

March 2012

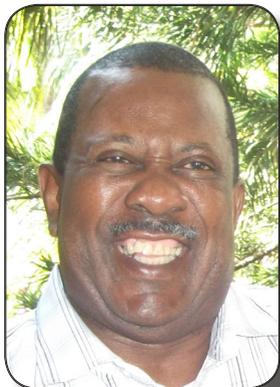


BELONGING PEOPLE



Pictured here is Jerry Patrick (Jangala), respected elder and pastor from Lajamanu Church, with his nephew Josias Dixon. This young man is being mentored by Jerry as a future leader and pastor of his people. Please pray for Josias.

From the President



With all the problems the World is facing, who do you lean on?

I hope you find encouragement as you read from the Bible the message about God being our Rock, our Hope, our Saviour, our Refuge, our Peace. God's love is so amazing! The Bible still has all the answers. The Holy Spirit still moves. There is still God-anointed preaching. God still pours out blessings upon His people.

There is still singing of praise to God. There is still room at the Cross. Prayer is still the most powerful weapon against the ruler of darkness on earth. God still honours the praise of His people. Jesus still loves you. Jesus still saves the lost and people will still come to repentance.

As the Bible says in Philippians 4:6 *"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."* Isn't it great to know that God is in Control?

May the God of peace fill each of you this New Year with His presence, His power and His joy and each of the 14 churches and fellowships that make up our NT Family of Churches. May we continue to be found faithful in prayer for each other and serve Him earnestly each day of our lives!

In His Service

John H Baynes

Exciting News for Darwin Baptist Church

Darwin Baptist Church is excited - we have a new Associate Pastor!

After a long search and much prayer, Warren Douglas and his family are moving north to help lead our church family.

"We really enjoyed the relationships and friendships we built in the short time we were up after Christmas. We just found people in Darwin to be so open and encouraging. So yes, we are very much looking forward to the move, the new relationships and the opportunities that lie ahead of us."

For the past couple of years, Warren and his wife Liz have been working as Pastors at Tuggerah Lakes Church in NSW. Warren was the Assistant Pastor and Liz was the Children and Family Pastor.

Before this, Warren worked as a network engineer and network architect, designing data communications and security solutions for private companies such as Qantas.

"It has been a big change moving from a technical background into a pastoral role but for a long time both my wife and I had been feeling that God was asking us to prepare to serve," he explains. "And while I did like my work as an engineer, working with people has been so much more enjoyable."

Warren's main role at DBC will be to encourage discipleship through teaching and preaching, through involvement in the lives of connect groups, by encouraging evangelism, and by reaching out into the community.

"We are really looking forward to following what the Lord would have us do."

Even if this, he admits, includes fishing.

"I do love sport, but fishing isn't one of my preferred activities. Having said that, I will get involved in anything even if I am not good at it."

Warren and Liz have four children, however only the two youngest – Brad (15 years) and Naomi (13 years) – are still living with them. They also have a King Charles Cavalier dog, Sasha, who will be moving too.

Katherine Baptist Church

Sunday School performs the Nativity Story



We are very blessed to have a dedicated team of Sunday School teachers who put together a great Nativity Story for the congregation to enjoy several weeks before Christmas.

Baptism in November

Jo Patman was baptised in November last year.



Pastor Peter Leith with Jo Patman

Men's Breakfast

Once a month, Peter organises a men's breakfast which is advertised in several of the churches in Katherine. February's breakfast was hosted by Peter at the manse and was represented by 12 people from three churches. There was plenty of food including bacon, eggs and mushrooms cooked on the bbq, as well as toast and cereal available.

Peter read from Romans 13:1-7 and spoke about the coming Mayoral elections and the importance of praying and considering who we vote for as next Mayor of Katherine.

Casuarina Welcomes New Pastor

A happy congregation at Casuarina rejoiced as Rev Paul Avery was inducted to the pastorate on January 29. Paul was formerly Pastor at Wingham Baptist Church in NSW and trained at Morling College in Sydney. Before that, he tried his hand at a number of occupations, including fire brigade and real estate sales.

His ministry experience includes alcohol and drug rehab work, Christian Studies programs in high schools, and pastoral ministry.



John Whitbourn with Paul, Davina and son Jack

Davina, Paul's wife, has a background in graphic arts, and has an interest in ministry among younger women.

Paul and Davina (Dee) have brought one son, Jack, with them, while their older son Anthony has stayed in NSW.

It was a journey to remember as they travelled north, with their newly-purchased trailer providing them with moments to remember – tyres blown, springs broken, wheel bearings broken..... However, they proved again that God is faithful and they finally made it to Darwin, catching up on some time and arriving on the very day they had planned!

During the induction, Rev John Baynes, President of our Baptist Family of churches in the NT, encouraged Paul in the task ahead of him, praying for God's wisdom, grace and love to surround him. The story of the call was told and greetings were received from many folk, as well as from our sister churches in the NT.

The church is quietly excited, looking to the Lord for the days ahead.



