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November 2012



Workers Together at Yuendumu Church

From the President



Over the past few months I have felt privileged to visit some of our Baptist Family of Churches - including Casuarina, Cornerstone, Bush Church, Kalkaringi, Darwin, Pigeon Hole Outreach and Katherine .

My wife and I were blessed and inspired to hear stories and testimonies of how God has worked in each of the churches as His people have passion and commitment for getting the Gospel to all people.

I believe we all agree that to reach people we need a spiritual awakening to occur across our land. True spiritual awakenings come from God's answers to

the heart-felt prayers of His people. Our efforts will be in vain without a strong consistent emphasis on intercession.

To all of you working in diverse places, be encouraged by these words in Matthew 9:35-39 *‘And Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness. When He saw the crowds, He had compassion on them because they were harassed and helpless like sheep without a shepherd. Then He said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few, Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field’.*(NIV)

May you experience God's presence, power and blessings beyond all measure as you faithfully serve Him each day!

*In His Service,
Rev. John Baynes*

Front Cover: *Local Church men help the Maffra Work Party dig a trench for a new tap line at Yuendumu Church*

Opposite page: *Jangala Thomas Rice leads the Maffra Team in some boomerang playing at Yuendumu Church*

Darwin Kids 'Drive' to Movies



While Darwin Baptist Kid's Church is always a fun place to learn, these past few months have been extra exciting. Our theme has been 'The Bible – Alive and Active!' and we have discovered that God uses His Word to speak to us in so many different, wonderful ways. His word is a lamp that shows us the way when we are lost, and a trouble-shooting guide for when we make mistakes or don't know what to do next. It is also a love letter – written by God for us – and a mirror so we can see what we really look like on the inside. Most of all, it reveals who God is, so we can know Him better.

To celebrate the end of a great term, we held a 'Drive-In Movie' morning. Each child collected the cardboard-box car they had made the week before and drove into the Kid's Church hall, parking in front of a big projector screen to watch a movie with some popcorn. It was a great way to end an amazing term.

Jesus still Heals!

Knuckey Lagoon Outreach



When Clinton James was born doctors told his mother that he would not be able to walk. Joyce Hargraves knows this little boy very well because she looks after him in the house where they stay together. Joyce attended a Bible Study at Knuckey Lagoon and listened as John Baynes told the story from the Bible of how Jesus healed the man who was crippled from birth. When she went home Joyce put into practice what she had learned and PRAYED for this boy's healing. God revealed Himself to her and by the power of the Holy Spirit a miracle happened. She was amazed to see that Clinton was able to walk by himself that very day!

Joyce shared her testimony during the Sunday morning and evening services at Knuckey Lagoon Outreach. Praise the Lord that she now uses this time of conversation in the Aboriginal community to share the truth of the gospel and the healing power that God brings to hearts and bodies.

PLEASE PRAY for finances to enable a MINI-BUS ministry to go forward at Knuckey Lagoon so that people can attend Church Services, Bible Studies, Prayer Time and other church-related activities.



The Bush Bible Training Camp was held at 7-Mile in Kalkaringi Community in September. It was a gathering of people from Lajamanu, Kalkaringi and Katherine Aboriginal Churches. The theme was the HOLY SPIRIT. It was a great time of learning together and sharing of how God is working in each of our lives.

PRAY that Aboriginal churches will work closely together to bring families back to church and receive these families in love and truth regardless of circumstances. **PRAY** that God will bring healing and hope into the lives of each of the men and women who participated in the Bush Bible Training.

John and Carmen Baynes

The Power of Prayer at Yuendumu

For several years now Baptists around Australia have been praying hard for the people at Yuendumu to be freed from the cycle of violence that has afflicted their community. Norm writes:

On Sunday 12th August, Norm and Karen and the Baulkam Hills Outback Xposure Team were in church at Yuendumu with about 30 people. At 11am, during a communal Prayer time, some family fighting broke out in front of the church. A couple of the Yapa ladies ran to the window to observe people meeting each other with nulla nullas and other weapons, while others in the church called out for everyone to pray to Wapirra (God). Over the next few minutes the whole church went into prayer; Yapa people were calling out to Jesus and God to protect their families...and to stop the fighting. Others of us prayed quietly and tears welled and flowed around the Church.



Within about five minutes the street went very quiet, and our key Yapa church leader encouraged our church service to continue and it did.... with a sense of celebration and praise for what Wapirra had done.

