

November 2013

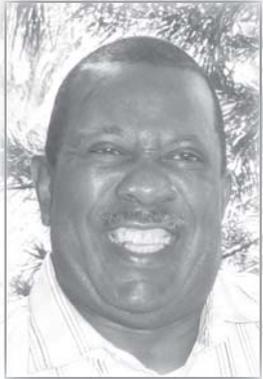


**BELONGING
PEOPLE**



Stephen Jangala and Thomas Monk

President's Message



On behalf of the BUNT Executive Committee, we extend our message of sympathy and respect to Frieda Poulson and family on the sudden passing of her husband Japangardi Poulson or Cobra. Japangardi served as BUNT President between 2005 to 2007 and we remember his glad service with thankfulness.

The BUNT Assembly in June was a special time when Church leaders and pastors came together in Katherine. *(see pages 22 & 23)*

We have farewelled Peter and Caron Leith from Katherine Baptist and thank the Lord for their solid witness and service in their 3 years there. Let us continue to PRAY for Katherine Baptist Church, now without a Pastor, as they continue to seek and pray for a new Pastor to come and minister to them.

We praise God for the growing of Aboriginal church leaders in Katherine and the other Bush Churches. PRAY that the Lord will grant many of these Aboriginal men and women a desire to enter into a deeper relationship with Christ through the study of God's Word and we will see still more church leaders raised up.

To all BUNT Churches I challenge you in these words from Philippians 1:9-11 "And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness, which comes through **Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God**".

In His Service,
John H. Baynes

On the Cover:

Stephen Jangala and Thomas Monk are two respected 'old men' living in the communities of Kalkaringi and Daguragu. Stephen from Kalkaringi was a leader in the church for many years. He has a quiet way of sharing and living for Ngaji (God). Thomas from Daguragu was baptised at Easter 2011 and attends church regularly.

We remember Japangardi

In the early hours of Sunday 14th July, Japangardi Poulson collapsed and died at his home in Nyirripi. He had been to a family funeral earlier in the day, and was in good heart. Japangardi has been a long time leader at the Yuendumu Church, and in the community of Yuendumu. His move to Nyirripi 20 months ago was an interim measure during the Yuendumu family fighting which has recently been resolved.

Japangardi was a good friend to many people. He made visiting Kardiya (white fellas) most welcome in his presence and in his country around Yuendumu, as he shared his culture with them. Japangardi was also a great friend to the many Missionaries at Yuendumu across the years including Norm and Karen over these past nine years.

Japangardi served as only the second Yapa President of the Baptist Union of the NT for two years from June 2005-2007 encouraging and visiting NT Baptist churches. With his wife, Frieda, he travelled to Victoria with Norm and Karen on two occasions, firstly in April 2007 visiting many of our supporting churches when he also experienced his beloved Essendon Bombers Football Team play on ANZAC Day. A second visit in 2008 followed, with a team of eighteen Yapa to Bendigo in October. His death is a big loss to the Yuendumu Church, community, his family, friends and the Warlpiri people. He will be sadly missed.

Norm Roberts

Pray for Japangardi's family and friends and community as they mourn him and pray that other strong Yapa Christians will rise up to take his place in the church leadership.



Salt and Light in Nhulunbuy

Pray for our friends at Nhulunbuy Baptist and all families and individuals who call the Gove Peninsula 'home'. People are feeling downcast in Nhulunbuy. The future of the local plant, which produces alumina for export from the bauxite mined there, is under a cloud. The refinery employs 1190 of the town's 4000 population. The Northern Territory and Commonwealth Governments have been working to try and find a way to supply and deliver sufficient gas to keep the alumina plant in operation. and negotiations are ongoing.

Matt Brazier from the Nhulunbuy Baptist Church writes, "**Gove is in the news again with uncertainty surrounding the future of the operation. This causes much stress for many people in the town as they are forced to contemplate the possibility of unplanned upheaval. Pray that Christians here can be salt and light and that there will be a positive outcome.**" [Matthew 5:13-16].