John Baynes with Paul Avery

John Baynes leads the induction prayer



IMB TSL Forum

John Baynes attended the International Mission Board Team Strategy Leadership Forum which was held in Chiang Mai, Thailand in January 2012. It was a very refreshing renewal, encouraging, and a great time of fellowship and acquaintance with fellow colleagues as they shared and prayed for the mission work in different countries. PRAY that we can communicate our faith in a world that is becoming less friendly to Christian influence that God will be glorified in all that we do.

Norm and Karen Roberts and the Yapa Churches

Norm and Karen returned to Alice Springs from being down south over November/December, and as you do, they 'hit the ground running'.

While catching up with each of the three Communities, Yuendumu, Ali Curung and Willowra, they blew a tyre out on the Tanami Road traveling at 120kms.



Norm says *"Fair dinkum, one needs to be a 'weight lifter' when handling those 17 inch wheels on the Landcruiser 200 Series."*

We've had another break in at Ali Curung, our 3rd in the Mission House in 16 months. Although we had much less damage on this occasion (estimated \$1000), we feel sad for the 10 and 11 year old boys who were involved and a bit frustrated by another break in.

Jungarrayi Ned Kelly at Murray Downs, has had such a 'hard/sad' time to end 2011 and to start 2012. Ned, a lovely Christian man, lost 3 of his grand children (aged 18-24) in a motor vehicle accident at Ali Curung in November. They buried the 3 young people in mid January, and in early February, Ned's lovely wife Napurrurla Dolly died suddenly of a heart attack. Norm & Karen visited Ned in 'sorry camp' (Community grieving out bush), all he wanted us to do was 'pray for him'. Remember Ned and his extended family in these days ahead.

THE WILLOWRA MOB

...are going well. Nampijinpa Jeanie and Japaljarri Elwyn are leading the group in church well.

THE ALI CURUNG

MOB ...are in good heart, enjoying church and weeknight singalongs with Japangardi Jimmy Friday's music. 76 year old Jungarrayi Mark Brown still leads the church mob.

Jeremiah 18:6 the Lord says:
"Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand".



Japangardi Jimmy Friday and Jungarrayi Mark Brown leading worship at the Ali Curung church recently.

Prayer Points:

- *Pray for Yuendumu families, the community and the church in the current court processes, looking for justice and peace in 2012.*
- *Pray for each and all of the Church leaders at Yuendumu, Willowra and Ali Curung.*
- *Pray for Jungarrayi Ned Kelly and his family at Murray Downs in this very sad time.*
- *PTL for Norm/Karen reaching budget in 2011.*
- *Pray for a good balance of work/rest for Norm and Karen during 2012.*
- *Pray God's blessing on the Outback Team as we get together for our one and only time in the year, during Annual Meetings over 16-18 March.*
- *Pray God's protection over the Mission House at Ali Curung, to dismiss the 'break in cycle' of the past 16 months.*
- *Pray for Ken and Jane Norris as they come to relieve Norm and Karen during April/May.*
- *Pray good rest for Norm and Karen on Annual Leave in April and for a balanced/blessed group of meetings in May.*

Christmas Carols and BBQ at Ali Curung

It was a beautiful warm night after a very hot day when about 100 gathered for a Christmas Carols by Candlelight and BBQ at Ali Curung. It was great to have many of the younger people there and some of the Kardya teachers too. After the BBQ, candles and glo sticks were given out and a program of traditional Christmas carols was sung. The young people joined in with some of their own favourites including Jingle Bells. The evening concluded with lots of water melon donated by Murray and Debbie Aldridge from the Ali Curung Farm. The local Church people were encouraged that so many of the Ali Curung folk showed their support by attending the service.

Ken and Jane Norris





Baptist Bush Church

Busy Bee

A beautiful day was held on Saturday when church members gathered as a family to work on the church home grounds. Caring for



Bush Church members revegetated the bush, planting over 50 native plants whilst other church members worked on building an elevated boxing ring and shelter. It is the only elevated and sheltered boxing ring in the rural area and is open for other clubs to use. We hope it will

be a blessing and a witness for the whole community. It is wonderful when the church works together as a family.



Katherine Warlpiri Baptist Church

Carols By Candlelight
Christmas 2011



The Carols by
Candlelight
Christmas 2011
was held in

Katherine near the Visitors' Centre on 18 December 2011, with the participation of 8 churches around town and was hosted by Heritage Community Church.

During the program, the children participated as the Puppeteer told the Christmas Story about the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We also had Christmas Acrostic, singing Christmas songs and presenting a liturgical dance. Our Guest Speaker was Pastor Des Hall of Heritage Community Church. We had a great turn out of attendance from all churches in town. God is worthy to be praised!

Christmas BBQ Fellowship

On Christmas Day 2011, after the morning Worship Service the Warlpiri Baptist Church prepared a Christmas BBQ Lunch at Geyulkgan Ngurra (formerly Warlpiri Camp Community).

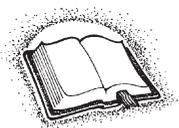
Sharon Rockman shared the Christmas Story about the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ in Aboriginal Dot painting. Residents from the community and others from the long grass were invited and we had 90 people in attendance. It was a blessed time of prayer and fellowship with a shared meal for everyone. To God be the glory!