The following Tuesday ABC Radio News reported that "family fighting began at Yuendumu on Sunday morning, however, the crowd dismissed peacefully without incident". Wow...Praise God! We know 30 people, both Yapa and Kardiya (white people), who were praying only 50 metres away from the fight scene at that same moment. **Thank you God for answered prayer!**

Revival at Murray Downs & Ali Curung

Praise God there has been a Spiritual Revival on the Yapa communities of Murray Downs and Ali Curung. Over September and October a Yapa-prompted and Spirit-led revival has taken place, where over 100 people have recommitted their lives to Jesus, or become Christians for the first time. The immediate product of this movement has seen up to 50 people of the 70 population at Murray Downs, and around 80 people of 400 at Ali Curung, worshipping Wapirra (God) in church and at evening sing-alongs on a daily and weekly basis! It has been an amazing transformation...Praise the Lord!



Ladies at Training Camp

Leaders Training Camp at Willowra

After a 2 year interruption to the Church Leaders Training Camps, due to ill-health and bad weather, a weekend Training Camp was held at Willowra in September. The Yapa chose the subject of Healing (Physical, Spiritual, Emotional/Relational) and this was well received with up to 30 people involved in studies over the weekend. Both Saturday and Sunday, the temperature reached 40 degrees at camp...Phew!! Since the Camp the Yapa are sharing the 'Healing Stories' with others in their churches and they are looking forward to more Training Camps in 2013.

REACHING PEOPLE WITH PUMPKIN AND PASSIONFRUIT



Cross Roads Church's Outreach

One of our guys has a banana plantation and market garden. For several years he has blessed the church by bringing in produce on a Sunday morning. Recently we've started taking some of that produce to local homes in the neighbourhood. People have been totally amazed at being given "stuff" at no charge. Watching the reactions and hearing the feedback has been quite moving. Relationships have been established and contacts made with some who have never before been in a church. On one occasion we had a shorter service and then everyone went out to give away bananas, zucchinis, cabbages, passionfruit and pumpkin. The testimonies from those who went out were quite special - and the smiles on their faces said it all.

A new cry-room has been built which is almost completed. All through the Dry the Church has run a stall at Palmerston Markets which has seen a lot of material both sold and given away and which has generated quite a high level of contact with market-goers. Gail Davidson has been in charge of the whole project which is part of her PhD project.

Some of our guys have been going to Mitchell Street (Darwin's 'party' street) on Saturday nights, handing out Gideons New Testaments, Creation DVDs and, sometimes, bottles of water. By far the majority of those on the receiving end have really appreciated the stuff they've been given. On one occasion 20 DVDs were given away in 20 minutes.

Pastor Bruce Clow

NEW BEGINNINGS at ALICE BAPTIST

This season of the Alice Springs Baptist Church has been all about new beginnings! After many months of prayerful searching God has provided a new senior pastor for our congregation! Rev. Dr. Robert Dunn is joining our church and bringing with him his lovely wife, Connie, and many years of ministry and leadership experience. We are so thankful to God for His gracious and timely provision and we're excited to see what God does in the life of our church and community through Robert and his leadership.

In September at our Annual General Meeting we had the joy and privilege of voting in new members. Some of those new members have been attending our church for years and some have only joined us recently. We are so happy to have them commit to join with us in glorifying God here in Alice Springs. Our new members are Lionel and Eunice De Kock, Benton Barbie, Scott and Donna Abernethy, Stephen and Rachel Cann, and Robert and Connie Dunn. We had a welcoming service for our new members and afterwards shared a reception with them, pictured here, cutting their cake.



We also commissioned our leadership team and are thankful for the godly men and women God has called into leadership here in Alice Springs. We pray that He will continue to lead, guide and sustain them through this next year of ministry.

Shannon Anderson

Chris Barnden's Farewell Visit

Global Interaction's Director of Ministries, Chris Barnden joined Norm and Karen for 5 days in September in his farewell visit to the Outback Team. Chris is leaving the mission at the end of 2012 after 8½ years in his Directorship role. The Yapa embraced Chris in a fond farewell as he visited Ali Curung, Willowra and Yuendumu, with none more moved than his skin brother, Japangardi Creed Nelson at Ali Curung. The Roberts and the Outback team have appreciated Chris' leadership, support and friendship over the years. We wish Chris God's blessing in 2013 and beyond.



Left:
Japangardi Creed
with Chris Barnden

Below:
Chris and Karen
with Willowra friends



News from Norm and Karen

It's been an eventful few months for **Norm and Karen Roberts** as they continue to shepherd the churches at Ali Curung, Yuendumu and Willowra – not forgetting the little church at Murray Downs!

