

Through The Eyes of a A Missionary

Praise God for His love and grace.
How often we need to change and look at ourselves
Before we minister and share our lives with others.

In the outback it is remote.

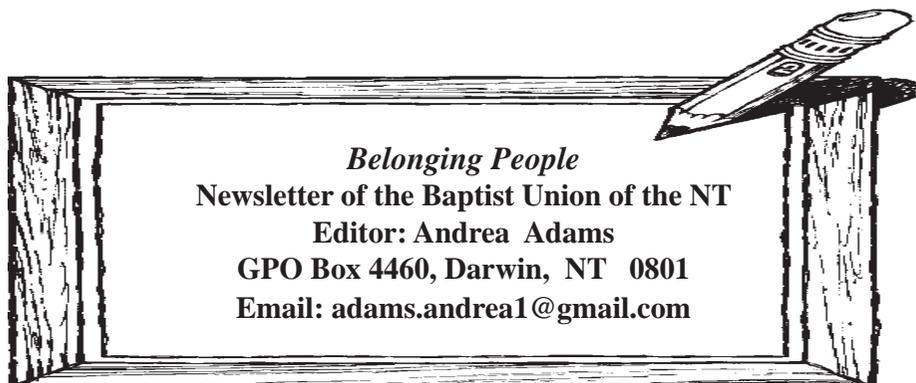
At times there are moments of aloneness.
Not being alone.... but being alone with oneself.

God has shown us that it is only He
Who can give us the joy and wisdom in all that we do.