God's Word Delivered to Refugees

A young Sri Lankan family arrived at Casuarina Church from a detention centre one Sunday morning. Dad, Mum, and 3 year old daughter were new to Australia, having arrived on a refugee boat a few days before. The husband is a Tamil man, and spoke good English. He was very keen to obtain a copy of the Bible in his wife's language, Sinhalese. We have a stock of Bibles in various languages in our church office, most of which have been supplied through grants from the Bible Society and Crossover Australia. How grateful we are for this blessing!

However we had no Sinhalese Bibles, and I knew that the only way to get one at the time was to buy online, and wait for a month for it to arrive. As this family was in a transit camp, there was every chance that they would have moved on before the Bible arrived. I chatted about it to Sam, a Sri Lankan man from our church, and he just smiled and said "I can get you one before next Sunday." "How so?" I asked. "My parents are arriving from Sri Lanka soon, and I will ask them to bring a new Bible with them."

And so it was that Sam was able to present the Bible to a very grateful lady. Two weeks later, the family was transferred down south. How amazing God is! He has innumerable ways of meeting our needs and making his plans come to pass!

Pastor John Whitbourn

Katherine Warlpiri Church

Helen Stays Strong for Jesus

Helen Morris is a faithful servant of the Lord and a member of the Warlpiri Baptist Church in Katherine. Originally from Kalkaringi, she moved to Katherine 12 years ago where she worked as a Court Interpreter for Aboriginal families. Helen, who was widowed last year has 5 children and 31 grandchildren.

In 2012 a foot infection landed her in Royal Darwin Hospital where she remained till September of this year. During her long hospitalisation Helen's foot infection worsened and finally her left leg was amputated. As a result, she experienced a lot of pain and Helen thought she would never recover from this ordeal. In addition Helen had dialysis treatment 3 times a week,

Helen never gave up though and her faith in the Lord Jesus stayed strong. While in hospital, she shared her personal testimony many times with staff and patients.



***Above:
Helen prays with another patient
L. Helen with Rev. John Baynes***

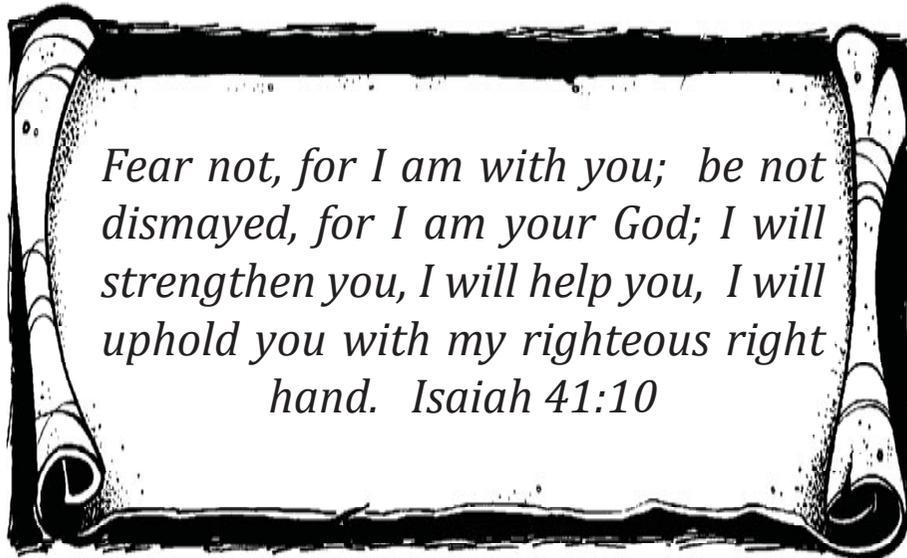
Also during her stay in hospital, Helen continued her studies, a 2 year course with the Department of Regional Development and Women's Policy. She also contributed, as part of a team, to the department's book titled ***Bilinarra, Gurindji and Malngin Plants and Animals***, an important handbook documenting Aboriginal knowledge of flora and fauna in that region. For her efforts Helen received a Staff Recognition Award

Helen Morris was also awarded the Diploma of Interpreting from Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education and her Diploma was presented at Royal Darwin Hospital because she was unable to travel to Batchelor .

