

March 2016



**BELONGING
PEOPLE**



BUNT President Neil Wright at the Cross, Kalkaringi

The President's Message



Welcome to the New Year everyone.

For some it will be a year that is tough and others will find that they are in a year of success and victory. Don't you wish that it was always the latter? I know I do.

However the Bible clearly talks of an enemy and also encourages us to be men and women of steel, not to take a backward step but to stand and resist the enemy.

Therefore, put on every piece of God's armour so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm. Eph 6:13 NLT
So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you Jas 4:7 NLT

At the moment, as members of the Baptist Family of Churches in the Northern Territory, we really need to get behind Baptist Care Foodbank and support them in prayer. This is a really important step that each church can take. Foodbank is a vital cog in the machine when it comes to serving many agencies that deal with people in need.

Right now there is the possibility that Foodbank may have to close it's doors if government or other significant funding is not obtained Pray, not just for funding, but also for the volunteers and employees who have been putting in extraordinary amounts of time to try and resolve the situation.
Pray for favour, unity in the board, peace, wisdom, faith.

On another note, the **Annual Assembly of the Baptist Union of the Northern Territory** is to be held at Cross Roads Church in Palmerston on Friday 10th and Saturday 11th June. We are in the process of developing the Assembly into a conference style event to try and promote togetherness and connection.

Neil Wright

Find more information on Assembly on page 24

Tiny Tunes at Alice Springs Baptist

As a church we have spent a lot of time and energy in the last months to get every-one 'ministry ready'. It takes a lot of administration to ensure that every person serving with children in the church is meeting the requirements of the government and our protocols. We want to be certain that the children are safe in the hands of our volunteers. We take this opportunity to celebrate one of the ministries in our church that seeks to glorify God and help mothers, fathers and their 'littles ones'. Our 'work' amongst the kids of our church (and town) is both a responsibility and a joy.

Praise God for the ongoing ministry of Tiny Tunes at Alice Springs Baptist Church. Each Wednesday morning, a group of Mums, and occasionally Dads, along with their preschool children, meet in the church hall for fun, fellowship, food and of course music!

The group is a mix of both church families and non-church families who have heard about Tiny Tunes by personalised invitation or "word-of-



mouth". This aspect makes it a valuable outreach and a way of connecting with a small group of families who would otherwise possibly not venture into church. On many occasions we have been able to support these families with encouragement and some spiritual input during and outside of the Wednesday morning sessions.

The number of regular attenders seems to fluctuate each week from 5-15 families in addition to the leaders and their families. The children all love music time, especially when we get the instruments out, or ribbon sticks to dance around the hall with. Our theme for this term is colour. Each week we are going through the 'colours of the rainbow'. You can imagine how much fun this is!

Chantal Ezard

AROUND THE BUSH CHURCHES

Global Interaction is continuing the search for Support Workers in the southern communities of Ali Curung, Yuendumu and Willowra. Bill and Pauline Morrison will continue to spend time with all communities over 2016. They will be endeavouring to spend alternate months in both north and south while this process continues.



Please Pray for Bill and Pauline

1. For protection as they continue to support the communities throughout the Northern Territory.
2. Insight for the best way of doing things throughout the year.
3. Growth in the leaders of the churches.
4. Pray for the Morrison's health and travelling needs in 2016

Ali Curung

Christmas at Ali Curung was a time of celebration, fun and praising God for all He has done and is doing amongst the church and community. Dianne, along with other church ladies, has spent much time over the past months teaching and encouraging the children to sing Wapirra songs. The children have loved this and were delighted when they were asked to sing at the end of year school concert. It was received with a standing ovation.

Willowra

We enjoyed our time in Willowra late in 2015. It was refreshing to see the few gathering and sharing informally about their faith, reading from the Bible and singing without accompaniment praises to God. Recently a trip to share with folk at Yuendumu church was encouraging and refreshing.

Yuendumu

Sunday services and night time sing-a-longs are going well with both Kardiya and Yapa worshipping and sharing together. The church leaders are working well together along with others in the congregation, supporting and helping where needed. A ladies get-together has been happening during the week with Bible sharing and prayer. A memorial service was held for Andrew Spencer, a leader at Yuendumu, in late February. Lloyd Ollerenshaw, a past missionary, took part in the service for his Yapa brother. Tess Napaljarri is praising God for her healing after spending time in Adelaide hospital. There was a wonderful time of sharing, worship and sing-a-longs when Willowra people visited their Yuendumu church family in February.

