

November 2014



**BELONGING
PEOPLE**



The Yuendumu Team

Newsletter of the Baptist Family of Churches in the Northern Territory

The President's Message



The Baptist family of churches are widespread and distance is often the enemy. Sometimes it is hard to imagine what it is like to be a church somewhere different to you.

Although we don't share the same challenges, each church experiences times where things are not going exactly as they planned. It's times like these that we need to remember that we are family and we are called to encourage one another. Encouragement

should never be a one way street. Paul often sent people out to encourage churches and also to receive encouragement.

Paul Writes in 1 Thessalonians 5:11,

So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you are already doing.

Encouragement needs to be a lifestyle we develop and continue. But how do we encourage each other as churches of the Baptist Union?

I won't answer that question but leave it to everyone to think about.

Encouragement not only lifts our spirits but also our vision. Maybe during this next quarter your member of the Body could think of some way to encourage another.

Neil Wright



Front cover:

Yuendumu Team L to R: Jangala Clancy Watson, Norm and Karen Roberts, Napangardi Lottie Robertson-Williams, Napaljarri Tess Ross. Read more on page 6

Deep and Wide at Nhulunbuy



What do you get when you cross a fabulous BBQ, approximately 20 youth, encouraged parents, half a dozen enthusiastic leaders, and a hall with chairs?

A lot of fun.... !

Combined churches, Nhulunbuy Baptist and Nhulunbuy Uniting Church, have combined resources to bring the Youth Group in our town back to life. We will focus on a program of 'Deep and Wide'.....

Deep- focusing on our relationship with God, exploring what Christianity is and our purpose in life and much more,

Wide - focusing on community, social and each other.

Running every Friday night, the group will meet in a block of 6 - 7 weeks each term.

Leaders are extremely focused and enthusiastic to see the youth grow and are excited to be able to have the opportunity to minister in these extremely valuable lives.

Cross Roads ChurchHome

Make-over, a term which has become reasonably commonplace and refers to a complete transformation of people or places. Earlier this year the Church was challenged to look at the building as though looking at it for the first time, to see as a visitor would see it on their first visit. The result? A date was set and a Working Bee planned to give the place a makeover. Across two weekends and with a real sense of community, unity and excitement, over 30 members of the congregation gave the whole interior of the auditorium and entrance foyer at least two (in places, three) coats of paint.



As part of the project, the entrance foyer was upgraded with new lounge furniture, coffee tables, coffee machines, notice-boards, air-con, lighting, TV and so the list goes on. The result is a much more welcoming and comfortable entrance which also serves as a lounge/meeting area.

We should be able to put the statement 'Welcome Home' on the wall at the entrance to the church building, and mean it, simply because the Father's presence fills the House, making it 'Home'!



This from Reinhard Bonnke: *"There are people who want ice-cream Christianity, nice but cold. They want a church like a mausoleum or a museum. But the church is the Father's house. People should come out of the cold streets of the world into an atmosphere of comforting warmth and the presence of God."*

The place has gone through a spiritual transformation which is now being reflected in the physical – the place feels so different.

Pastor Bruce Clow

.....and Away

Timor

Around 4 years ago a team of four travelled to Los Palos in Timor-Leste to see if and how missions teams from Cross Roads may be able to assist. As we stood in an abandoned, bullet-scarred concrete auditorium we sensed that, one day, we would have a team there running a Music Outreach.

July saw our biggest team yet head over to Los Palos in Timor-Leste to run that Outreach. The team of ten are pictured below as they left Darwin.



The first night saw around 40 locals turn up. By the third night, that number had grown to around 300 – with several first time commitments. Just as exciting and as a first for Los Palos, the local pastors from a variety of churches worked together in unity. The team were able to bless the local Pastors, with some in tears, saying: “This is the first time we have had anybody come in to help us – we have felt so alone. Please come back”. One Pastor was aware his denomination was about to transfer him and was pleading with one of the team to “...please come back and do in my new town what you have just done here”.

And there was some very practical work to be done as well – tiling and carrying out a variety of maintenance work on a local Pastor’s house.