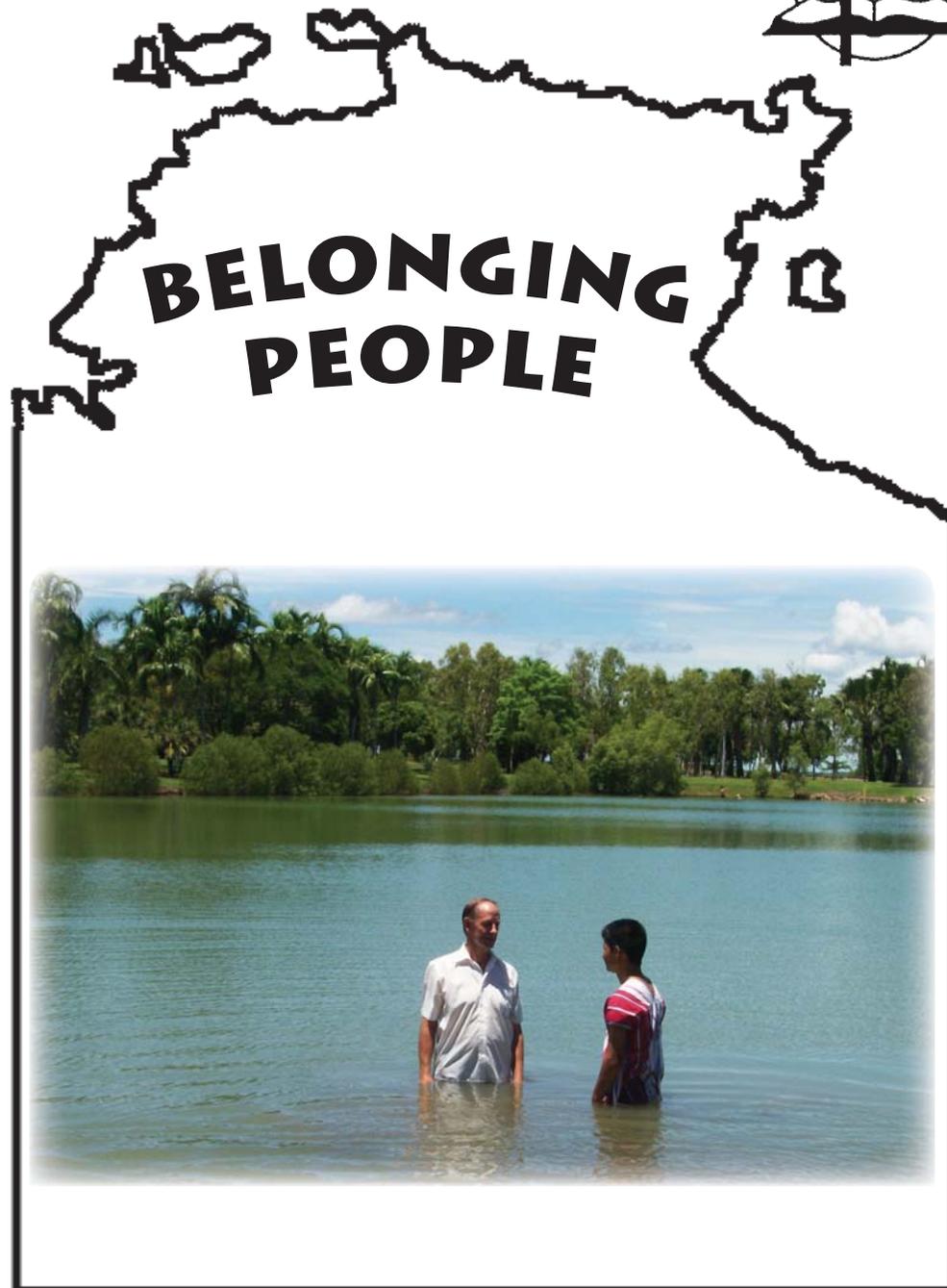
Pauline Morrison



Pauline with Susan Cebu



March 2011





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's always great to read 'Belonging People', and as we read we gain an insight into what God is doing in our churches and communities here in the NT. I urge you to read and take note, but also to pray for each aspect that is presented, so that this magazine becomes a weapon in God's hands for outworking His purposes among us. We are a unique family of churches – some are rural, some remote, some indigenous, others urban. Together we make up this fascinating Baptist Family of Churches in the NT, and we know God is at work among us.

Our Executive Committee has been busy over the last few months, discussing what the Lord has for us by way of future development as churches and as a family of churches. They have put together a proposal, and each church is asked to prayerfully consider it, and offer comments. A decision about the proposal will be made when we meet at Assembly in June. To Him be the glory!

Rev John Whitbourn



Baptist Union of the NT Executive Committee:

Back Row: Peter Christofides, Bruce Clow, John Whitbourn, Mal Sercombe, Mike Mills, Bob Adams, Peter Leith. **Front Row:** Sharon Crook, Robyn-Ann Dixon, John Baynes, Neil Wright **Absent:** Glenda Beljon

MOUNT ISA BAPTIST REUNION



Have you ever been associated with Mount Isa Baptist Church?

Then this may be for you!

A celebration and reunion for Mount Isa Baptist folk , past and present, will be held on **30 July 2011** at

Clontarf Baptist Church, 6 Alice St, Clontarf, QUEENSLAND

The program: 10.00 am Morning tea and catch up
12.30 pm Lunch
1.30 pm Time of Thanksgiving,

Please bring Morning tea and Lunch to share. Tea and Coffee provided Also bring Memories, Photos, Musical instruments.

It is intended that the day be informal with opportunity to remember, renew friendships and generally celebrate our time at Mount Isa Baps. It would be great if everyone could bring along something to share during the thanksgiving time; maybe memories of the Isa or something that has happened since leaving.

R.S.V.P Ann 0407445175, gamcgrath@comstar.com.au

Touching Heaven Changing Earth at Casuarina Church

Casuarina Church folk have caught a new vision for 2011. Young and old have been challenged to get involved in 'Touching Heaven, Changing Earth'. What does this look like in practical terms?

Three main action groups have been established, each with a facilitator and with the goal of lifting up the name of Jesus in our Church, our Community and in our World.