Kalkaringi

The church leaders at Kalkaringi are taking the Sunday services and continue to encourage those around them. The men continue to meet for Bible Study and encouragement. This year in August Kalkaringi is celebrating the 50 year anniversary of the "Wave Hill Walk off". This is not only an important time for the Gurundji people, but a vital part of Australia's history.

Lajamanu

The church continues to be led by Jerry Jangala (Pastor) and Lynette Tasman (Assistant Pastor), who continue to encourage all. The women's Thursday Bible Study continues to be a highlight for the women and the men's study has resumed weekly with more men joining in and sharing in Bible Study. In January two women and four men were baptised in Hooker Creek. This was a great time of coming together with the church and the families of those baptised. Please pray for the leaders as they continue to be a light for Jesus in their community.



*Lajamanu
Church
Leaders,
Jerry Jangala
and Lynette
Tasman*





A CASUARINA CHRISTMAS

Casuarina Baptist Church hosted a lunch on Christmas Day 2015 as they had done on Christmas Day 2014. Again, Pastor Paul Avery was very grateful to his wife Davina and to Warren and Liz Douglas from Darwin Baptist Church who also contributed a great deal in helping to organise the event.

The food for the day was primarily donated and volunteers brought even more with them as they came to serve. We had food left over which was distributed to some very grateful people living on the street.

There were around 100 people there on the day, comprised of 30 hard working volunteers and 70 others, who took advantage of not being alone at Christmas. Gifts were given to children on the day and it was a great success with thanks to Brumby's at Northlakes, Woolworths at Casuarina Square and the member for Casuarina, Lauren Moss, who all donated food for the day.

Pastor Paul prays that this is an event that can continue in the spirit of Matthew 25:35-40 as we continue to "be Jesus" to those around us.

"At The Name of Jesus..."

CROSS ROADS OUT IN THE COMMUNITY

A little while back, a small group went up to McDonalds after a Sunday evening event. As they walked towards the restaurant, a commotion could be heard a short distance away where a bloke was beating up his partner. Three of our guys decided they couldn't ignore the whole thing so went to try and restrain the man in question. As it turned out, he was high on ice and alcohol.

As two of the guys attempted to hold the man, who was apparently putting up a reasonable struggle, the third said, quite firmly: 'The Bible says that, at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, so bow'. At this, the man stopped struggling and went face down on the footpath. His partner was not in a good state and made herself scarce. By now, police had been called by one of the bystanders.

The struggle suddenly recommenced but the same words were repeated: 'At the Name of Jesus, every knee shall bow'. Again the man went face down on the footpath, this time in tears and sobbing. The police duly arrived only to find the situation calm and quiet, and understandably thought all was reasonably OK. The partner returned and explained she had been beaten quite badly, at which point the police wanted to know how our guys had managed to restrain the offender – which they were quite happy to describe.

The whole thing then adjourned to the Police station where statements were taken – including the explanation of 'At the Name of Jesus, every knee shall bow'. Always good to see Scriptural principles in action. Exciting times.

Timor: Two of our guys (and one from Cornerstone) have just returned from a week in Dili, where they were helping build a training centre for Pastors and church workers. We're looking forward to sending an outreach team back to Timor later in the year.

We are also looking forward to our Ministry Weekend (11-13 March) with Prophets Greg and Julie Bailey.

Pastor Bruce Clow



Sharing God's Love with Seniors

Each fortnight, **Darwin Baptist Church** helps organise a Sunday service for the residents at the Tiwi Gardens Aged Care facility. The service is a short (only forty minutes) but meaningful gathering, allowing residents to continue to take part in worship and continue to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The worship format is warm, open, inviting and very interactive, allowing members to speak up and share when the subject touches them. This, of course, can be challenging for the speaker at times as the environment and congregation can be somewhat unpredictable. Each service opens with praise and worship, the genre of music provides the elderly members with songs of yesteryear.

The sermon is generally of a reflective nature, for example, it may prompt the congregation to look back over their lives with a view to forgive or lay to rest any issues that they may have held onto in the past. Regardless of the message, each talk culminates with Scripture that points to Jesus with a message of Salvation or simply reaffirms the faith in those who already believe.

The Service closes with a song, and occasionally tea and biscuits are served to keep people together afterward, either for a chat or the opportunity to pray. The children who attend the service are encouraged to create artwork and hand these out to the elderly in the services leading up to festive occasions such as Easter and Christmas. This is a wonderful moment for the generations to connect and to teach the children the importance of community service from a young age.

