and two women at Wattie Creek on Easter Sunday. Praise God for what He does in individual's lives giving hope, freedom and a purpose in life.



Anzac Day

It was amazing to be part of the Anzac Day Dawn service held up under the cross at Kalkaringi. The Victoria Daly Shire has done an amazing job of clearing and paving the area, as well as upgrading the cross - including solar lights.



*Two Jangalas -
Danny Palmer
& Jerry Patrick*

Ali-Curung, Willowra and Yuendumu

During May we travelled back down to the southern communities of Ali-Curung, Willowra and Yuendumu. Our time is limited in each community but we endeavour to spend a month in the northern communities (Lajamanu and Kalkaringi) and a month in the Southern Communities, (Ali-Curung, Willowra and Yuendumu). This will continue throughout 2017 and 2018, until the Andersons start.

The mission house at Ali-Curung was broken into while we were in Victoria. There is some major maintenance work to be done on the house and clean up while we are here. It is discouraging and sad as it continues to take our time away from teaching and working with the leaders of the community. Ali-Curung is unsettled at present with unresolved issues within the community. Please pray for them.

More on page 22

Together

Territory Women's Conference

Breathe

Over the weekend of 26 -27 May Women from various churches gathered in Darwin for the annual Together NT Conference. The theme this year was *Breathe* based on Ezekiel 37:2 *Look I am going to put breath in you and make you live again.*

Women in Leadership, held on the Friday evening, saw 140 come to partake of fellowship, a lovely supper and attend a range of workshops conducted by guest presenters, Amanda Viviers, Red Fulton, Karina Chicote and Letitia Shelton.

Around 180 women on Saturday heard Key Note Speaker Letitia Shelton of CityWomen Toowoomba who took up the theme of Ezekiel's Dry Bones and challenged listeners to be used by the Holy Spirit to breathe life into the dry bones in our community.



For the last 18 years Letitia has worked closely with teenage girls in schools and camps and with sex workers in her city to give them hope and help in Jesus. She co-ordinates City Women, a multi-faceted ministry, reaching out to teenage girls and women helping to heal their pain.

Letitia Shelton from City Women Toowoomba

The Conference theme and Ezekiel passage was beautifully demonstrated by the talented teenage dancers from Rosebery Middle School who gave a stunning performance of Ezekiel's Dry Bones to the song, *Awake My Soul*.



Steph Dobbin from **Baptist World Aid** and Darwin's own **Julie Schatz**, longterm advocate for people in poverty, told about

the needs in Cambodia and spoke of a recent trip with Baptist Women Australia to see the work being done in Cambodia to build up families and communities.

Conference women demonstrated their passion for living a life of purpose and collectively responded, raising \$17,450 on the day for vulnerable children around the world with 4 Cambodian children being sponsored....a wonderful result. Steph later sent a Thankyou saying, "Your generosity translates into transformed lives!..... we couldn't do it without your support."

Andrea Adams



Ethical Fashion: The Results are in!

by Samara Linehan of Baptist World Aid

In case you missed it, we launched the fourth edition of the Baptist World Aid Ethical Fashion Report in April. The industry-leading research grades 106 companies (330 brands) from A to F on the strength of their systems to address child labour, slavery, and exploitation.

In 2017, more companies than ever before engaged with the research process. 83% in fact, up from 49% in 2013, when the project first began. But our **Advocacy Manager Gershon Nimbalker** says that whilst the industry had certainly made progress since our first report in 2013, more work can and needs to be done, particularly at a local level. In fact, of the 15 brands awarded an A grade or higher, only three are headquartered in Australia, and they are all Fairtrade.

Sadly, the report also found that the issue of living wage is still a major concern in the industry. A living wage is one sufficient for workers to be able afford the basics (food, water, healthcare, clothing, electricity, and education) for themselves and their dependents, and is a recognised human right. Of the 106 companies researched, only one, Mighty Good Undies, could demonstrate they were paying their workers a living wage.

“Asia Pacific is home to more than 40 million fashion industry workers, yet for the vast majority wages remain at levels well below what is needed to lift themselves out of poverty leaving underpaid workers trapped in a cycle of poverty,” explains Gershon.

“Paying workers a living wage is achievable even for high volume, low cost operators, and it could transform the lives of millions while driving economic growth in their communities.”