In August, while working with an Outback Exposure team from Baulkam Hills at Ali Curung, Norm accidentally cut 2cm off his left hand ring finger with a heavy weight of steel. Karen drove Norm 375km to the Alice Springs Hospital where he had surgery to clean up the wound and spent 3 days in hospital. Thank you to all who prayed and Praise the Lord, Norm's finger has healed well in 8 weeks. Karen, who is going well, has been a great nurse and support to Norm.

Visits from work parties in the form of Outback Xposure Teams are always an exciting time and contribute immensely to the communities in terms of physical labour, fellowship and cross cultural experiences. Hosting these teams make for a busy time for Norm and Karen in the form of travel, organization of jobs and cultural orientation. Since June the Yapa Churches have welcomed teams from Baulkham Hills, Maffra, Torquay and Alice Springs Young Adults. Their hard work has borne much fruit in buildings and maintenance and in encouragement.



Sound shell next to Yuendumu Church under construction

Norm and Karen are looking forward to a time of less visitors in the summer months to catch their breath and recharge their batteries. Continue to pray for healing and rest for Norm who in recent weeks has been unwell with some moments of 'emotional fragility'.

Matthew 11:28...“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest”.



Bush Church folk enjoy a picnic at Berry Springs after Baptisms



Bronson, after his dedication, with his parents, Brian and Anne-Marie, who were baptised on the same day

News from Nhulunbuy Church

Nhulunbuy Baptist Church has sadly farewelled Geof Dunlop, a Church elder for the past 6 years. Geof has made a significant contribution to the life of the church in many ways but especially in the area of Worship. He and his wife, Moya, have retired to New Zealand and will be greatly missed.



BAPTIST BUSH CHURCH

It's been busy times at the Baptist Bush Church. We recently celebrated the baptisms of three members of one of the church families. Brian, Anne-Marie and Jake were all baptised together at Berry Springs Swimming Hole. It was a beautiful day of fellowship and celebration as the family made a new start together. The Bush Church also had its first baby dedication of little Bronson Kenyon. In other news, the church kitchen upgrades are almost complete and ready to expand cooking classes. Two Gideon's members, Michael and Margaret Toozoff, are about to hit the road but will be back in the Dry.

The Church Youth Accommodation is well underway and the church is looking for any donations of single beds, sheets and towels. If you are able to help please give the church a call or email; it would be most appreciated and help immensely with this new outreach. We are also starting collection of toys for the Community Christmas Party that the church hosts each year. The Christmas party is attended by people from all around the local community and is a great opportunity to share with many the story of our Saviour's birth so once more any toy donations would be greatly appreciated. The Lord's blessings continue to bring great joy and we praise His Holy name!

Pastor Sharon Crook

**CAN YOU HELP WITH BEDDING OR TOYS?
Please contact ZEPHYR at Baptist Bush Church
on 89881177 or EMAIL admin@baptistbushchurch.org**



Norm and Karen's Future Plans

Having completed 8 of their projected 10 years with Global Interaction in Outback Australia, Norm and Karen are committed to a succession plan in their support role with the Yapa and are 'testing the waters' with God and the Yapa ministry, expecting that their work/service with Global Interaction will end at the conclusion of 2014.

Norm and Karen are currently communicating with a couple who could possibly replace them by the end of 2014, and are actively pursuing them to this end. They invite you to continue praying for them for discernment that God's plan for Norm and Karen and the role in Outback Australia, will be revealed to the right people as 2012 continues and as 2013 comes around.

Norm writes, **"We know that God's plan for the years ahead for ourselves, the mission, and whoever comes in behind us, will always be right..... God has His way and the timing will be perfect!"**

Jeremiah 29:11: "For I know the plans I have for you", declares the Lord.

Serving in Kriol Country



My name is Rachel Borneman and I am a member of Katherine Baptist Church and a missionary with Wycliffe Bible Translators and the organization that directly relates with indigenous Australians, AuSIL (the Australian Society for Indigenous Languages). Check out: www.ausil.org.au

I work with Kriol-speaking people who number 30,000 across the Top End. However, I mainly work with those living along the Central Arnhem Highway on the road to Nhulunbuy.

In 2007 the Kriol Bible was dedicated – the first Australian Aboriginal language to have the whole Bible!

My job is to encourage the use of the Kriol Bible. I do this through:

- working with indigenous adults to facilitate youth ministry along with Youth With a Mission. Our Camp (Yangbala Kemp) comes under Scripture Union
- making of Kriol resources es (eg. Sunday School resources)
- running discipleship courses amongst other things.
- learning the Kriol language and making cultural observations.