Tim Woods



*Sunday
afternoon
service at
Tiwi Gardens*

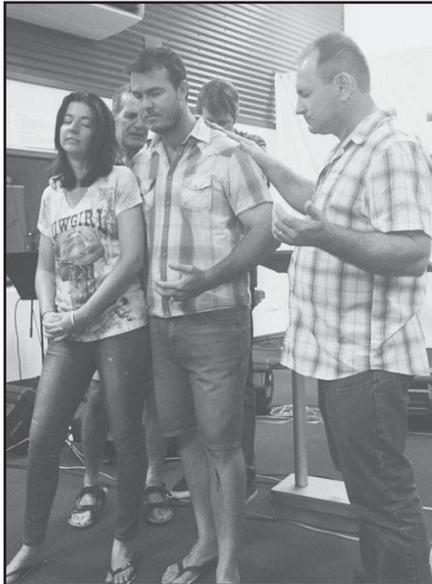


New Young Leaders at Cornerstone

At Cornerstone we are now getting back into a rhythm after the Christmas break and holidays when Kids Church was in recess.

This year the theme that will carry through is from being slaves to becoming significant. We will be talking about moving from slavery in different areas of our lives to survival, to success and then to significance. Significance being the day of rest talked about in Hebrews, where we cease from our own works. We will also be working on the establishment of a strong community of Connect groups.

We are pleased and excited that we have prayed in a new elder, **Lyle Mackay**, an excellent young man who will continue to be a great blessing to the Cornerstone family. It is so thrilling to see young men and women being transformed by the power of the gospel. Lyle and his wife, Kylie, are two of those people.



*Neil prays for
Lyle and Kylie Mackay*

Also, just as exciting, is the start of a Youth Connect Group which is to be led by **Ben and Nicole Marsh**. These are two more lovely young people who have a real passion to grow and sow into the kingdom. The group are meeting on a Friday night and we would appreciate prayer for them.



Ben and Nicole Marsh

This February we are having three days of fasting and prayer, finishing with a praise and prayer night and shared meal on Friday the 26th. I look forward to sharing some of the stories of God's goodness that come from that.

Pastor Neil Wright

***Let us not get tired of doing what is right, for after
a while we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't
get discouraged and give up.
Galatians 6:9***

TRUSTING GOD IN FOODBANK CRISIS

Years ago there was an episode of “Touched By an Angel” that was set in a small town experiencing drought. While remembering the exact details of the plot are difficult, one scene was very memorable. A man – tired and angry – asks the angel why God has not answered the town’s prayer for rain. The angel answers, ‘because God decided that you needed each other more than you needed rain.’ The aim of the drought was to teach the town the value of being good neighbors.

As many would know, times are tough for Foodbank NT. We no longer have the funding needed to meet expected core operation costs. In a recent letter to client agencies, Foodbank CEO Peter Fisher stated: “FBNT has exhausted all its avenues of support funding of recent years (mainly through the Baptist Church network in Australia), and has experienced disinclination by the government to accept any long-term support role for FBNT.

“This brings FBNT to its current crisis, where both short and long-term government support is essential if NT operations are to continue. As reported in the press, FBNT will, in the absence of immediate funding relief, cease NT operations by end-March.”

Despite this predicament, we continue to see God’s amazing provision for this ministry. Every week workplaces and small businesses are offering to run fundraisers for us; we have people walking up to us in the street to donate money straight out of their purses and wallets; we have food being donated in so many different areas; clients offering letters of support; and most importantly, we have the prayers of faithful Christians wanting to see us continue to feed the poor, the orphans and the widows.

We are so grateful for this support and so thankful for God’s provision. Who knows, maybe we needed community support more than we needed funding. Please continue to pray for Foodbank. Thank God for His provision. Foodbank has a rich history of being blessed by God (see Timeline on facing page).

Pray that the Lord will give the Baptist Care NT board and the CEO wisdom and understanding as they continue to petition the government for funding. Pray that the Lord will open doors.

Kate Woods



How it all began....