**BAPTIST
WORLD AID**
AUSTRALIA
Be love. End poverty.



One of the positive trends identified by our research this year was the number of companies publishing full supplier lists, which has risen by 10% in the last 12 months. This sort of transparency makes a big statement about the willingness of companies to be held to account, and the confidence they have in their own systems. APG & Co (who own Saba, JAG and Sportscraft), Big W and the Cotton On Group are among this group, while increased openness from General Pants, Gorman, Seed Heritage, Factory X, and Brand Collective about their labour rights systems is to be commended.

After it launched, the report featured on Buzz Feed, ABC Breakfast, 9 News, SBS World News, in Fairfax and Newscorp newspapers, in the Guardian, in trade podcasts, on the Australian Christian Channel, and on dozens of radio stations across the country. And thanks to the involvement of Tearfund New Zealand, our new Ethical Fashion Report partner, media coverage across the ditch has exploded as well!

To get your hands on a copy of the 2017 Fashion Report, or download our Ethical Fashion Guide so you can shop more ethically, go to behindthebarcode.org.au.

'GOOD' TIMES AT CASUARINA

Mal and Chris Good have come from Katanning in the Great Southern region of WA to Darwin to serve at Casuarina Baptist Church. Mal was inducted as Pastor of Casuarina Church in April this year. Both he and Chris have already made their mark becoming involved in Church Life and together visiting many of the church family. The Editor recently asked them a few questions which they were happy to answer!



Can you tell us a little about yourself and your family?

We have four adult children and four grandchildren: Ben is our oldest, married to Samantha and serving in Mozambique with Global Interaction. They have 3 children. Next we have twin girls, Claire and Nicole. Claire is married with 1 child and another due in August. Nicole is studying midwifery. Our youngest is Lauren who is married. All three of our girls live in WA. This is the first time in 31 years of marriage that we have been totally on our own. We are a very close family - now we FaceTime each other, even to Mozambique.

How did the call to Darwin come about?

We felt our time at Katanning was coming to an end after 10 years there. Our children had all left home. We let it be known we were available though Darwin wasn't on our radar. But through a series of events we found the Lord eased us into the call here.

We are both the children of migrant families and were born overseas. We are Boat People too like many at Casuarina Baptist. Katanning, where Mal has pastored for 10 years is a large multi-cultural town. The Lord has led us to Darwin, a large multicultural city. We can see that God has been preparing us through multi-cultural ministry in Katanning.

What do you consider are your strengths as a pastoral couple?

Building relationships and hospitality are what we do together. We love hearing people's stories and how they came to be in Darwin. We have been impacted by the strong commitment to church that people have here and their experience of support and encouragement through the church family.

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

Chris: Hiking and walking. I enjoy walking along the Casuarina foreshore and seeing the ocean. For so long we have lived far from the sea.

Mal: Along with keeping up with Chris with her walking and hiking, I have now pumped up the tires on my old pushbike and have enjoyed riding along the great cycle paths here in Darwin. I also tinker with an amateur radio (and for those who may be interested my Callsign is VK8MT).

What is God teaching you at this time?

Chris: To see people as God sees them.

Mal: God's kingdom is going to be a very diverse kingdom – like Casuarina Baptist. There will be unity in diversity.

Its not about me – its about US as a church and what we can do together under God. We all have a role to play and we need to create spaces for people to step into the kingdom work.

Its good to acknowledge those who have gone before at Casuarina Baptist Church – pastors and lay people. I am thankful to God for those who have served here before our time and on whose work we build.

An Amazing Life Celebrated at CrossRoads

On Thursday 1 June Else Jagst, the oldest member of CrossRoads, turned 80. After almost 12 months of gentle encouragement, Else agreed to share her story with the church, which she did as part of the church joining in celebrating with her on Sunday 4 June.

What an amazing story! Else's earliest memories are of pre-war Germany and some of the associated happenings. Her father was drafted by the SS into the German army and later became a POW in Russia, only being released in early 1949 following focussed prayer by other members of the Christian Endeavour Movement. Through her childhood Else experienced 'proper' discipline, from which she learned obedience, stating that it was those experiences which taught her to obey God and follow His instruction.

With three little children, Else and husband Lothar undertook Bible College then joined Summer Institute of Linguistics and experienced three months of Jungle Camp in Mexico, close to the border with Guatemala, living in accommodation which they built from material cut from the jungle. Water - all needing to be boiled - carried by hand from the river, rodents running round the hut, bowl and bucket on the ground for washing clothes and dishes. And a mud stove fuelled by wood. Else described it as 'very healthy living'.

Arriving in Darwin February 1969 they spent around 12 months helping to establish the local SIL base before moving to Lajamanu, where they fitted right in to the local culture, both parties treating the other as equals, with no 'them and us'. Through a chain of events (including Cyclone Tracy) the children were sent to PNG for their education.