John & Carmen Baynes

Pray for Alice Springs Pastoral Search Team

We've made it through the rushed Christmas season, the quiet lull of January and we're speeding into the beginning of 2012! What a year it's shaping up to be! We're still looking for the next senior pastor of Alice Springs Baptist Church and the Pastoral Search Team has been meeting weekly to pray and consider candidates as they submit their applications. We've added a couple of part-time staff as ministry assistants during the time that our associate pastors are filling the gaps that exist without a senior pastor. They are settling in well and it's really helpful to have the extra hands on deck.

Big news on the car park development as well. We've had the car park paved and we have nearly finished installing the lights! What a big difference having a paved car park has made!



We are continuing in our morning service to preach through the book of Acts and our evening services are still in the book of John. Both books are continuing to yield so much that we all need to hear and apply in our lives and it has been a real blessing to be taught the Word of God faithfully on a weekly basis!

We hope that our brothers and sisters in Christ around the Territory will join us for a service if they are ever passing through Alice!

Bill and Pauline Morrison celebrate 3 Years in the Territory

We have now been in the Territory for three years. The change has been a very positive one for us. We have learned so much with so much more to take in. The churches and communities of Lajamanu and Kalkaringi continue to patiently help and advise us regarding their language and culture.

Here are some of the plans for 2012:

1. March Outback GIA Team Conference, Alice Springs
2. Easter Conference to be held at Kalkaringi this year
3. May - KCC
4. June - BUNT at Humpty Doo
5. July - Two Outback Exposure teams will be visiting from Melbourne
6. Weekend Training Camps will continue throughout this year
7. Training camps are planned for 2012. Dates and venues to come
8. November / Dec deputation and holidays.

Our role here continues to be one of supporting and assisting the church to worship God in their own distinctive ways. Mentoring and coming alongside the leaders is an integral part of our work here. It is a great encouragement in both communities to see upcoming men and women continue to trust God in their lives, growing in leadership and integrity.

Kalkaringi Grows

There was great excitement the week before Christmas as the church held a Christmas sing along at the church. Stories were told of what Ngaji had done in people's lives, with the children taking part in singing and action songs. Poppers and glow sticks were a welcomed part of the evening celebration, followed by supper.



Christmas Day service was a time of thanksgiving and praise for the birth of Jesus. A lunch was held in the church grounds under the cool of the large trees.

EASTER 2012 - Kalkaringi Church is in the process of planning for Easter to be held in their community this year. The weekend will begin Good Friday afternoon with a welcome and finish Sunday evening with a sing-a-long. Please come along if you are able.

The leaders of the church are encouraged as we have been seeing new folk come along to church and join in with activities and studies.

There is quite a bit of excitement in the Church as the plans are coming together for the new Sunday School room.

Please continue to pray for Kalkaringi Church Leaders as they begin 2012 very positively, wanting to bring the gospel of Jesus to their community.

News from Lajamanu

Christmas Day 2011 began with a rousing Christmas service and then preparations for the annual Community Christmas Lunch. Hard work was put in by the church on the day, preparing food and setting up. Late afternoon at the Holy Ground, approx 400 people shared in a meal, children's songs, message and sharing. God touched people in a special way with many folk from the community asking for prayer and being encouraged by coming together in such a positive way. Praise God for His blessings over this day.

New Years Eve was a great time of celebration. A sing-a-long was held until, at the stroke of midnight, out came the flour! People were running everywhere throwing flour over everyone else.

This was the cause of much merriment!



In January, Jerry Patrick (Jangala) attended a Dream Weaving Conference at Whitely College in Melbourne run by Mark Brett. Both Jerry and Graeme Paulson were interviewed and spoke regarding the correlation between Theology in the Warlpiri Culture. It was a great time for these men to share their wisdom, culture and spiritual journeys with many people. The sessions were taped and filmed.

Rev Jim and Ruth Gallagher pay a Visit

Rev Jim and Ruth Gallagher visited Casuarina Church during November 2011. Friends who remember them from this time were delighted to welcome them back. Jim was the Pastor at Casuarina between 1976 and 1990 making a significant impact on the life and growth of the church during that time. Jim and Ruth now live at Lismore, NSW, where Jim pastored the church there until 3 years ago. They have a growing family of 4 children and 8 grandchildren.



Congratulations!

All of us in the Baptist Family of Churches in the NT are delighted to congratulate Lloyd and Win Kent on achieving a remarkable milestone - 60 years of marriage. We add our best wishes to the many already received, including those of the Governor-General and the NT Chief Minister.

Lloyd and Win travelled to the NT with their two young sons, Peter and Andrew, in the 60's, with the purpose of beginning Baptist work in the Top End. As a result of their vision, Darwin Baptist Church came into being. Lloyd and Win's vision and energy helped form other churches later. There is in fact a whole history of Baptist work in which Lloyd and Win are an integral part and so the Family, as it is today, owes so much to their tireless efforts over many years.

We wish them God's blessings in the days ahead and thank God for their ministry among us.



Belonging People
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