- 2008** God plants the seed
Foodbank NT began with a niggling feeling in the heart of DBC pastor, Mal Sercombe. "While I knew we - the churches - were doing well, I felt there was a gap in terms of how we were putting the gospel into action," he explains.
So Mal visited Baptist Care Australia and together, they made plans to find a way to put the gospel into action.
- 2009** God shines the light
An analysis of the needs within the Darwin region was undertaken.
"The end result was clear. Affordable food and housing were Darwin's two big needs," says Mal. Housing was going to be a big ask without capital, so we focused on affordable food."
- 2010** God waters and feeds
The churches came together and Baptist Care NT was registered as a company. Representatives from DBC, Casuarina Baptist Church, Cross-Roads Christian Church and Cornerstone Christian Fellowship made up the board.
Foodbank NT became Baptist Care NT's first program.
The set up was very basic. RENT NT allowed Foodbank to use a truck free of charge to collect food, which was then stored on trestle tables at a small warehouse in Winnellie.
"I remember sitting around the table one board meeting and hearing we had only enough funds to operate for another six weeks. Within the week, \$25,000 was donated," Mal explains.
Later that year, after much prayer, Foodbank received a grant from Woolworths to buy a van.
- 2011** The seed grows under God's love
In 2011 Foodbank moved into a bigger warehouse at Winnellie, but was still without proper shelving, fridges, freezers and money to spend. New shelving was being auctioned but with bidding started at \$40,000, it was unaffordable. When the auction closed and the shelving was passed in, the auctioneer convinced the owner to donate all \$100,000 worth to Foodbank.
Later that year Coles at Karama closed its doors and so donated a freezer, cool room and more shelving. Foodbank had all it needed.
- 2012 - 2016** Flourishing under God's steadfast love and faithfulness...
In the past couple of years, Foodbank moved enough food to provide more than 700,000 meals for struggling individuals and families. **"Give thanks to the Lord, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the peoples, proclaim that his name is exalted. Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously; let this be made known in all the earth."** Isaiah 12:4-5

Katherine Church Welcomes New Young Adults

Katherine Baptist Church is off to a good start for the year. We had a combined churches prayer meeting here on Australia Day Eve, to pray for our nation, and then a further prayer meeting on the 7th of February, the National Day of Prayer and Fasting. Both of these prayer meetings were well attended.

At the end of last year we had a few farewells, with some families moving interstate. We also had other families move away from Katherine, some of whom were Youth Group leaders. We wondered if we would have enough leaders to run Youth Group this year as we are a small church, so we prayed for more leaders. We have had five new people offer to help. So Youth group is off and running and we have had 17 kids attend each time so far. God has answered our prayers.

We also have a group of Young Adults who are mostly new to Katherine, and it is encouraging to see young people expressing and growing in their faith. We have been enjoying an informal Night Church on Sunday nights, aimed at young people, but not restricted to them. This is a new thing, and going well, and we appreciate your prayers that God will use this service to reach people and be a blessing to them. You could pray that for everything we do. That would be good.

We continue to have a Radio program on local community radio every Thursday night, called "The Good News Radio Show", which is a great opportunity to sow some seeds into the lives of Katherine people.

Pastor Ernie Mitchell



Pastor Ernie at Night Church

Barry and Lois Downes Head Further North

Just a note for all those who have journeyed with us for many years. We have a new place and address, and hope you will still remember us, as we move a little further north! Amazingly God has opened up door after door for the move to Townsville. We thank the Lord for these great years in Rockhampton, for the ministry we have had in the church here, and now look forward to a new adventure with the Lord as our guide.

Barry and Lois

Our new address is:
***St James Retirement Village
Unit 49, 260 Fulham Rd
Heatley, Townsville. Qld 4814***

Email remains the same :
bazlodownes@gmail.com



KATHERINE WARLPIRI BAPTIST CHURCH

Jenny Overcomes Her Fears With God's Help

The faithful folk at Katherine Warlpiri Church are praising God for bringing Jenny Rockman through major surgery following the diagnosis of a brain tumour some months back.

Jenny was required to travel to Adelaide for life saving surgery but there was a problem. Jenny has a fear of flying. In this case she had no choice but to give it to God and pray about it. After months of praying, God gave her comfort and confidence about flying to Adelaide.



A cheerful Jenny Rockman

Jenny, who is a long standing member at the Katherine Warlpiri Church and part of the Music ministry, underwent surgery in Flinders Medical Centre in Adelaide to remove her tumour. Praise the Lord it was a successful operation for Jenny and with new God-given confidence, she was able to fly from Adelaide to Darwin then on to Katherine and Kalkaringi.

More recently, Jenny has been living in Darwin for six weeks for follow-up at Royal Darwin Hospital. During this period she has been attending church at Knuckey Lagoon Baptist Fellowship and being an encouragement there. She is getting better and better every day. Nothing is impossible when we put our trust in God. God is so good! Great things He has done!