Being in relationship with my indigenous family is integrally entwined in my role, as relationship is integral to indigenous culture.

I would like to send out a Thank you to **Katherine Baptist Church** for their practical support, especially in helping get my car back on the road. and for partnering with Youth Camp, and also to **Darwin Baptist Church** for their regular financial and prayer support. I also appreciate how God has used people to share wisdom and encouragement and to bless my ministry.

If you would like to receive my newsletter and/or prayer updates, please contact me at rachel_borneman@wbt.org

If you would like to know more about the work of AuSIL you can meet some of their workers at Alice Springs and Darwin Baptist churches.

The NT Baptist Family Gathers

As reported briefly in the last issue of BP, the Annual Assembly of our NT Baptist Churches was held in June 2012 at the Baptist Bush Church . In the opening Devotional, Rev. Paul Avery (Casuarina) encouraged all the churches to act as a functional family, highlighting that communication is vital. Each church was asked to share specific prayer needs. These were:-

- Casuarina – Food for Life outlet opening shortly
- Katherine – the Mainly Music Ministry
- Yuendumu - community issues and family fighting
- Bush Church – a need for Christian men and for mentoring
- Darwin – for future direction and resources
- Kalkaringi – for growth and maturity in their leadership
- Cornerstone – to cement and strengthen their structure
- Nhulunbuy – a need for worship leaders
- Cross Roads – for the Palmerston Markets outreach
- Baptist Care – for management of resources and for staff
- Warlpiri Ministry – new ministry start up and for transport

Baptist Rites of Marriage

The Secretary tabled the Baptist Rites of Marriage which were recently adopted by the Baptist Union of Australia. and registered with the Federal Attorney General. This defines Marriage as **‘being the union between a man and a woman to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life’**. This definition is now the accepted basis of marriage for Baptist Churches in Australia.



Discussion took place regarding the issues of same sex marriage and the move by some parties to re-define marriage in the National Parliament. It was agreed that Paul Avery would issue a press release on behalf of BUNT stating that this Assembly accepted the National Baptist definition of Marriage. Mike Mills prayed for grace and wisdom on this issue.

CORNERSTONE CHURCH

Cornerstone was able to participate in a workshop on building church leadership which Pastor John Fontanerosa and Matt Stevenson came up from south to share with us. This was held at Cross Roads Church. The visitors toured the crocodile pens at Jim Fry's workplace and loved it. (Jim is a leader at Cornerstone.)

The Church is currently doing a series of studies called '50 Shades of White' which focuses on living a life of purity as a Christian.

We have launched our new Facebook page and messages and information on Cornerstone can now be downloaded from our website ccfnt.org.au

Pastor Neil Wright (below with wife, Joanne)



The Kriol Bible



Belonging People

Newsletter of the Baptist Union of the NT

Editor: Andrea Adams

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Manyuwana - Getting together for Fun

The Lajamanu Church has been talking about ways they can reach out into the community. The ladies who travelled to Melbourne in 2011 visited Beaconsfield Baptist Make and Mingle craft group and were very inspired. The women in the church are now in the process of setting up a women's Get-Together for painting, tea(Ngaliga) , craft etc. They have named it 'Manyuwana' - getting together for fun. The first project is going to be a banner of The Fruits of the Spirit to hang in the church This ties in with the theme of the Bush Training Camps which has been on the Holy Spirit.



The last six months have been difficult for many of the church folk. It has been a sad time with the passing of many family members. The community has been going through a very unsettled time over the past six months, but we have seen The Spirit of God moving . On a recent Sunday night at Sing a Long many older folk gave their hearts to Jesus and a young man, after seeing how happy the church folk were, talked to the leaders telling them, "That is what I want to have".

YOUTH GROUP GETS INTO GOD'S WORD

Casuarina Baptist Church runs a Youth Group every Friday at 7.00pm for youth 13 years and up. The group kicks off with small activities and games such as basketball and kicking around a footy on the church grounds before moving into a time of sharing where we get to know one another.

Although the group is small, it is dedicated and enthusiastic to study God's Word and we spend most of the session doing Bible study. This year we have gone through a series of Bible studies focusing on how we can apply the Word of God to our daily lives and encourage one another to grow towards Jesus. We have also had sleepovers at the church and movie nights, focusing on Christian films and participated in programs such as Operation Christmas Child.