- **Connect Group** aims to have 40% of CBC belonging to a Small Group for Bible Study, Fellowship and Prayer.
- **Care Group** will focus on the care needs of the church. Weekly classes in Christian Counselling have commenced, led by Pastor Peter Christofides. (*see below*)
- **Mission Group** – placing more emphasis on missions and evangelism. An informative Mission Corner featuring the mission aries supported by the church has been set up.

These groups present opportunities for the people at Casuarina Baptist to use their gifts for the glory of God.



MURRAY DOWNS CHURCH



Murray Downs Station is situated 400km NE of Alice Springs and 30km NE of Ali Curung. Here can be found one of the smallest of our NT Baptist Churches yet their light burns bright in the desert.

A small group of about ten people worship at Murray Downs Baptist Church among a population of about 70 people living on Murray Downs. Worship numbers swell at times when more children and extended family come along.

Gathering times are somewhat irregular but opportunistic. However, the leaders; Napurrurlas Linda, Lucy and Dolly, along with Jungarrayi Ned are lovely Christian people. They love to sing and worship God and will gather any time of day at the Church especially when visitors like Norm and Karen Roberts drop in, sometimes accompanied by visitors. This is good reason to worship together.

Over the years, many Mission visitors have spoken about the love of God in the hearts of this small group of isolated believers in Jesus Christ. Praise God for this small Church at Murray Downs.

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Front Cover: Hser Nay Kaw is baptised by Rev. John Whitbourn in Lake Alexander, Darwin. See story on Page 4.

TEENAGERS BAPTISED

Brother and sister, **Hser Nay Kaw and Paw Pay Hser**, were baptized on 10th October 2010, as a witness to their faith in Jesus. The service was held at Darwin's Lake Alexander and had something of the feel of Lake Galilee about it as Karen and Australian friends from **Casuarina Baptist Church** gathered on the shore of this peaceful lake to witness the baptisms. Some beautiful singing by the Karen folk preceded the baptisms and Hser Nay Kaw spoke briefly about his walk with Jesus before he and his sister were baptised by Pastor John Whitbourn. Paw Pay Hser preferred not to speak in her new language but her gentle smile said it all.

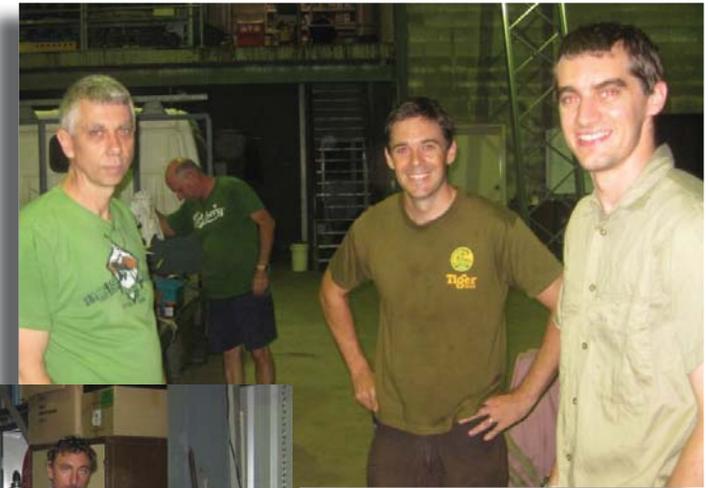
The family of Hser Nay Kaw and Paw Pay Hser were part of the first wave of refugees to arrive in Darwin from the Thai-Burma border in late 2007. They are much loved by the Casuarina Church family and have settled well into the local community.

Father, Ro Ben, after attending months of English lessons, now holds a job as a cleaner at a local primary school. Mum, Paw Lwen, is the key person in running the household. The eldest son, Hser Nay Kaw, who was baptised, is doing a building apprenticeship through Marrara Christian College, and has a driver's licence. He is the driver of the family car. The eldest daughter, who was also baptised, Paw Pay Hser, is in high school, and doing well. Another daughter, Hser Nay Wah, is in primary school, as is a son Yo Aye Lah. The latest addition to the family, a little Aussie, Saw He Ro, was born in August 2009.