Ten Years of Ministry with the Yapa Churches

The end is nearing for Norm and Karen's ministry time in Central Australia. In December they will be packing up and returning to Bendigo after ten and a half years serving the Yapa in Ali Curung, Yuendumu and Willowra. They are unsure of what lies ahead but are looking forward to spending time with their "grandies".



Praise the Lord for this couple and the work they have done. May the Lord be with them and guide their path in the future. Although replacement missionaries have yet not been found, GIA has committed to ongoing support to these communities where Baptists have a long history of service. Pray for the Yapa churches that they may continue to grow closer to God and flourish in their own expression of worship and Christian life. Pray also for new Support workers.



Outback Exposure Teams

Over the past ten years there have been 30 Outback exposure teams visiting the churches with work parties and blessing the Yapa and Norm and Karen with their expertise, skills and friendship. This year has seen visits from Bacchus Marsh, Portland and Beaumaris (Vic) as well as Flinders Street (SA) churches.

The Beaumaris team painted the outside of the Yuendumu church and at Willowra the team carted 6 loads of river sand for the church driveway. The young team are pictured painting the church at Ali Curung, and pruning the Yuendumu mission house garden.



Leading in Wapirra's Way

The Holy Spirit was the theme for two weekends of Leadership Training at Ali Curung and Yuendumu, that were led by Norm and Karen during July weekends. At Ali Curung there were six training sessions on 'The Holy Spirit' and at Yuendumu we studied 'Prayer'.

Numbers at each session varied between 15-40 Yapa, which were excellent attendances. The Yapa soaked up the studies, and involved themselves strongly in discussions and sharing life experiences across the weekends.



*Norm leads studies
with men at Yuendumu*

*Yuendumu ladies share at
Prayer Training Weekend*



Yapa Ladies Trip

Five ladies from Yuendumu, along with Norm and Karen, will travel to Sydney for eleven days in November through *NSW Women 2 Women* to sing, share their stories and paintings in Baptist Churches.

***PRAISE GOD that Global Interaction will continue
to support the Yapa Churches in 2015***

PRAISE GOD for all the Outback Exposure work teams

PRAY for a good finish and good farewells for Norm and Karen

PRAY for the Yapa churches that they may grow closer to God

PRAY for New Support Workers to respond to God's call

Teasade's Testimony ~ From Refugee to RN

I was born in Guinea but both my parents are Liberian. They had settled in a city in Guinea but when I was eight years old war broke out in that city, so we had to live in a refugee camp. My life there, as an African girl, included helping Mum out with house work and walking for water with a 30 litre container, 20 minutes both ways. I always loved school as my parents were educated and wanted that for me. School in the refugee camp was not the best, but I went every day and did the best I could.



Teasade with her Mother, Dee, and Aunt, Johanna, celebrate her graduation

My parents decided they wanted to resettle in a better and safer place. Australia was offering humanitarian visas in our camp so my Dad applied. It took three years of waiting. We thought we were not successful but we got called. We went through the process and ended up in Darwin in August 2004 when I was 12 years old.

My family started attending Casuarina church after just two weeks in Australia and have never left. We are now 10 years in Australia. The church was a great support. They used to drive us to church, support me in youth group and support us in every way they could until we settled.

As for me I just continued to go to school and study and by the grace of God was able to finish Year 12 in 2010 and went on to Charles Darwin University to study Nursing. Now I am a Registered Nurse. I love the church and I appreciate everything they did for me and my family. When the Church help people in need and show love like Casibaps did, great things happen to members.... like my success.

Teasade Jabateh



Meat ***Matt Maurer***, our new Food for Life manager. He brings a wealth of expertise to the role, and is inspired by a faith and a love of Jesus Christ.

Matt and his wife, Annette, know the Territory well. They have spent long stretches in Katherine and Darwin over the past 30 years, and have brought up their two children here.

Matt has worked for a variety of organisations including Corrections NT, Northern Territory Tourist Commission, Queensland Baptist Gift Foundation and St John Ambulance NT. He also has a diploma in Sport and Recreation, a graduate diploma in Bible and Ministry, and a degree in Criminal Psychology and Youth Development.