Please pray for the group as God continues to work in their lives and helps them to understand His Word and how it applies to them. Please pray too, for the Youth Leaders, **Adam Chilcott and Kathryn Pickworth**, as they encourage and lead the young people.

Adam Chilcott



STIR US UP LORD!

ASIA PACIFIC BAPTIST CONGRESS



I was fortunate to represent The Northern Territory Baptist Family of Churches at the 8th Asia Pacific Baptist Congress held in Kuala Lumpur in September this year with the theme, “Stir us up Lord”. The Asia Pacific Baptist region represents 60% of the world’s population yet only 8% of those are Christians. That same area has experienced 70% of the world’s natural disasters in recent years.

I was one of 1,368 delegates from 22 countries of whom 29 were Australian. During my time there I got to hear many speakers from different parts of the world and we were reminded as we shared together in worship that with all the nations represented there, we were getting a small taste of what it will be like one day in Heaven!

Rev Dr Ross Clifford was one of the congress speakers and was inducted as the new President of the Asia Pacific Baptist Fellowship. This was exciting for me as I became a Christian under Ross’ teaching; he married Davina and I, and he was my lecturer and Principal at Morling Theological College.

I attended several workshops during the Congress including one that dealt with human trafficking in the region of the APBF. This is a major problem and one that is not far removed geographically from us in Darwin . One disturbing fact is that, of the world’s 1.5 billion children, 215 million of them are subject to forced labour; this does not include working on the family farm or in the family business.

The congress is held every five years and the next one will be in Indonesia, which will enable more of us from the Territory to be a part of this worthwhile event. I think the best thing about attending the congress was the opportunity to meet people from other parts of the world and hear about what God is doing through His people from many backgrounds, languages and cultures. It was a blessing to be there.

Rev. Paul Avery
Casuarina Baptist Church

Josias, a young man is taking the role of leading the men’s Tuesday Bible Study while Sing a longs at the Holy Ground have continued to be a great inspiration to many community folk.



Making a Way in the Desert!

With the Bush Training Camp due to start in early October, it was discovered that the site chosen at the 7 mile near Lajamanu had no tracks into it and therefore no way for the Church bus to get in. Richard and Desmond (pictured) came to the rescue! They cut back shrub and graded the road by towing an old gate, weighed down by ant hills, back and forth to make a drivable track. This was a task they undertook of their own initiative as the local grader was not available. It took them one week to complete. A great job!

Photo opposite page: Altogether at Bush Training Camp

Revival Rocks at Kalkaringi!



If you have ever wondered what revival would be like then come along to church on a Sunday morning and night service at Kalkaringi/Dargarau church. It rocks! Or we should say, "It is noisy"..... lots of children, dogs and of course people sharing what God is doing in their lives. In amongst this God is working in a way that we have no handle on except He is working in the lives of young men, women and children, changing and renewing their hearts.

Next year the new Sunday School building will be opened and we know that it will be well used. Each Sunday, morning and night, many children are coming along to services. Some of the folk at Dagaragu church spend time with the children midweek telling Bible stories, singing action songs and encouraging the children in Ngaji (God's)way. The church folk are working together, praying for people, maintaining the church yards - both at Kalkaringi and Dagaragu, encouraging the children and taking the funerals.

On Sunday 14th October both Kalkaringi and Lajamanu joined together for Baptisms at Watties Creek where the leaders of the churches baptized 8 people whom they had been talking with.

The Lord is doing marvelous things. Praise His Name!

Photo: 11 year old Nicola from Dagaragu/Kalkaringi is baptised by Susan and Biddy. Nicola's mother was also baptised after being challenged by the faith and life of her daughter.

In Brief.....From the Morrisons

We would like to thank all of those in the NT who have supported us throughout 2012. We are returning to Victoria for November/December, with a month of deputation and then a holiday and Christmas in December with our children. We will be returning to NT mid January 2013.

This year has seen a continued focus on leadership training in both communities. One of the highlights has been the commitment and growth in the existing and emerging leaders in the churches of Lajamanu and Kalkaringi. The Bush Training Camps for 2012 have been very well attended and have been a real time of joining together around a fire, talking and learning about the Holy Spirit. It is also great to see the relationship and unity between both communities, Lajamanu and Kalkaringi, strengthening.

*Bill & Pauline Morrison
Global Interaction Support Workers*

Please continue to pray for the Kalkaringi/Dagaragu and Lajamanu church folk and for Bill and Pauline, for good health, safe travel and that they be encouraged in their work.



**Four emerging leaders: Meshak & Danny (Kalkaringi),
Desmond & Josias (Lajamanu). Pray for them!**