Casuarina Baptist is the richer for the involvement of many people from other cultures in the life and worship of the church.



Hser Nay Kaw gives his testimony



Blockes enjoy hanging out together at The Shed

NOTES from NHULUNBUY

The Church family were pleased to be able to make a large donation to Global Interaction in recent months as a result of the Church's very low overheads. This year, their venue at the Nhulunbuy Town Hall is gradually getting a bit of a facelift which is appreciated.

Two of the members, David and Naomi Walmsley, with their three children, are moving on with MAF to Papua New Guinea. This will be great for the MAF team over there but the loss to Nhulunbuy will be felt.

Blokes At The Shed (BATS)

An initiative of Darwin Baptist Church

All around Australia Men's Sheds are opening up as places where men can meet, work on their projects and chat about the things that matter to them. Many Aussie blokes are more inclined to talk about meaningful things in their life while working on a project together rather than in formal settings.

When the idea was first mooted at Darwin Baptist Church, nobody there knew that other 'Sheds' existed.

About a year and a half ago, three of us spent a few days in Sydney visiting a variety of Men's Sheds and seeing how they operated. For over a year now men from DBC have been meeting each Friday fortnight.

The typical agenda for the evening is - a meal, a devotional thought from the Bible and then work on a project. The projects are varied – repair a trailer, learn to weld, rebuild an engine, learn about electronics.

Perhaps the most important elements of BATS are the friendships that are formed and the potential to introduce men to the Christian community in a safe, familiar and non-threatening environment.

Pastor Mal Sercombe



Karen Choir



Paw Pay Hser with her friend, Alison Stennett



NEW CHURCH BUS FOR KALKARINGI

The church folk at Kalkaringi have been working hard raising money for a new bus.



On Freedom Day Weekend, August 2010, the church ran the BBQ with all proceeds going towards the funds for the bus. The bus arrived in March with Bill bringing it back from Melbourne. There is great excitement as the church has been without a bus for almost a year. It will be used on Sundays to pick up folk from Dagaragu and bring them to church. It will be very helpful for other church activities including trips to Katherine for the annual Christian Convention. The new bus was packed full of clothing and goods for the Op shops, generously donated by people 'down south'.

Ngaji Millimilli:

(God's Word) As reported last year, Susan Cebu has had a heart for the children of the Kalkaringi and Dagaragu communities, and in the last term of 2010 she began a Christian afterschool programme in the school library. The 2011 school year has started and the children are coming along and participating well.



On New Years Eve the Kalkaringi/Dagaragu church enjoyed a BBQ and sing along outside the church. Thirty children came along and joined in with the singing, waving their glow sticks.. It was a great time of celebration for the church and community.

- Volunteers are coming in to help throughout the week, and we usually have a great group of people in to help on Tuesday afternoons when we sort the groceries from Coles and Woolworths.
- A large team of volunteers packed Christmas Hampers for Mission Australia

We are still intending to open "Food for Life" outlets where food will be provided directly to individuals and families in need. Please pray for wisdom for our board in how to operate these efficiently and effectively to feed the hungry.

We would also value your prayers for funding to meet ongoing operating costs. The food is provided free to organisations but they do pay a handling fee. However, this is not yet sufficient to cover our overheads. Once again, 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.

For further information please contact **Peter Fisher on 0401 560 980**.

Dee Little





Faith like Potatoes, Baked Beans and Cereal!

Since Baptist Care NT was established last year and commenced a Foodbank, this ministry has grown exponentially. It is very exciting but sometimes it feels like being on a rollercoaster. With every step it is necessary to walk in faith and trust in the Lord. It is His work. He has provided in the past and will continue to provide in the future.