"While worshipping at Darwin Baptist Church one Sunday, I read in *Pass the Salt* that Baptist Care NT was looking for some part-time staff. Needing to cut back my working hours, the Food for Life Manager's and Food-bank NT Volunteer Coordinator's positions really appealed to me. So far [the work] has been very enjoyable.

"I love that customers at Food for Life feel welcomed through the coffee lounge and that Casuarina Baptist Church has sincerely embraced this worthy Christian project. There is a true sense of fellowship among the customers, shop helpers and participants in the program. I can see it meets a definite need across the many community, cultural and religious groups residing in the Top End."

***Food For Life opens every Thursday, 9am - 1pm,
at Casuarina Baptist Church.***

BAPTIST WORLD AID CAMBODIA TRIP 2014



Team members whose ages ranged from 15 to 73 years old

What an amazing experience it was to travel through Cambodia on foot and by bicycle. To look closely at how people survive in this country that has suffered oppression for centuries and is still suffering from terrible corruption under what is basically a “Puppet Government” to Vietnam.

It was certainly a journey of highs and lows. It was incredible to see the smiles on the faces of so many who have nothing, yet live their life with an attitude of joy. The guides we had gave a whole new meaning to the term “humble servant” as they ensured that they did everything they could for us on this journey.

It was an absolute blessing to see the results of the work of *Food for the Hungry*, the organisation that Baptist World Aid is partnering with in Cambodia. Not only did we get to see lives that had been transformed through their work, we got to see entire communities transformed and working together for a better future for all. And through all of this, Jesus continues to be at the centre.

The entire team got on well and people of all riding abilities were catered for. As a team we raised almost \$80,000 which will be put towards the work in Cambodia. I would like to again thank those who supported me in this journey. In 2015, ABWA will be doing a similar journey, but this time to Sri Lanka. So, if you would like to make a difference and have an experience to last a lifetime, then I commend this journey to you.

Paul Avery

MOBILE MISSION MAINTENANCE WORK AT CASIBAPS

For three weeks the yard at Casuarina Baptist Church resembled a Caravan Park as we hosted a ministry team from MMM.

What an absolute blessing it was to have this team come and paint our church buildings for us, both inside and out, and what a blessing just to meet them and get to know them a little during their time here.

There were people here from many parts of Australia with Queensland, NSW, Victoria and Tasmania represented. There was also one couple, who come to Australia each year from New Zealand, just so they can take part in the MMM safari and contribute their time and skills to ministering with Christian organisations across Australia.

As well as doing the painting at CBC, they did work at Dreambuilders Church, Woolaning College, Lajamanu, Riyala Campsite and some went to Maningrida.

This is a great ministry and again I thank MMM for all they have done in service with us here in the Top End.

Pastor Paul Avery



Pastor Paul thanks the MMM crew

Nangala Hargraves

The Christian community at Knuckey Lagoon have sadly farewelled an influential leader and dear friend. Nangala Hargraves passed away in August this year after a short illness.

Nangala Hargraves grew up in Yuendumu and moved with her family to Lajamanu and then later to Knuckey Lagoon on the outskirts of Darwin. She was baptized at Lake Alexander in Darwin a few years ago.

Nangala Hargraves served as an Elder at Knuckey Lagoon Baptist Fellowship and was recognised as a strong capable leader both of her family, the church and the community. She took an active role in ministry leading church services, praying and encouraging others in their faith as well as carrying out a pastoral role in visiting the sick. Always practical, Nangala regularly cleaned the Recreation Hall before Sunday services.

John and Carmen Baynes gratefully acknowledge the perseverance and enthusiastic attitude of this dedicated Christian lady who has worked alongside them for two years at Knuckey Lagoon. Along with others, Nangala prayed earnestly and believed that God would give the community a place of worship. Now that prayer is being realised in the provision of a building for the fellowship to use.



John and Carmen stand between the proposed church building (R) and the ablution block (L) at Knuckey Lagoon.