Finally Helen was transferred to Katherine Hospital on 18th of September and plans to live permanently at Corroboree Hostel where her family can visit her.

Praise God for the way He has sustained Helen and enabled her to achieve so much to help her people and to serve Him!

Carmen Baynes



Timothy's Story

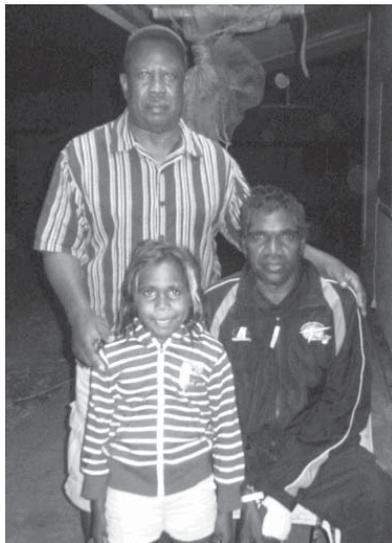
Timothy Gibson attends Bible Studies at **Knuckey Lagoon Outreach**. He is a young man with a heart problem who recently went to Adelaide for urgent heart surgery followed by more surgery a month later. This is Timothy's Story:

"I was in a coma (after the operation) and in my dream I saw a man coming towards me with bright clothes and he told me to get up from the bed and he told me to squeeze his hand, but I was still weak. And the man told me to go on a journey to Heaven and an angel showed me the golden gate and I have seen the Book of Life. I asked the guardian angel if my name was in the Book of Life. I see Jesus with golden hair and blue eyes waving at me and waiting for the Father. He said, 'Do you want to come on another journey with me?'

The guardian angel took me to hell and it was stinking and dark . I have seen devils biting the earth. I keep on walking with the angel. I had a cross in my hand and it was glowing on me and I came back to the operating theatre and I was standing beside my body. But the guardian angel told me, 'Brother you are gonna get up in three days.' And I said, 'I want to stay here (in Heaven)', but (he said) 'No, you have family back home praying, having hope, love and care. Brother I am sending you back to home. ' "

In his testimony Timothy said that he will serve the Lord and bring his family to Knuckey Lagoon. He wants to share this story with other people, that there is indeed a heaven and a hell.

Carmen Baynes



*Timothy with daughter,
Shekiah, and John Baynes*

Yuendumu, A Healing Community

Yuendumu has maintained peace after the years of family fighting which resolved earlier this year. The new peace was most evident at the Yuendumu Sports Weekend held in early August when no less than 18 community football and softball teams visited over the Picnic Day weekend! The roll up of so many teams meant the event had to be extended by two days with the grand final being played on Wednesday. Yuendumu's No 1 team won! In recent years the Sports weekend was poorly attended or cancelled altogether because of family fighting. This year crowds of up to 3000 attended with no evidence of previous conflict. ***Praise the Lord!***



Church Leaders Training Camps

Discipleship and training for Yapa leaders continued this year at:

- **Ali Curung** in June -30 Yapa Church leaders from Ali Curung, Yuendumu and Willowra attended. Norm led 8 studies on 'Prayer'.
- **Yuendumu** in September , when the studies centred on the 'The Holy Spirit'.

A Helping Hand in the Outback

After losing their Ali Curung Mission Donga to fire in 2011, Norm and Karen Roberts have been encouraged by a stream of individuals, churches and teams who, over the last two years, have volunteered time and skills in the rebuilding effort. The new Donga has finally been completed, with a saving of \$50,000 to the mission in labour.