Here is a snapshot of where this ministry is at:

- We have moved to a larger warehouse at Berrimah, with significant rental assistance from the owners of the premises.
- Woolworths has donated a new Mercedes Sprinter refrigerated van.
- A reliable food supply has been established with twice weekly pickups of fresh food and groceries from local Woolworths and Coles stores.
- We have joined up with Foodbank Australia which enables us to access pallets of food donated by manufacturers.
- A cool room and supermarket shelving were donated by Coles when their Karama store closed. The cool room was installed free of charge and the supermarket shelving was put up by volunteers.
- Dexion pallet racking shelving was donated by Dabsco and installed by Darwin Baptist Church's "Blokes at the Shed" group, with the assistance of Phil Wilson and a grant from the Darwin City Council.
- We are open two days a week for organisations to access food to distribute to people in need. Around 40 organisations are currently accessing food from the warehouse.

LAJAMANU CHRISTMAS TREE

A Christmas Tree in the desert? Can you imagine it?

54 km out of Lajamanu Richard, M.K. and friends decorated a tree with handmade decorations to celebrate Christmas. Their hope was that people driving past the decorated tree would want to know why the tree was there. They could then tell them about Jesus and the Christmas story.

Once again the church organised and put on a Christmas Day celebration meal. Wild turkey, goanna and other meats, salads and fruit were on the menu. The church worked together to provide this to the Lajamanu Community after the morning Christmas Service. This was the way that the church blessed their community. Everyone had a great day!

Church services, Prayer meetings and Bible Studies continue to be well attended and many are growing in their faith.

- ~ Pray for the leaders as they teach and encourage the church.
- ~ Pray that the Youth work will grow and continue in 2011.
- ~ Please pray for the churches at Kalkaringi and Lajamanu over the next few months as they work together to bring the love of Jesus to their communities.



GROWING NEW LEADERS at KATHERINE WARLPIRI CHURCH

God in His own time and way has been preparing certain people from the Katherine Warlpiri Church for a time when they would be needed to take on leadership roles. Even before our key leader, Mary Napurrula Rockman, passed away, God was raising up new leaders in our midst, namely Adrian Cook, Herbert Mosquito and Sharon Rockman.



Church Leaders, Herbert Mosquito and Sharon Rockman pictured with Tarah Lee and twin boys

PRAY for **Adrian, Herbert and Sharon** as they grow into strong leaders and encourage others in the Church.

PRAY that God will move in their hearts and minds as they grow more like Jesus.
PRAY for the Church to grow and share the Good News in their community.

Katherine Baptist Cheesecake Competition

Last October, we had a Games Night at the church and, just to make it a little different, we combined it with a Cheesecake Competition that turned out to be a very elaborate supper! They split it into three sections - Men, Women and Children, and had a lovely time tasting as many cheesecakes as we could. There were 17 entrants – one person being quite inventive, made small individual cheesecakes. All very yummy!

Photos opposite page

Caron Leith

CORNERSTONE CHURCH

Cornerstone now meets in the Good Shepherd Lutheran School on Whitewood Road in Howard Springs at 10am each Sunday. Church folk are appreciating the airconditioning at the new venue. **Pastor Neil Wright** leads the church assisted by a team of elders. Matthew Kernick is the newest team member having recently been confirmed by the church as an elder.

Cornerstone plans to trial a boys program at Cornerstone Kids catering for ages 8-12 to try and encourage boys to become more active in faith. The aim is to show that you can be a man and also be godly. In other activities the Youth are going to Jabiru on overnight trip.



Two Friendly Faces: Pastor Neil Wright (R)
with Church Elder, Ian Fleming

MENS' MINISTRY AT CROSS ROADS CHRISTIAN CHURCH

MENS' MINISTRY

We have seen a significant move of the Holy Spirit amongst the Men. As part of that new awareness and experience in God, a fortnightly Saturday morning meeting has been underway and has become one of those events we really look forward to.



Not only do we eat well, but we've been learning some key lessons from Rugby – it really is a spiritual game! We've also been working our way through the Seven Promises of a Promise Keeper and a Mens' Camp has been locked in for the middle of May with Carl Butler as the guest speaker.

