

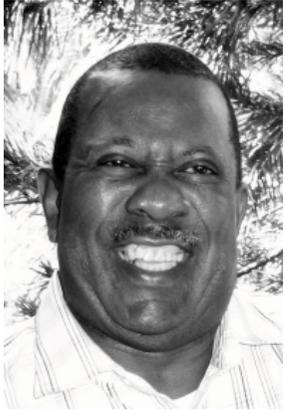
March 2014



**BELONGING
PEOPLE**



President's Message



Last October I was pleased to be able to visit Rev. Robert Dunn and his wife Connie, at Alice Springs Baptist Church and also to meet and fellowship with the deacons and church members. As we celebrated the Lord's blessings I met men and women who are fully committed to the Lord's service. In January, Carmen and I visited Casuarina Baptist Church where I was privileged to preach and see the church praying for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and that God's message of hope and truth would be clearly communicated and received.

For many months we have been praying for a replacement BUNT Treasurer. God is good and we are blessed to have Vivian Carson as our new Treasurer. Her appointment was approved by the BUNT Executive Committee. Vivian and her husband, John, are active members of Casuarina Baptist Church, where Vivian is also Office Administrator.

My challenge to all NT Baptist Churches comes from God's Word in Hebrews 12:1-2 , *"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us. Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God".*(KJV).

As we begin this New Year, let us refocus and renew our commitment to be on mission for our Lord and may God fill us with joy, peace and blessings as we serve Him faithfully each day of our lives!

In His Service,
Rev. John H. Baynes

Front Cover: Vicki and Scott Mannion were baptised in the Katherine River in October 2013. See story on page 13.



Blessings Out of Adversity

Casuarina church was the scene for a very happy occasion on 4 January, as two of our Karen (Burmese) young people were joined in marriage. Traditional dress was the rule of the day as the couple made their vows before a huge banner with their names beautifully inscribed.

De Lusy, the groom, and Hsar Eh Kuh, the bride, were both born in Karen State, Burma, and fled as children with their families across the border into Thailand to a refugee camp. In 2008 they came to Australia via the United Nations refugee program. One family settled in Darwin, the other in Katanning WA, but that didn't hinder the Lord bringing them together.

They met in WA, fell in love, and will now make their home in Darwin. They are both valued members of our congregation, contributing especially with their considerable musical talents. God has given them rich blessing out of adversity, and we praise Him.

Rev. John Whitbourn

Sadness and Encouragement at Kalkaringi

Recently the community has worked together and helped each other through a very sad time. Please pray for the communities of Kalkaringi and Dagaragu over the next months.

We have had a lot of rain and as this is being written, Wattie's Creek (Dargaragu) is well and truly up and the bridge into Kalkaringi is under with more rain expected.



The year 2013 ended with a Church Christmas service and then lunch together - a time of celebration and joy for the church. The Op Shop continues to go well. Recently some of the church ladies put on a BBQ for a concert held at the Rec Hall at Dagaragu.

Our new Sunday School building is great for the kids on a Sunday. Young Mum's are taking Sunday School and with so many little ones it is wonderful to have so much space. Ten people are doing the Bible study course beginning with the Old Testament. Our Sunday morning services are held at Kalkaringi church and evening services out at Dagaragu. The church bus is busy throughout the week taking people between Kalkaringi and Dagaragu for Bible studies, sing-a-longs and services.

Pauline Morrison



Sharing Wapirra at Lajamanu

We are looking forward to 2014 as a church working together to share Wapirra with our family and friends. We continually remind each other in our church services, sing-a-longs, prayer and Bible studies that it is not what we do, but our worship and love for Wapirra that is most important. In our culture we love getting together, sitting, sharing, and being with one another.

The leaders are helping the church to grow and learn more about Wapirra, His Word and helping others. We have Sunday services and Wednesday evening men's and women's Bible Studies, sing-a-longs, morning devotions, services on Sunday and Wednesday evening.