The latest team who came to complete the Donga were from Bendigo Baptist Church, eleven of them for a twelve day working visit. This was their second visit to the communities where Norm and Karen minister. As well as the significant input they made in building and maintenance, the team worshipped and socialised with the church folk at Ali Curung, Murray Downs and Willowra. At Ali Curung they joined in a 'sensational' sing-a-long evening with 140 people.



Bendigo Team with Ali Curung Church folk



Bendigo ladies pray for Lucy and Linda at Murray Downs Church



Norm and Karen Roberts



Bendigo Team fitting plaster sheets at Ali Curung

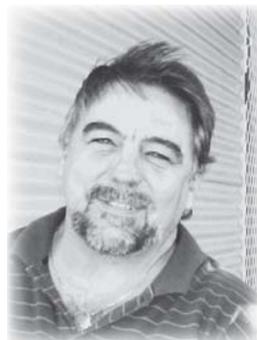
Prayer and Praise

- PTL for willing hands to rebuild the Ali Curung Donga
- PTL that the Roberts have been able to reach their budget target with the help of increased support
- PTL for every person and church that contributes to Norm and Karen's work with the Yapa Churches
- Continue to pray for the Mission and potential replacements for Norm and Karen in 2015
- Pray for good health and strength for Norm and Karen
- Pray for the Church Leaders at Ali Curung, Wiilowra, Yuendumu and Murray Downs
- Pray for God's ongoing Peace to prevail at Yuendumu

Malawi on their Hearts at Cornerstone



Viv Britza



Kym and Ian Fleming

Viv Britza, with Ian and Kym Fleming of Cornerstone Church, flew to Malawi on September 23 along with Viv's brother Ross Britza of Perth. Viv and Ross's parents were missionaries in Blantyre, Malawi and a recent trip to the land where Viv and Ross grew up revealed a Christian community striving to love and serve the Lord. It also revealed great poverty and need,

Some months back the Cornerstone Church learnt that many orphans in Malawi were facing starvation. They swung into action and, with a Mothers Day Stall, raised a huge amount of money to help. Even this was not enough and through an amazing miracle, a relative of Viv's who works for 'Feed the Hungry' (Aus & NZ) was able to assess the situation in Blantyre and facilitate the sending of 5 containers of food for the children there. The Church were further encouraged when they heard that money from the 2013 World Vision 40 hr Famine across Australia was directed to Malawi.

JLife Ministries, a non-denominational movement that disciples and trains young Christian leaders across Africa are working with the people of Blantyre to buy land and build a training complex stage by stage. In September one Connect Group from Cornerstone Church held a Monster Lawn Sale to raise funds to help buy the remaining land needed to build the complex.

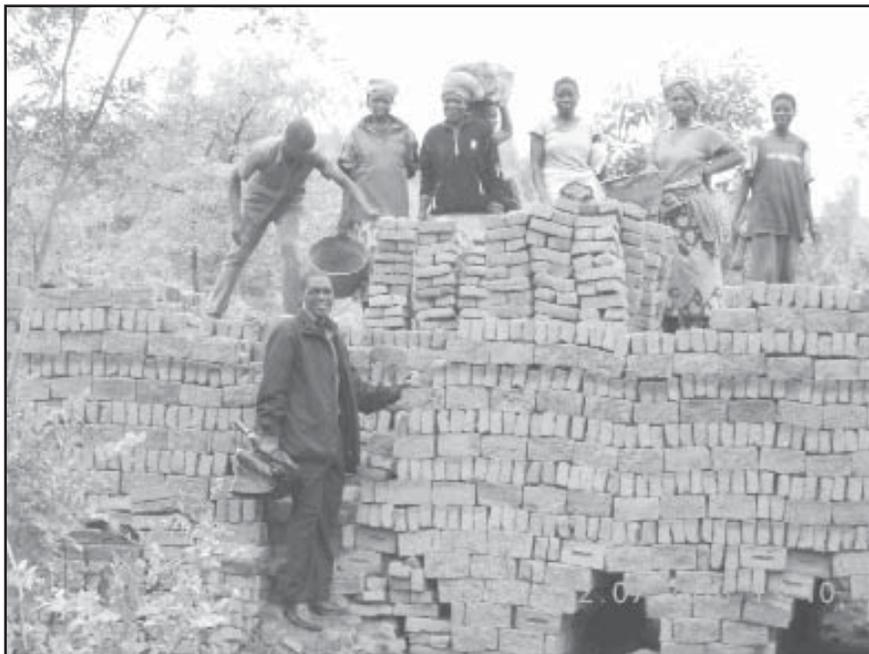
The three 'Ambassadors' from Cornerstone Church, Viv, Kym and Ian, have gone to Malawi with this gift for JLife ministries to help them buy land for their Youth complex and share in the Lord's work there. More news next issue! Contact Cornerstone Church if you want to learn more about the Mission to Malawi. ***All Praise and Thanks to God for His enabling.***