KNUCKEY LAGOON BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP

Praise the Lord! After over two long years of praying earnestly to have our own place of worship the Lord heard the cry of His people. God is Awesome and worthy to be praised!



A disused building has been offered to us at Knuckey Lagoon by the Aboriginal Development Foundation to use as a church and for other church run community activities. The building is intact

and solid but will need repairing and upgrading. No rent will be charged if we repair the building. Just opposite this building is an ablution block with toilets and shower which we will also be able to use.

Mobile Mission Maintenance are willing to work on the property with the condition that we have to raise the funding for materials. We praise God for the working out of His purpose and are trusting Him to provide funds for renovating the building and relevant paper work.

Join us in PRAYING that the Lord will use this proposed worship building to be the light of Christ in the Knuckey Lagoon Aboriginal community.

PRAY for believers in Knuckey Lagoon to stay the course and seek to be used of God to minister here.

We ask the Lord to power the vision He has given us for evangelism in the community and to guide our conversation

PRAY as we send out fundraising letters to churches that the Lord will provide funds for renovating the building .

*They who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength. Isaiah 40:31.
John and Carmen Baynes*

Katherine Baptist Church and the Good News Radio Show

We have had a good dry season here in Katherine. Church has been going well and we have been able to organise and start running a couple of weekly events that are also going well.

The first is a Friday night kids club called "7 Ups", which we run in conjunction with the Anglican Church. It has been growing every week since we started. We targeted the age range of the kids in our churches, and they have been bringing their friends, so we have nearly doubled in size in six weeks. Some of the kids do home schooling, and others come from various primary schools in Katherine, so we hope over time to have an impact in the schools (and the town) through the group.

The other weekly event we have started is a spot called "The Good News Radio Show" on the local community radio station. To start with it was a bit daunting with a whole lot of buttons to push to make sure it all went smoothly and also sitting there wondering if anybody was listening. However, I have gotten used to the console and the computer, and I have also been getting some feedback that people are listening in and they are enjoying it.



Gospel means Good News, and the aim of the program is to get the Good News out into the community, and let people know that God gives us hope and a future and He is wanting us to turn to Him. Jesus still changes lives. Our hope and prayer is that God will prompt people to turn on the radio and be impacted by the message of the program and turn to Him.

Katherine is an outback town, and the centre of a large area, and there are people who attend church occasionally when they come to town. I used to work on a cattle station myself, and I know what it is like to be isolated and only able to go to town and church infrequently. We have been putting the Sunday messages on our website so they can still listen while they are out in the bush. God Bless.

Pastor Ernie Mitchell

Mainly Music at DBC

Since the beginning of the year Darwin Baptist Church has been running a **Mainly Music** program to help us reach out to non-Christian families living around the church. The program is a fun music group for parents or caregivers to enjoy with young children. It introduces Christian concepts through music, as well as developing children's motor skills, their mathematical and pre-reading skills, and their language and imagination.



We meet each Wednesday in the DBC kids' church hall. The session runs for about 30 minutes and is followed by morning tea, a play and the opportunity for parents to sit, chat and connect with one another. Our prayer has always been that this program would become a thriving ministry through which we could show God's love in action. God has been answering this prayer in amazing ways.

Towards the start of the year, church members made up the majority of registrations. Now however, we have more non-Christian families attending each week with many travelling from Palmerston to join the fun. In fact we have so many families attending, we are now considering hosting two sessions each week. Relationships with families are also building and growing stronger over time, with many non-church families asking for children's Bibles and copies of songs.



Our prayer is that God will provide us with more helpers so that we can continue to grow this ministry.

Cornerstone Church

Cornerstone Church is celebrating the registration of the lease for our land to build. The next part is raising funds and building. Hopefully we will be able to start the build early next year.

There are a number of families leaving at the end of the year and we would like to say 'Thank You' to all of them for their contribution to Cornerstone over the years. They have all been such a blessing to the body and will be missed greatly. We pray God's rich blessing on them in their future. They include:

Ian and Kym Fleming, Phil and Naomi Harvey and family,
Teresa Johnson, Paul and Wendy Gesch and family,
Michael and Liz Ruutz

Please pray for a Youth minister for us; it is a growing need. We have been greatly blessed at Worship time by the Worship Team. They are really inspiring us into a deeper worship and we give thanks.