We are reaching out to our community in many ways, Religious Education in the school is planned to begin on 21st April, cleaning for the old ladies, prayer and support of the sick and others who need help, Christmas celebrations for the community and Manyuwana. 'Manyuwana' (to have fun) began last year when some of the church ladies wanted to have a place they could meet together, paint, sew and invite their friends to come along. Recently the church prayed for Roger Jarrah as he became a Deacon.

We love to sit and share with others and we ask for your prayer this year as we help, encourage, work and pray for our community.

Written by Lajamanu Church Members



Roger and his wife, Belinda, with Bill.

Carols, Kids and Connect Groups at Darwin Baptist



Community Carols

There is no such thing as Christmas without carols, especially at Darwin Baptist Church. For the second year in a row, our annual Community Carols event proved to be a huge success. We were blessed with clear skies, new faces, great food and amazing music.

We were also able to raise more than \$1100 for Foodbank NT at Carols.

Kids and Music

We have embarked on several new projects, including a **Mainly Music** program. Every Wednesday morning our Kids' Church Hall has been filled with singing and dancing children, many of whom have never been to church before. We are praying God will provide us with lots of opportunities to build friendships and to share the gospel with the families living in our neighbourhood.

Not a Fan

Our second big project has been our whole church study, **Not a Fan**. The study is designed to help us discover whether we are passionate, devoted followers of Jesus or just fans who admire Jesus from the sidelines.

In February, everyone met at the Darwin Cinema to watch the **Not a Fan** feature film. Since then, we have been meeting in our Connect groups to complete the six subsequent studies. Stay tuned for our thoughts and official review.

Kate Woods

Breakfast is served!

NT Baptist Foodbank News

Almost one in four school-aged children in the Northern Territory skip breakfast. This Australian Bureau of Statistics figure may not seem particularly alarming – especially when compared to other health-related figures such as obesity and heart disease – but increasing evidence shows breakfast is an essential meal.

Children who start the day with a nutritious meal are more attentive in class and have fewer behavioural issues.

Over the long-term, regular nutritious meals reduce the risk of lifestyle-related diseases such as diabetes and heart disease. While skipping breakfast is a choice for some children, for others breakfast is just not an option.



This year Foodbank NT is planning to launch its School Breakfast Program (SBP) to ensure all students have the opportunity to eat a wholesome, nutritious breakfast on a regular basis. Our aim is to assist 30 schools across the NT in the first 12 months, with priority given to low socio-economic status schools. This equates to about 600 vulnerable children and their families. All registered schools will have access to breakfast foods free of charge and will receive training, resources and support for volunteers. The SBP will also offer a complementary Physical Activity program.

If you would like to help Foodbank NT and this important ministry, please visit www.givenow.com.au/baptistparentfoodforlife. As little as \$35 will provide breakfast for one child for one month.

Kate Woods

NEWS FROM THE YAPA CHURCHES

Norm and Karen Roberts are in their last year of service in the Outback after nearly 10 years. Their year has started well and they ask for prayer that they will finish well! They send news of the following churches where they share their time.

The Yuendumu Church are gradually recovering in their fellowship together ten months after the Peace that was mediated at Yuendumu last April. Numbers are increasing with Church and Sing-alongs. Praise the Lord! The Church still has some way to go in rebuilding their previous strength before the family conflicts of October 2010 began. Pray for them!



Kids at Ali Curung

The Willowra community are in a difficult place with active family fighting over the last 6 months which has been recurring for about 5 years. There has been a significant death in one of the key families over Christmas, and there are some issues threatening at present out of that. Over Christmas/New Year, 12 houses and the school were broken into including Norm and Karen's Caravan, for the fourth time in ten years. Norm and Karen have not been able to visit Willowra because of the rains, "the biggest rain we've had in one go in our 10 years". They hope to get there soon and are praying that the damage to their van is not as much as envisaged.

The Ali Curung Church is travelling really well. While Norm and Karen visited recently, the church was holding Sing-alongs each night and a couple of Bible Studies for Women and Men running mid-week. There were four Baptisms in February out at the Murray Downs Billabong. They are in good heart! Praise God!