Pastor Neil Wright adds,

"Cornerstone Church has been going well. Kylie Pattermore has responsibility for the running of small groups and is now working on ways to grow Cornerstone's small groups as a vital part of the church in developing deepening relationships."

Construction of a Dining Hall is underway on the first bit of land purchased by JLife Ministries in Malawi for a Youth complex



Back to Kalkaringi Launch of Gurindji-English Dictionary

Thursday 22nd August saw my husband and I travelling on the familiar road from Darwin to Kalkaringi. The 780 km trip doesn't get any shorter, especially the last 340 km of single-width bitumen!

Kalkaringi, on the Victoria River, was home to our family for 10 years from 1977 to 1986. Our 3 children started school there and we established many friendships as we studied Gurindji, the local language in the twin communities of Kalkaringi and Dagaragu. Over the years we collected language material, translated Bible stories and worked with local speakers to create literacy materials in our role as linguists/translators with SIL (now AuSIL).

This year we joined in community celebrations for Freedom Day on Friday 23rd August. It was the 47th anniversary of the "walk off" from Wave Hill Station.



Helen and Norm McNair



Our particular interest this year was to celebrate with Felicity Meakins, a linguist working on Gurindji through the University of Queensland, in the launch of a Gurindji-English dictionary. This impressive 600 page hardcover illustrated book is the result of endless hours of work between Felicity and local speakers as they have checked material collected by her, us and other linguists over 40 years. It was fantastic to hear some of the local ladies speaking proudly about their combined efforts.

A weekend of festivities followed. Friday evening the local Baptist church held an evening of singing in the park. We saw Bill and Pauline Morrison and Judith Donald setting up for a barbeque the church was running as a fundraiser for a new bus.

It was wonderful to meet old friends and share in the celebrations of the community as a whole. To see the school children of the 80s taking leading roles in the church and in other areas was encouraging. Young and old, men and women are involved in art through the local Art Centre. There is a lot of interest in the new dictionary and we trust it will be a source of pride in the local Gurindji language even though there is a lot of language-change, especially among the younger generation.

Please pray the God's Spirit will continue to grow His people in this part of our country.

Helen McNair

Photos below:

- *Topsy addresses the crowd*
- *Violet cuts the cake, an exact replica of the Dictionary*
- *Young girls wait to dance in celebration*



God's Healing Hand at Lajamanu

Many folk have been in and out of community over these past few months due to the sports weekends, sorry camps and funerals. All these things affect the church, but in the midst of all this there have been some great stories of healing and restoration.

This is but one of those stories. Laura had been suffering for many months with fits which had left her unable to talk and having to use a walking frame. While her physical capabilities were diminished, her faith was not. While praying she felt God say He had healed her. And He had! It is pure joy for Laura praising God for her healing.

Ladies and men's Bible studies continue weekly with devotions held on both Monday and Wednesday mornings at 6am.