Pastor Neil Wright



The Worship Team at practice

Final Bush Training Camp for 2014



Bill and Pauline Morrison are the Support Workers at Kalkaringi and Lajamanu.

The churches have been eagerly awaiting the final Bush Training Camp for 2014 at the Old Mt Sanford Road river crossing near Daguragu. Teaching, discussions and interactions were centred on the theme, 'The Fruits of the Spirit' and how they can be applied in our individual lives, family and culture. The camp was well attended, especially considering the temperatures were approaching 40 degrees. Cooling off in the river was fun!



PRAYER AND PRAISE

- 1. Pray for Bill and Pauline as they plan and prepare for 2015*
- 2. Pray for the leaders in both churches*
- 3. Praise God for the baptisms on November 9th*
- 4. Praise God for good attendance at Bush Camp*

Lajamanu Sunday School

The Sunday School has a monthly roster of helpers who teach and help the young kids on a Sunday. They work at preparing and planning for consistent teaching of Bible Stories. Over the past two months they have been looking at Moses. Singing action songs, hearing stories on the life of Moses and doing activities all help the kids to remember the main points of what they are learning. The children contribute with much noise, mess and enthusiasm, participating in colouring, cutting out, painting and, singing.



*Lajamanu kids
having fun
painting drums*

As the Sunday School co-ordinator, Annette Patrick explains: "We tell the stories in Warlpiri. The kids find it much easier to understand the stories and to talk together about what they are learning in their own language".

Some of the older kids painted drums which are used by both children and adults on Sunday and at the Holy Ground. A recent Saturday evening sing-a-long at the Holy Ground saw nearly 40 children attending. Lots of jumping up and down, running, laughter and singing action songs were enjoyed not just by the kids, but adults as well. The worship team shared stories encouraging the children about Wapirra then prayed for the children.

Please pray for these children, that they will grow into true followers of Jesus.

Kalkaringi Church helps out in Celebration

Each year in August the community celebrates Freedom Day Weekend to remember the historic 1966 Wave Hill Walk Off.

On Friday, after a prayer at the church, a remembrance service was held at the cemetery to pay respect to the old men and women who have passed away. Colourful displays of handmade flowers made by Jill Wilkinson and some of the school children were a highlight at the cemetery.

On Saturday and Sunday footy and netball competitions were held in Daguragu with many visiting communities coming to join in the festivities and sport.

The church ran the Canteen at the Daguragu Rec Hall with the help of the Traralgon Outback Exposure team that were visiting, (*photo below*). It was wonderful to see church folk involved in many aspects of the weekend, the canteen, preparing the footy oval, playing and refereeing both the footy and basketball, driving the bus from Kalkaringi to Daguragu, dancing, speeches and of course cheering on the sports teams.



The Team from Traralgon were a great source of inspiration, sharing time with the church and community, joining in with sing-a-longs, study evenings

and services. The visiting women enjoyed interaction with the children and the men worked very hard completing many practical tasks around the mission house and the church. The service the group provided assisting with the Canteen over the Freedom Day Weekend was truly a great feat by all.

Praise God the church is actively involved in many areas within the community.

Middle East Crises Appeal

Today in the Middle East, over eleven million people have been displaced from their homes and are fleeing from the violence happening around them. The UN is reporting that many of these are young children. It is a staggering and unimaginable number!



“Our Integral Alliance partners and agencies in the area are reporting that thousands of families and children are sleeping wherever they can, out in the open, without their basic needs being met including food, or any form of sanitation,” **Anthony Sell, Programs Director for Baptist World Aid** says. “Without an urgent humanitarian response many families will be vulnerable to severe weather conditions, hunger and disease and it is likely lives will be lost. Every day counts - it’s a race against time to get supplies to the refugee camps before winter hits. Once the temperatures fall, I fear we will see children and families finding it harder to survive.”