Ali Curung men taking part in a regular Bible Study

PRAISE AND PRAYER

- Pray for Jeannie Nampinjimba as she leads the Willowra Church
- Pray for the Yuendumu Church as they strive to be Peacemakers in their community
- Pray for Norm and Karen, for safe travel between communities and for good health. Pray that they will 'finish well' after 10 years of service
- Praise God for the Ali Curung Church and their eagerness to study God's Word and follow in His way.

Jangala Speaks Out

Jerry Patrick Jangala, Pastor and Elder, at Lajamanu is one of a group of Elders who are urging the Northern Territory Licensing Commission to enforce tougher alcohol restrictions at a remote hotel.

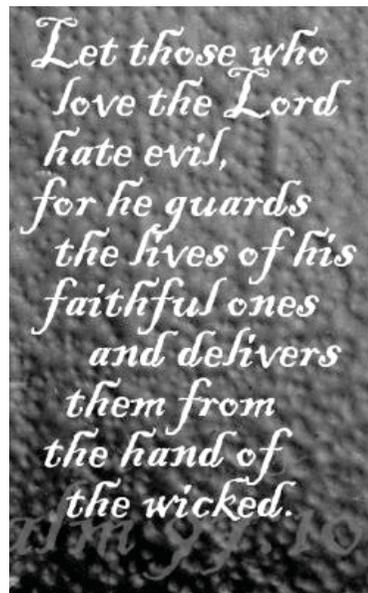
Jano Gibson, reporting for the ABC said “The Top Springs Hotel, about 300 kilometres south of Katherine, is the main source of takeaway alcohol for people in the remote communities of Yarralin, Kalkaringi and Lajamanu.” Following concerns raised by police, health workers and community elders the hotel was asked to restrict takeaway sales to one carton of beer per person a day but an appeal by the hotel’s licensee has seen alcohol sales continue unabated.

“Kurdiji elder Jerry Jangala Patrick says it is having a devastating effect on his community of Lajamanu. He says too much alcohol is being brought in. “..... five cartons, 15 cartons, 30 cartons they are bringing to the community”.

Mr Patrick and other Kurdiji elders are urging the Licensing Commission to take a tough stance when it re-examines the issue at a directions hearing later this month”.



Jerry Patrick Jangala



Psalm 97:10

Food for Life at Casuarina

It has been a busy start to the year here at Casi Baps. Food for life was only closed for one week over the Christmas/New Year period and we continued to get our regulars coming through. We have around 50 to 60 people who use this outlet each week and there are others who come along to sit and have a cuppa and a chat. Some exciting news for us is that Food for Life will be soon receiving a visit from the Administrator of the Northern Territory, the Honourable Sally Thomas AC. It is nice to know that people in positions of authority have a genuine interest in a ministry such as Food for Life and we look forward to her visit with us.



*Food for Life
staff and clients*

We had the privilege of providing the venue for the Karen New Year celebrations on the 12th of January with some wonderful experiences of Karen culture, and finishing with Karen food which is always a bonus. As Aussies, we welcomed in the year 2014, but the Karen are bringing in the year 2753!!

Finally, Pastor Paul continues his preparations for his trip to Cambodia in July with Baptist World Aid. If you would like to contribute to Baptist World Aid's work in Cambodia, and support Pastor Paul in his efforts to raise funds for this organisation, then you can do so through this link.

<https://cambodiachallenge.everydayhero.com/au/paul>

We look forward to how God will continue to use us and bless us throughout the year to come and into the future.

Katherine Warlpiri & Knuckey Lagoon News



God's People Come Together

Over the past six months there have been very positive reports of the Aboriginal churches getting together to share in worship and to support each other in the Christian way. There are already strong cultural links between communities which have led to a desire to meet together and encourage one another.

One Sunday in November, a 'marathon' combined service was held in two places 300km apart. Lajamanu and Kalkaringi church members drove to Darwin to visit Knuckey Lagoon Community and participate in the morning worship service. Over 90 people were gathered together. They listened to personal testimonies as well as Gideon Tasman sharing the Word of God. Then the visiting churches drove back to Katherine and joined forces in an Evening Combined Church Service at the Katherine Warlpiri Church. We give thanks to God for this great time of fellowship and worship.