While being widely accepted by the Walpiri people, there was powerful spiritual opposition to Else and Lothar's work in translating Scripture into the local language. Sadly, Lothar was 'sung' and died suddenly while attending a translation workshop in Darwin. Else described other incidences, including seeing into the demonic realm during a corroboree, pointing out that they had been trained in 'everything except spiritual warfare'.

Else described God's provision and guidance during the time of difficulty as she moved back to Darwin in 1980, settling at her current address and continuing to work at SIL until late 1987. Else also recounted several amazing stories of spiritual encounters, divine appointments and supernatural protection. An amazing life of dedication and commitment to serving God, despite hardship. Else is a long term and highly valued member at CrossRoads where we are blessed to have her as part of the Church.

Pastor Bruce Clow



Else Jagst shares her life story



50th Katherine Christian Convention

Freedom and Rest in Christ

This year the Katherine Christian Convention was held for the first time at Katherine Showgrounds on April 29-30. 400 campers from all around the Territory came with an overall figure of a thousand people attending. Visitors from Western Australia, South Australia, Queensland and New South Wales numbered around 70. What a great turn up!

The Speaker was **Dr Jude Long, Principal of Nungalinya Bible College** in Darwin and her message was titled - *Jubilee: Freedom and Rest in Christ*.

Lisa Mambin was the Master of Ceremonies. Each session featured Bible readings by different people in English and Kriol with gospel music groups from Beswick, Lajamanu, Tennant Cree and Katherine. The topic of Dr Long's talks was about God's people, land and family.



The Children's Ministry was hosted by Scripture Union NT under their new **Director, Richard Riley**. SU Staff along with volunteers from various churches ensured the program was fun and ran smoothly. Approximately 90 children came along to join in the games, singing, craft work, stories and activities throughout the weekend.



Saturday and Sunday nights featured Community Singing with people from 31 NT Aboriginal communities and churches participating. During the evening celebrations some groups also shared skits and drama. There were 73 visitors from Western Australia, South Australia, Queensland, and New South Wales. It was a great time of fellowship, teaching, prayer, and praise and meeting new brothers and sisters in the faith. Well done to all the Katherine Christian Convention committee members and hard working volunteers. All Praise and Honour to our Great God!

Carmen Baynes





WAREHOUSE DINNER

Last year's inaugural Foodbank NT Warehouse Dinner was organised at the last minute on the back of community support, in response to the dire financial situation of Baptist Care's Foodbank NT. The event was a huge success with over 140 people squeezed in between the pallets of the un-airconditioned Foodbank warehouse on a hot, muggy March evening. The event raised over \$100,000, including \$50,000 from just one generous donor.

This year's event, on June 19, was thankfully, not as sweaty, with the event held on a balmy Dry Season evening under the stars in Foodbank's loading bay. Rachael from Rachael's Seafood Shack and Selvam from Saffron Restaurant returned this year with new

chef, David Taylor, culinary arts educator and youth advocate. All chefs donated their time and expertise.

Many people, volunteers and employees were responsible for the success of the dinner which was attended by 81 guests and raised \$15,000 for Foodbank's School Breakfast Program in the NT.

Among the special guests were Chief Minister Michael Gunner, Darwin Lord Mayor Katrina Fong Lim, CEO Foodbank Australia Brianna Casey, Speaker of the House Hon. Kezia Purick and MLAs, Gerry Wood and Eva Lawler.

Information supplied by Foodbank Event Co-ordinator, Michaela Fearn



L-R:Selvam from Saffron, CEO Foodbank Australia Brianna Casey, Chef David Taylor, Chief Minister Michael Gunner and Rachael from Rachael's Seafood Shack

Because Foodbank's financial situation has stabilised through community and government support, funds raised from this year's dinner are going to Foodbank NT's unfunded School Breakfast Program.

The Foodbank NT School Breakfast Program currently involves 29 schools (16 remote schools and 13 metropolitan schools).

This is set to increase to 35 schools by the end of 2017. A total of 73,286 breakfasts were served in 2016 with a cost of approximately \$4,000 per year per school. The need for School Breakfast Programs has been well established with the ABS finding in 2014/15 that 1 in 6 NT school children are going to school without breakfast.





Cornerstone Church – A Happening Place

We had a great Mothers Day service with the Cornerstone Kids performing a song for the mums. Special cupcakes were made for the ladies in the church. The Church put on a Barbecue for Howard Springs Primary School to raise funds for them which was a lot of fun. We are hoping to be able to strengthen ties with them over the years.