MISSION TRIP

We had a team of eight on a missions trip in Cambodia. Projects include building two Sunday School huts, installing two toilets and putting down a well in three separate, outlying villages.

STREET MINISTRY

A number of our people have been taking the work of the gospel onto the streets on Friday nights. By simply giving away bottles of water, they are seeing individuals being 'opened' to the message of Jesus, with a large number of Bibles being given away also. The reports of what is actually taking place out there are both encouraging and exciting. And all from giving away a '...cup of cold water...'

ENCOUNTER WITH THE LORD

Just recently we held an Encounter Evening, where we gathered to worship God just because of who He is. As the evening progressed and we simply worshipped, a real, almost tangible, sense of His presence filled the auditorium. Words cannot describe what it was like except to say that no-one wanted to go home, we just wanted to sit in the presence of God. With hindsight it's almost as though we have somehow been allowed to catch the briefest glimpse through Heaven's window. A special time.

Pastor Bruce Clow

KIDS and CAROLS in KATHERINE



Katherine Baptist Church were the organizers of the December Combined Churches Carols by Candlelight Service in Katherine. Over 100 people attended with seven churches in the town participating, including KBC and Katherine Warlpiri Church.

There was a great time of fellowship with items from several churches and Pastor Peter Leith of Katherine Baptist sharing God's Word. A Puppet Ministry was a hit with the many children from different churches across Katherine. They sang and danced with ribbon streamers then listened keenly to the Story of the Candy Cane as told by the puppets.



PRAY FOR OUR MISSIONARIES

Bill and Pauline Morrison have been greatly blessed while on deputation this year in Victoria and Tasmania. They write: “God has really gone ahead of us and we want to thank everyone for their hospitality, encouragement and support as we have visited groups and churches”

- Bill was diagnosed with Ross River Virus just before they left Kalkaringi He has coped well, but it could take 3-12 months for him to recuperate fully. He has just driven the new bus up to Kalkaringi in March with his friend, Ted.

- Pauline has undergone an unexpected, but necessary, operation in Melbourne. She and Bill will remain in Melbourne for a period of time while Pauline recovers, before returning to the NT.

They would appreciate prayer at this time for healing and a full recovery for Pauline.

Norm and Karen Roberts Uphold them as they face a busy schedule ahead in 2011, regularly driving long distances between the communities they support.

- Give thanks they were spared serious injury in a recent road accident when on Aileron Station, 110k north of Alice on the Stuart Highway, on 28th January. Fortunately both Norm and Karen, and the young station hand in the other vehicle were not injured. The left side of the Landcruiser is damaged significantly and will need repairs.though it is still driveable. “We are so thankful that the vehicle withstood the impact so amazingly and we Praise The Lord for safety in this situation.”

- Pray for God’s strength, wisdom, and sensitivity for Norm and Karen in these times of conflict at Yuendumu. May His Peace be with them and all the Yapa Church.

John and Carmen Baynes will be on Vacation in the USA and Philipines from 30 March to early July 2011. Pray that this will be a time of refreshment and happy reunion with family. Pray for the Katherine Warlpiri Church to go forward strongly under the leadership of Warlpiri Christians while John and Carmen are overseas.

The Baptist Bush Church continues strong with many blessings and continual provision from the Lord in past months. The 2010 Community Christmas Party was a great success with a giant ‘Happy Birthday Jesus’ cake, an attendance of approximately 400 and the rain holding off for the event, Praise the Lord. Approximately 60 people attended the Christmas brunch; it was a beautiful morning and a great time of witnessing. We would like to thank the Patriots Motorcycle Group for sponsoring the Christmas Brunch, buying all the presents, toys and other items. It brought a lot of joy to all attending.

We have also been blessed with a brand new Troop Carrier which enables us to pick up more people for church, particularly children, help with camps and take youth to boxing tournaments. It came in the Lord’s good timing as our other vehicles had all deteriorated. The Troop Carrier was acquired through government funding. I would like to thank each and every one of our many, many volunteers for their hard work throughout the year and their great achievements in loving and caring for people.