On Christmas Day, 2013, it was the turn of the Knuckey Lagoon Fellowship to travel to Katherine for a Combined Christmas Fellowship with the Warlpiri Baptist Church. Adrian Cook shared the Word of God in the service. 95 people from the Katherine Warlpiri community came for Christmas lunch and fellowship afterwards. Praise God for these opportunities.

Baptism

After many months of praying, preparation and sharing the Word of God, Scott and Vicki Lee Mannion were baptized by John Baynes in October, 2013 at Katherine Low Level Park. *(Photo on front cover)*

This couple came to know John through Vicki's work as sales representative at Katherine Toyota. Through a series of God-led events they gradually came into a relationship with the Lord and asked to be baptised. God's ways and timing are wonderful. Pray for Vicki and Scott as they grow in the Lord and attend Katherine Baptist Church.

Carmen Baynes



With the Lord

Win Kent went home to her Lord on 19 February, 2014, aged 91 years. Win and her late husband, Rev. Dr. Lloyd Kent, were pioneers in NT Baptist work and friends to many in the Northern Territory Baptist Family of Churches for over 50 years. For a number of years they edited and printed *Belonging People*.



The thoughts and prayers of many, both in the Territory and around Australia, are with Win's sons, Peter and Andrew and their families. Win is sadly missed by her friends at Casuarina Baptist Church where she and Lloyd were long time members.

*Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.
Psalm 116:15*



DOUBLE BLESSING ON WHEELS

Knuckey Lagoon Outreach and Katherine Warlpiri Church have both been blessed with a bus and are praising God for His provision. The buses were funded by GMAAC (Granites Mine Affected Area Aboriginal Corporation) after many months of representation by John Baynes and meetings amongst Warlpiri church members from Katherine, Lajamanu, Yuendumu, Ali Curung, Willowra and Knuckey Lagoon who made the decision to help the two churches.

The Hi-Ace Commuter buses will be a huge help in assisting Aboriginal people to get to church services at Katherine and Knuckey Lagoon in Darwin. It will bring people from hostels, the hospitals and the Long Grass so they can participate in worship services, Bible Studies, Bush Training Camps and many other church related activities.

These buses are a tremendous answer to the prayers
and efforts of God's people.
Praise God for His goodness!

Multi-Purpose Building & Worship Place

at Pigeon Hole

A dream of the Christians at Pigeon Hole is slowly becoming a reality. The frame of a large shed has been erected on high ground by the local Shire. The primary purpose of this shed, when completed, is to provide shelter for the Pigeon Hole people during the Wet Season when the river rises each year and completely cuts them off from the outside world. Houses on lower ground are awash and even the nearby airstrip is often flooded causing the community to be completely isolated. The people of Pigeon Hole have decided that this structure will also serve as their church building when, for most of the year, it is not needed as a flood refuge.



The shed has a concrete pad and a frame but no roof, walls, windows or doors. The challenge for the community is to complete the building so it provides protection and shelter as well as serving as their church. While John and Carmen are on deputation this year in the USA they will be talking to churches about their ministry in the outback. They hope there will be some churches who would be interested in contributing financially to the completion of this building. In the meantime, Elmo, one of the church leaders at Pigeon Hole, will be encouraging the community to also raise funds to complete the building and considering ways they can help with labour. There may be churches in the NT who would be willing to assist with this project when John returns mid year.

Praise God that the prayers of the Pigeon Hole people and others, for a place to worship, are being answered.

Women in Ministry – A Journey at Cross Roads Church

A little over seven years ago in November 2006, when Sue and I first arrived at what was then Palmerston Baptist, there was a level of pressure for a sermon series on **'Women in Ministry'**. However, it simply wasn't an appropriate time to address the issue. In August 2012 we attended the Manifest Presence Conference in Auckland, NZ, where Bill Johnson, Danny Silk and Kim Walker-Smith were the main speakers. Danny Silk gave an excellent address on this sensitive issue and Kim shared part of her testimony on what it was like for a woman in a high profile, internationally recognised ministry. Danny's address was the ideal introduction to a sermon series that I had been looking for.