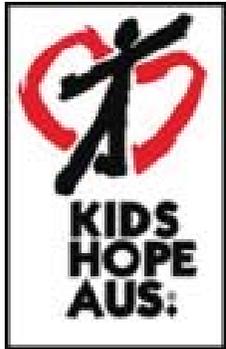
It has been a long time coming, but at last the new Health Clinic has opened it's doors in Lajamanu. This was followed by the opening of the Renal Dialysis Unit. This has been much anticipated by the community and staff as everyone concerned appreciates being able to spend time back in community with family and friends, rather than be in Darwin or Katherine having their treatment. The local community has raised funds and worked hard for this to be open and available.



*Barbara from Lajamanu
Church in the new
Dialysis Unit
The painting overhead is
by Jerry Jangala*

ONE CHILD, ONE SCHOOL, ONE HOUR, ONCE A WEEK

Kids Hope Aus (KHA) is one of the more exciting projects **Darwin Baptist Church** has been involved with over the past couple of years. The program – a World Vision initiative – involves church members visiting one child, at one school, for one hour, once a week, to spend some quality one-on-one time with them, perhaps helping with homework, playing games, doing arts and crafts or just simply talking. DBC's partner school is Parap Primary and so far, we have seen wonderful outcomes.



While teachers have commented on the positive changes children have made – many gaining confidence socially, some developing emotionally, others showing academic improvement – KHA has given our DBC mentors a chance to see God's love and care in action.

"The question most of the children ask when we begin mentoring them is, 'Do you come to see any other kids?' And the look on their face when you say, 'No - I just come to see you' is priceless!" says Toni Rehrmann, our Associate Pastor. "Recently one of the teachers told a mentor that her Year 1 boy was

so excited about his mentor coming that he wanted to wait outside for the first half hour of the day to be there to greet her when she came."

The Team of 28 is comprised of 14 mentors and 14 prayer partners. Of the 14 children involved, all are boys ranging from 5-12 years of age.

We pray God will continue to bring forth mentors, especially as there are so many more children at the school who would benefit from a little extra one-on-one time.

Kate Woods
Darwin Baptist Church



Morning Devotions at Kalkaringi

Rising early, lighting the fire, sitting around outside together in the dark (6-7am), we are ready to have early morning devotions. A few ladies began devotions on Monday, Wednesday and Friday after Easter. Now members of both churches (Kalkaring and Dagaragu) are joining in – Prayer, Bible reading, sharing about the passage and then closing prayer is led by a different person each morning. Breakfast is shared around the fire following the devotion.

We are so encouraged when these things happen through the churches' own initiative.

2013 has been a time of change and adjustment for the church at Kalkaringi. Weekly meetings have been attended well - Women's on Monday night, Men's on Tuesday night studying the book of James, Wednesday evening sing-a-long sharing and study, Sunday morning and evening services. The ministry to the children continues with games and stories outside our house and at Dagaragu, 'Ngaji MilliMilli' happens on Friday afternoon at the school taken by Susan.

Perseverance is the word that we are hearing everyday with those growing in Ngaji. To keep going despite setbacks, difficulties and discouragement. Praise God for His patience and love!

Pauline Morrison



Above:
Bill at work with Desmond Patrick

Left:
Well attended Weekend Camp

Please Pray:

for the Church Leaders at

Lajamanu: Jerry Jangala

Patrick (Pastor)

& Lynette Tasman

(Assistant Pastor).

Kalkaringi: Sonny Vincent

& Danny Palmer.

Pray for:

1. Good Health
2. Wisdom as they deal with church issues
3. Growth and the needs this brings to both the Spiritual and Practical aspects of church life.
4. Their families.
5. Their own personal faith and spiritual growth.

Pray also for healing for Lynette Tasman who has recently had surgery in Darwin for an injury to her hand.



Thank You!

The churches at both Lajamanu and Kalkaringi thank all those who were praying, raising money and focusing on Indigenous ministry in Northern Australia during May Mission Month!

The prayer and financial support you have given empowers and facilitates Warlpiri and Gurundji churches to express and share their faith and life in their own distinctive way.