Carmen Baynes

PRAY for Jenny Rockman that she will continue to regain good health and be able to faithfully serve the Lord in her communities especially in the music ministry.

PRAY for the Katherine Warlpiri Baptist Church members, that through faithful testimony and love, they will be an influence for Christ in the Warlpiri Camp community



PRAY for John and Carmen Baynes as they visit the Philippines and USA for four weeks in February/March to spend time with family.

PRAY for rest and restoration and good health. John is expecting to undergo knee surgery in Darwin after his return.

PRAY for encouragement in their service for the Lord as they minister to the folk at Katherine Warlpiri Camp and Knuckey Lagoon, Darwin.



Knuckey Lagoon Baptist Fellowship Gives Praise!

YVONNE WHITE one of our faithful Aboriginal ladies, serving the Lord at Knuckey Lagoon Baptist Fellowship has been on the Donor Kidney Transplant waiting list for many years. It has been a long journey for Yvonne and she has trusted the Lord patiently through this time. On February 2, 2016 Yvonne finally received a Kidney Transplant at Flinders Medical Centre in Adelaide. ***God is Awesome! He is worthy to be praised!***

PRAY for Yvonne White, that she will continue to be a great witness at Knuckey Lagoon Aboriginal Community to her Lord and Saviour. Please pray that she will have a big impact on other women in the church and community as she claims the promise in the Bible that says, ***"All things work together for good to them that love the Lord, to them who are called according to His purpose."*** Romans 8:28

More Praise!

Building No.8 at Knuckey Lagoon Community, where the Baptist Fellowship meets, has been newly painted on the inside. Thanks to Lincoln Agnew from Darwin Baptist Church for his great effort in painting and giving a fresh, clean appearance to our Church. ***To God be the Glory! Great things He has done!***

Please pray for Phillip, who is planning to paint the outside of the building in the coming days. Pray that God will supply our needs for roller brushes and other painting needs. Pray also for fine weather so that Phillip can start painting as soon as possible .

PRAISE God that the owner of Knuckey Lagoon Community has allowed us to use this building for as long as we want, free of charge and to start a church here so that John and Carmen can share the Gospel with the Aboriginal people residing in this and other Warlpiri communities in Darwin.

"Call unto me and I will answer Thee, and I will show you great and mighty things that you do not know". Jeremiah 33:3



Inside the newly painted church. Praise God.



Building No.8 - the outside, still to be painted

When the Church Building is fully painted we plan to invite the BUNT churches to celebrate with us the goodness of the Lord. We want to share the story of how we were able to acquire this building to reach out to the people at Knuckey Lagoon with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Carmen Baynes



**TOGETHER
TERRITORY WOMEN'S CONFERENCE
27-28 May 2016**

**Women in Leadership
at Darwin Baptist Church, Friday 27 May 2016
Cost \$20**

**TOGETHER
Territory Women's Conference
Saturday 28 May 2016
Grand Ballroom, DoubleTree by Hilton
Cost \$80**

**TOGETHER KIDS
Available for children 1-12 years of age
A fun program in a safe and caring environment
Cost \$15 per child**

TOGETHER VISION

"To network and empower women from across the Territory in a way that has an impact for God's Kingdom"

TOGETHER is a gathering of women from across the Territory, across denominations and across all ages with a passion to be connected, empowered and equipped to have an impact for God's Kingdom wherever He has placed us, however He calls us. We pray that this will be your experience as you join us at TOGETHER Conference, 2016!

Register on www.togethernt.com.au or Phone 08 89410701

CONSUMERS URGED TO RETHINK THEIR NEXT GADGET PURCHASE



Over 50 electronics companies fail to make the grade on forced labour, child labour and exploitation

On 10 February 2016, Baptist World Aid released **The 2016 Electronics Industry Trends** report showing the electronics industry has not made sufficient progress in implementing steps to protect workers.

"Forced labour, child labour and exploitation remain as significant problems in the supply chain of the electronics Industry. This is the most valuable industry in the world, worth in the trillions. If anyone can afford to ensure they have an ethical supply chain, it's our big tech companies," said Gershon Nimbalkar, Advocacy Manager at Baptist World Aid Australia.

While 64% of companies showed some improvement since the report's release in 2014, not a single company had managed to improve its practices and policies enough to earn an A grade.