In June 2013 Danny's address, broken into two segments, was used to launch the rest of the series. On the morning of my first prepared sermon, nerves (mine) were running high and I made the comment in the pre-service prayer meeting, 'I don't know whether I'm being obedient, brave or stupid'. The response was: 'Probably all three!'



Seventeen sermons later, the series was completed.

We journeyed through hermeneutics, women in ministry in both the OT and NT, Jesus words to women and how He treated them, cultural issues surrounding the churches in Corinth, Cenchrea and Ephesus. Paul's so-called difficult passages were dissected in detail as was the tension in the Doctrine of the Trinity when 'traditional' interpretations are applied.

My own journey on this has been interesting. When reading scripture back in the mid 60's, I had difficulty reconciling the traditional understanding with what I saw in scripture. Something didn't fit but, given time, I adopted the party line, with a level of discomfort. Several years later the discomfort grew and I changed my stance, but with nothing to really back it up, except that God said He would pour out His Spirit on your '...sons and daughters and they shall prophecy...' Which means that women were supposed to be ministering, speaking in church. Now, having done the research, I am firmly convinced that the traditional understanding on Women in Ministry is seriously flawed. After all, who are we to debate what God given gifts we will give women permission to use?

Pastor Bruce Clow

Difficult Days in Nhulunbuy

As many will know Gove is going through an unprecedented time of difficult change. Losing one's job in Gove almost certainly means uprooting and moving away. As a result of the mothballing of the refinery, over the next six months one thousand employees and their families will leave. A few hundred will stay to operate the mine. Business and property owners face even greater uncertainty. **Pray that Christians will be salt and light.**

On a lighter note, Nhulunbuy Baptist Church has just celebrated 10 years since the foundation of the fellowship, and a celebration we had indeed. Whatever God has planned for the next 10 years we can be sure that His plans are good!



Matt Brazier

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On Leave

Please PRAY for John and Carmen Baynes

John and Carmen are away from the NT for six months from February to August 2014. They will spend two

months holidaying in the USA and four months in the Philippines working alongside International Mission Board colleagues in various areas of service.

PRAY also for the NT churches that John and Carmen work with ,Knuckey Lagoon, Katherine Warlpiri and Pigeon Hole.



Thank You Glenda!

Glenda Beljon has been the BUNT Treasurer for seven years and last year retired after a replacement was found for her. Not an easy task! Her service as Treasurer has been diligent and conscientious and the BUNT Executive thanked Glenda by giving her the opportunity to take to the skies, as a passenger on a short flight in a Pitts Special over Darwin, late last year.

Glenda wrote,

“I would like to thank you all very much for the farewell gift of a short flight in an aerobatic aeroplane, and special thanks to Bruce Clow for arranging it. Some of you may know that many years ago I used to fly small, single engined aeroplanes for recreation, and flying was my passion for many years. I had not flown in a light plane for about 10 years and had nearly forgotten how much I enjoy flying in a small aeroplane and especially how pleasant and scenic it is to fly around Darwin and look at it from the air.

Thank you all once again for such an enjoyable opportunity. I received many blessings from my role as Treasurer, and I will miss the friends I made.”

TOP TEN PREDICTIONS FOR 2014

With all the problems the World is facing we can sometimes feel unsettled.

Here are 10 predictions that will hold true this year.

1. The Bible will still have all the answers.
2. Prayer will still be the most powerful thing on Earth.
3. The Holy Spirit will still move.
4. God will still honour the praises of His people.
5. There will still be God-anointed preaching.
6. There will still be singing of praise to God.
7. God will still pour out blessings upon His people.
8. There will still be room at the Cross.
9. Jesus will still love you.
10. Jesus will still save the lost when they come to Him.

Isn't it great to remember Who is really in control, and that, "the Word of the Lord endures forever"?

1Peter1:25 and Psalm 139





2014 BUNT ASSEMBLY

★ The Assembly will be held on Saturday 14 June
★ and will be hosted by Cornerstone Church.
★ The exact location of the meeting is yet to be
★ decided and churches will be advised closer
★ to the date.