A Church Picnic was held at Howard Springs Reserve which was fun. We have appointed a Fun Facilitator, Lisa Ban, who has a job description of creating memories so that we build the positive interaction, especially with children over time. There have been a couple of baptisms and another one is planned at the end of July.

Prayer Points:

- The building process has started for the new Cornerstone Church and we would appreciate prayer for that.
- We are hoping to start some church services in the Prison and are forming a team to investigate this with Simon the prison chaplain.

Pastor Neil Wright

*Earthworks at
Cornerstone Church*



Margaret & Neil Visit



In April this year Margaret and Neil Holm returned to the NT to take part in the 50th Anniversary of the Katherine Christian Convention. They had participated in the very first KCC in 1968, their first year of teaching at Hooker Creek, now Lajamanu. Margaret remembers it as a special time.

“From 1968 to 1970 we taught at Lajamanu where we worked closely with ABMS missionaries Bill and Valdene Parish, Graham and Iris Paulson and SIL workers Lothar and Else Jagst. When in Darwin we visited Darwin Baptist Church where we made friends with Rev. Jim and Marilyn Kime who, along with others mentioned, we remain in touch. When our son, John, was born at Darwin Hospital we got to know a wonderful nurse, Andrea, who now edits “Belonging People”! After teaching in Oenpelli, we moved to Jingili in 1973 where we were part of Casuarina Baptist Church. After the cyclone we moved to Batchelor where Neil continued his involvement in Aboriginal teacher education.

After a few years, we built a home at Virginia where we became part of the Howard Springs Church and became friends with Neil Wright’s family. During our time in Darwin, Neil (Holm) was one of the BUNT lay Presidents. During our time in Howard Springs Neil chaired the Katherine Christian Convention planning committee. We still think nothing of driving for an hour or two to attend meetings!”

Margaret and Neil moved to Sydney over twenty years ago. Now living in Brisbane, where their children and four grandchildren also live, they continue to serve God in their retirement.

Thankyou Margaret and Neil, for sharing your memories. If other readers have a story to tell of their time in the NT the Editor will be pleased to hear from you!

Our NT Global Interaction Support Workers Present and Future.....



**Bill & Pauline Morrison
serving in five NT
communities**

**Pray for health and
protection as they
travel the circuit.**

**Matt & Shannon Anderson
with Peter & Elizabeth**

Please pray for the family as Matt and Shannon complete Bible College and for the provision of support to enable them to join the Morrisons on the field in 2018.



PRAYER & PRAISE

- 1. Continued prayer for wisdom to be able to effectively use time in each community**
- 2. Pray for Mr Mark Brown the leader at Ali-Curung who has suffered heart attacks and is still in hospital.**
- 3. Join with us in praying for continued growth for the church leaders in each community.**
- 4. For the Spirit of Peace to come upon each community**
- 5. Praise God for the team of partners and friends who are travelling this journey with us.**

CACET CHILD PROTECTION TRAINING

Keeping our children safe is a priority in NT Baptist Churches. Regular training is organised by BUNT and during May this year, 25 people who work with children in churches attended the training by CACET Global held at Darwin Baptist Church. Attendees came from as far away as Nhulunbuy and Katherine.



For more information on the Asia Pacific Baptist Congress see: www.apbf.info/congress2017

Belonging People

**Newsletter of the NT Baptist Family
of Churches**

Editor: Andrea Adams

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Assembly 2017

Calling all Churches!

The Baptist Union of the Northern Territory 48th Assembly

**will be held at Darwin Baptist Church, Ludmilla
Friday 21 - Saturday 22 July**

The annual gathering of the Baptist Family of the NT will celebrate what God is doing in churches across the Territory, including our remote and indigenous community churches.

- **Friday's program** - sausage sizzle starting at 6pm, followed by a combined church worship and update on Indigenous ministries in the Territory
- **Saturday's program** commences at 9am and concludes at 4pm, followed by a buffet dinner at 7pm.

This year's Assembly is a 'mini conference' with special guest speaker, **Pastor Joshua Avia**, founder and Senior Pastor of Hosanna World Outreach Centre and of Hosanna Church, Brisbane, one of the fastest growing churches in Queensland. Since 1999 Pastor Avia has planted over 40 churches in several different nations.

*For more information contact BUNT Secretary,
Vivian Carson mob: 0422 201 191 email: bunttres@gmail.com*

*May the God of hope fill you
with all joy and peace
as you trust in Him, so that
you may overflow with hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

Romans 15:13