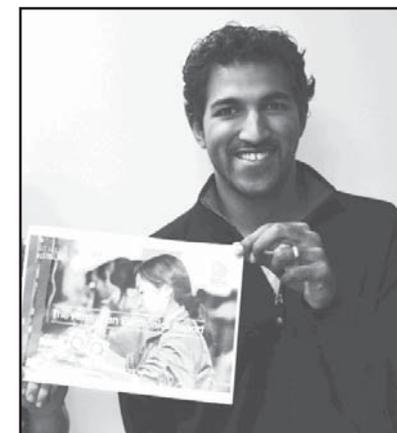
The median grade for the 2016 report was C, suggesting workers remain overworked and underpaid, working long shifts with no overtime pay, little rest and wages so low families struggle to make ends meet. This lack of a living wage was a top concern as it meant workers still would not be able to afford the basics – food, water, shelter and electricity.

Of those surveyed two years in a row, Baptist World Aid applauds the progress of the 5 companies that improved the most: San Disk, Dick Smith, Asus, Garmin and Blackberry.

Consumers can order a digital copy of the 2016 Electronics Industry Trends report by visiting Baptist World Aid's website **www.behindthebarcode.org.au**.

The full Electronics Industry Trends report is also available to download from this website.

**BWAA Advocacy Manager
Gershon Nimbalkar**



Drought and the Pacific

By Samara Linehan of Baptist World Aid



Photo Source: Baptist Union Papua New Guinea

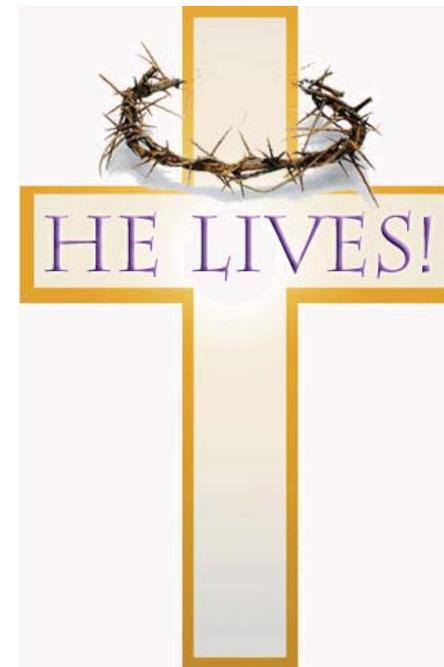
The powerful El Niño period continues to worsen, causing drought and undermining food security in the Pacific and Sub-Saharan Africa.

While Baptist World Aid Australia's Kenyan partners have community drought mitigation projects in place, communities in the Pacific are unprepared as they have not, historically, had as much need to conserve water.

In the high hinterlands of Papua New Guinea (PNG), severe instances of frost have destroyed food gardens. With the normally plentiful water resources greatly diminished, attempts to re-plant the gardens have been futile, leaving entire communities without food. Already, deaths have been reported in PNG as drought gives way to poor sanitation and disease. Over the next few months it is expected that there will be a spike in forced migration as whole communities relocate to areas which still have water and food. In PNG, as families put themselves at the mercy of tribes with whom they do not normally associate, the potential for conflict is huge.

One of the biggest challenges for PNG is the country's geographical hostility. The most affected areas are typically the hardest to reach. Communities exist in isolation, surviving within the constraints of their immediate environment; with their subsistence lifestyle under imminent threat, so too is their survival. And due to the general inaccessibility of much of PNG, any form of effective relief effort will be difficult to coordinate. The El Niño threatens to wreak havoc in the Pacific, where countries are not as prepared to mitigate the effects of drought. There are currently 2-3 million people across the Pacific whose lives are being affected by El Niño. Proactive measures to better prepare communities for worsening drought throughout the region will save countless lives.

**Donate to the Disaster Action Fund today
at baptistworldaid.org.au/disaster-action.**



BUNT ANNUAL ASSEMBLY 2016

**The Annual Assembly of the Baptist Union
of the Northern Territory will be held on
the Queens Birthday weekend at
Cross Roads Christian Church, Palmerston.**

The proposed program is as follows:

- **Friday 10 June 2016: 6.30pm - 9.30pm** Barbecue and Singalong
- **Saturday 11 June 2016: Commencing at 9am - all day**
Combined Churches Worship, Fellowship sessions,
Assembly Business, Morning tea and Lunch
An evening Dinner is planned.
- **Sunday 12 June 2016:** Worship services in local Baptist churches

*Churches will be asked to nominate delegates to Assembly.
Further details will be sent to churches by the Secretary
when the program is finalised.*

Belonging People

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