Casuarina

Christian Voters 'Make It Count'

Around 160 people participated in a National Webcast run by the Australian Christian Lobby in the lead up to the Federal election. Casuarina Baptist Church hosted this event on 2nd September, when the then prime minister, Kevin Rudd, and then opposition leader, Tony Abbott, each gave a 3 minute video message. This was then followed by a Q and A with a panel hosted by Lyle Shelton, CEO of the Australian Christian Lobby. After the broadcast there was an opportunity for the audience to hear from seven of the local Darwin candidates who were seeking election. It was an informative evening and thanks need to go to Yvonne Pratt from the Australian Christian Lobby for her work in putting the even together. The night concluded with light refreshments.

Pastor Paul is Off to Cambodia

July next year will see Pastor Paul Avery from Casuarina Baptist Church setting off to Cambodia to take part in a bike ride/trek to see the work being done by Baptist World Aid (BWA), and to raise \$3,500 for BWA to assist their work in Cambodia, which is a condition of the journey. This is the minimum requirement but Paul said that he is happy for that amount to be greater to see BWA supported in their valuable work.

Paul will have a dedicated webpage for those who may wish to contribute to the work of BWA and help him to reach his target. Any funds donated to BWA are tax deductible.



Paul will also be raising funds to cover his costs which exceed \$4,000. He is hoping to use fund raising events to achieve that goal. These contributions do not attract tax deductability. If you would like to contact Paul for further information email him at paul@casbap.org.au or by phone on 0419 999 604.

Refreshment for NT Baptist Women

The annual Baptist Women's 'Fresh' Conference is held each year in Perth. This year, Toni Rehrmann and Dot Meakins from Darwin Baptist, along with Davina (Dee) Avery from Casuarina Baptist, attended the 'Fresh Conference' during September. This was held at Riverview Church, a huge complex which was large enough to accommodate the 800 women who came together for this popular event.



NT Delegates seated at far right: Dee, Toni and Dot

Dee was a special guest to the Conference having been invited by the Conference Co-ordinator, Karen Wilson, to present her testimony in WA. Karen heard Dee's powerful testimony earlier this year at the 'Together' Conference in Darwin and knew that God could use her message to stir the hearts of other women. It is a message of freedom for the captives and release for the prisoners - Isaiah 61:1, a hope that God has a plan for healing and an abundant life for everyone – and that no-one is too hard for the Lord! This was obvious as Dee, coming out of a background of severe abuse, radiated joy and led the women to dance in freedom to a young soloist who belted out – Overcomer! by MandissaVEVO (watch the song on YouTube!)

'Fresh' promised amazing worship, fabulous speakers, terrific food and a program designed to inspire women and leave them filled with a passion for the year ahead. It did not disappoint!!

Davina Avery

BUNT ASSEMBLY IN KATHERINE



Twenty-one delegates from NT Baptist Churches gathered in Katherine for the Baptist Union of the Northern Territory Assembly on Saturday, 15th June 2013. Katherine Baptist Church hosted the Assembly held at the Civic Centre Chambers. Warm fellowship and good food were highlights of the day. Hearty thanks go to Katherine Church and especially Peter and Caron Leith who organised the event. This was one of the last official tasks undertaken by the Leiths before they left Katherine and they were duly farewelled by the Assembly.

President, John Baynes opened the Assembly with words of encouragement from Ephesians. Secretary, Bruce Clow, gave a devotional entitled, 'Virtual Church or Real Church?' and had everyone gripped in suspense as he challenged delegates about how they 'do church'.

In General Business, John Baynes was re-elected as President for another year until 2014 while Neil Wright of Cornerstone Christian Church was the newly-elected Vice-President.



Retiring Treasurer, Glenda Beljon, was thanked sincerely for her seven years service and her commitment and hard work was recognized by the Assembly. Time was spent in prayer together and hearing how other churches were doing. This was both encouraging and helpful in knowing how to pray for each other. A number of delegates stayed over in Katherine till Sunday when they fellowshiped at the Katherine Baptist Church. Thanks be to God for the lovely weather in Katherine and the opportunity to meet together as His people.