“Could I encourage you to pray for God’s intervention in these crises? Pray for peace and for mercy from political leaders. Pray also that governments around the world will generously give aid where needed and will be moved to accept additional intakes of refugees. Please also keep our Christian partners and other NGOs working on the front line in your prayers. And pray for the children. They are the most innocent and vulnerable in this scenario.”

Baptist World Aid has launched a **Middle East Crises Appeal**, joining with our Christian partner Medair, to deliver emergency food supplies, shelter and sanitation to the worst affected refugee communities. Then, supporting education facilities in neighbouring countries to give traumatised refugee children places to meet together to learn and have the chance of a childhood amidst the fighting and upheaval.”

To give to the Middle East Crises Appeal please call 1300 789 991 or visit www.baptistworldaid.org.au.



Lloyd and Win Kent Memorial Fund



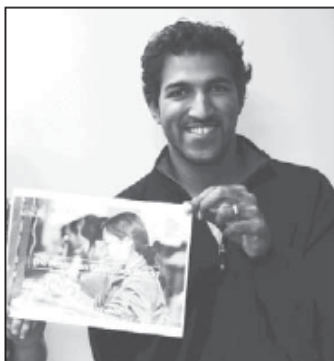
The Lloyd and Win Kent Memorial Fund has been set up by the Baptist Family of Churches in NT as an ongoing tribute to these two Baptist pioneers who served the Lord together for 60 years, most of these in the Territory.

The fund will provide small grants to support studies for Christian ministry. Grant applicants must be accredited and recognised Ministers within the BCFNT, those in the process of training towards accreditation, or others with a particular training or ministry focus. Grants will be limited to a maximum of \$1,000. Donations to the fund are also welcomed.

For more information contact BCFNT Secretary, Viv Carson at buntres@gmail.com

Ethical Electronics

A report, grading the practices of 39 electronics companies, to minimise the risk of slavery, child labour and exploitation has garnered strong interest from electronics companies, investor groups, the Australian public and the church. The report was released in May by Baptist World Aid Australia and Not for Sale and generated a lot of interest from the media. The report graded the labour rights practices of some of the biggest brands in the world including Microsoft, Apple, Samsung and IBM.



*Baptist World Aid Advocacy
Manager, Gershon Nimbalker*

Since the release, a number of the companies surveyed, including some of those receiving the worst grades, have engaged publicly or with Baptist World Aid about the report's findings. This includes companies like Nintendo, Dick Smith and Kogan who each received D and D- grades. Companies like Apple, Woolworths and Microsoft have also sought to update their grades with new initiatives that they are undertaking.

"Through the phones, TVs and Tablets we buy we're connected to people all around the world, including children enslaved in mines in Africa and young woman being exploited in Asia," Gershon Nimbalker, Advocacy Manager for Baptist World Aid says.

"Our purchasing practices and investment decisions can help change the supply chains of these companies, and through them the lives of hundreds of thousands of workers around the world. We're excited that our report and the traction it is receiving is helping to do this".

Concerningly, the report found no company was awarded an A grade, and only one company, Nokia, could demonstrate that it was paying workers' wages that were sufficient to live off.

To download a copy of either the full report or the pocket-sized guide, go to behindthebarcode.org.au.

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder. And his name shall be called

Wonderful, Counselor,

The Mighty God,

The Everlasting Father,

The Prince of Peace.



Thank God for the wonderful gift of His Son this Christmas.

May all our readers have a blessed Christmas and a safe holiday season.



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Desperately Seeking Drivers!

Drivers play an important role at the Foodbank. Without them, we cannot collect much of the food donated to us each week. Without the food, we have reduced stock to offer those organisations feeding struggling people in Darwin.

Can you help?

On Monday and Thursday our drivers visit Coles and Woolworths stores in Darwin and Palmerston. Collection starts at 8am and finishes mid afternoon.

On Tuesdays and Fridays our drivers pick up donated bread from Winnellie. Pick up begins at 7:45 and finishes by 9am. If you can help, we would love to hear from you.



Please contact Matt: 0417 069 446 or foodforlife@bcnt.org.au