Pastor Sharon Crook



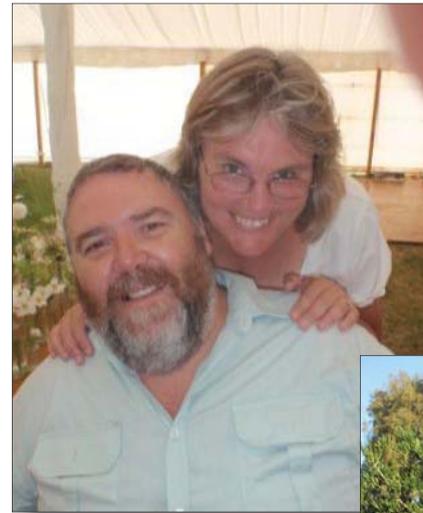
Bikies, Boxers and Bush Baptists



A 'Who's Who' of the Boxing fraternity, Motor Cycle scene and NT political parties all came together at the Baptist Bush Church at Humpty Doo on March 12. The event was the opening of the church's new extensions and a boxing tournament for young boxers from Darwin and Katherine clubs. The Baptist Bush Church last year established what is probably the only Baptist Boxing Club in the country. With the help of a Government grant and a local builder they have added a building extension and a boxing ring. Rob Knight MLA officially opened the new extension with Kezia Purich MLA also present and announcing at the tournament.



The Patriots Motor Cycle Club sponsored the Christmas Brunch and also supported the Boxing Tournament in March.



Bill & Pauline Morrison
Kalkaringi, Lajamanu



Norm & Karen Roberts
Team Leaders
Yuendumu, Ali Curung,
Willowra, Murray Downs



John & Carmen Baynes
Katherine Warlpiri, Pigeon Hole



YUENDUMU IN NEED OF PRAYER

Unrest between families continues to plague the Yuendumu community following the death of a young man in September 2010. Recent court hearings in Alice Springs resulted in more skirmishes. Norm Roberts has observed that this has been the worst period of family conflict in their seven year's experience at Yuendumu. He writes, "The Church mob have been struggling in the midst of all these issues, but there were good signs last Sunday with over 30 people in morning worship."

Pray for the Yuendumu community and church in the midst of these problems. Pray that the Yapa will work out the issues with God's help.

Tony and Helen Jutner, who have lived and worked at Yuendumu for 30 years were recently farewelled by the Church. They have retired to South Australia. Their help and friendship over the years will be greatly missed.

WILLOWRA & ALI CURUNG

The churches at Willowra and Ali Curung are both in good shape with family relationships improved and each of the Church mobs being in good heart. Praise the Lord that after two years the Willowra people believe that family disputes have now been resolved.

THE JORDANS HONOURED

On Australia Day 2011 Rev. Ivan and Verl Jordan were each awarded an Order of Australia Medal "for service to the Indigenous community of the Northern Territory, and to the Australian Baptist Missionary Society." This is a great honour recognising their many years of diligent work. Ivan and Verl served at Lajamanu from 1973 to 1989 and at Yuendumu from 1992 to 2004. They were well known around the Territory and during that time Ivan authored a book, *Their Way: Towards an Indigenous Warlpiri Christianity*.

Of the awards, Ivan says, "It is indeed an honour to be given this recognition..... we are humbled to be recognised along with Jerry Jangala who received his OAM in 2004 and the late Rev. Tom Fleming who was awarded an MBE several years previously.

"We certainly could not have contributed what we did, or for as long as we did, if it were not for those.....who continually supported us and prayed for us, the mission leaders who also supported and encouraged, our mission colleagues who walked with us, our family who supported us, and most importantly of all, the people of the communities who warmly accepted us, patiently tried to teach us and help us understand their culture, overlooked our blunders and mistakes, and shared their lives with us."

The Northern Territory Baptist Family salute Ivan and Verl Jordan. May the Lord continue to bless them as they minister at Yolla, Tasmania.

