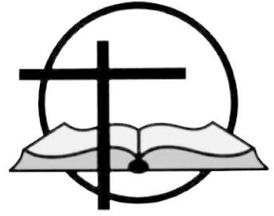


March 2019



BELONGING PEOPLE



Kalkaringi Boys

From the President

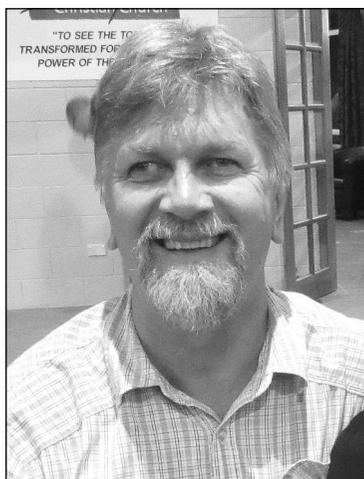
On Wednesday 13 February, over three thousand people met at the Darwin Convention Centre for “*The Graham Tour*”, an evening of music and a message from Franklin Graham, son of Billy Graham. The tour will go to most Australian capital cities in commemoration of the 60th anniversary of Billy Grahams first visit to Australia.

It is amazing that you still come across people who became Christians at a Billy Graham event. Perhaps these days, you may be more likely to meet someone whose family was changed because a family member, a mother or father, became a Christian or because the first committed Christian in their immediate family history was someone who was converted at a Billy Graham event. In many ways these events, Crusades as they were perhaps unfortunately named, were watershed moments in the spiritual life of this nation. I have no doubt that the spiritual tone and climate of Australia has been affected by them.

BUNT President, Mal Sercombe

Of the three thousand people who came last Wednesday, some three hundred and fifty responded to a call to surrender their lives to Christ, some for the first time and some as a renewal of their commitment. Once again we see the Holy Spirit at work, changing lives

Now Franklin Graham and the vast team that support him have moved on to the next place. Is that it then for Darwin? And what about all the places he couldn't possibly get to? What about the people in Alice Springs, Ali Curung, Willowra, Yuendumu, Lajamanu, Kalkaringi, Katherine and Nhulunbuy? Can they still get to hear the gospel?



Continued from page 2

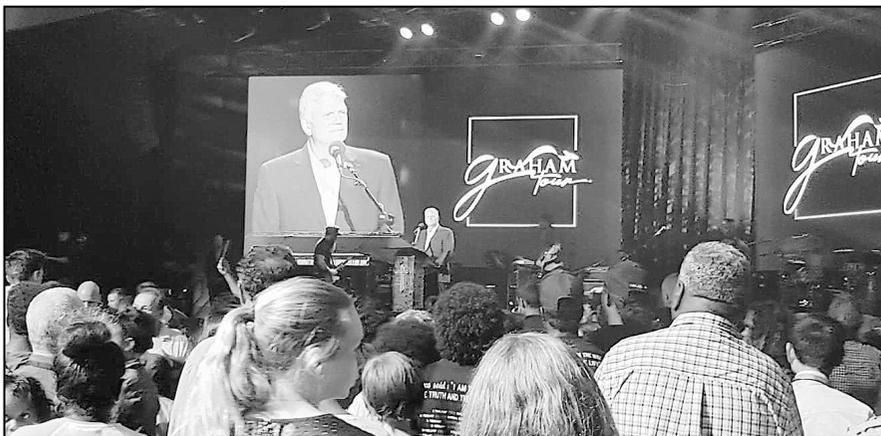
The answer is, of course, “Yes they can”! And they do because God has his people everywhere. And still more of us need to listen to God’s call to be his witnesses, to tell others the good news of Jesus and to witness other people being saved.

My main text at our church this morning was Romans 10:13-15 and to make us think about it, John Stott puts it this way,

*Unless people are commissioned for the task, there will be no gospel preachers;
Unless the gospel is preached, sinners will not hear Christ’s message and voice;
Unless they hear him, they will not believe the truths of his death and resurrection;
Unless they believe these truths, they will not call on him; and
Unless they call on his name, they will not be saved.*

Let’s keep on telling people the good news so that we keep seeing people saved. God bless you all,

Mal Sercombe



Over three thousand people heard Franklin Graham bring the saving message of the Gospel to Darwin in February

Front Page Photo: Thanks to Serena Donald of Kalkaringi for this photo of Jessiah, Blake, Ezekiel, Titus & Juria .

GOD AT WORK - Pearl Supported Care



Warren Douglas, John Wilkins and Merrilyn Prossor from Darwin Baptist Church visit Pearl Supported Care weekly to join in with the residents' morning tea. We make new friends through listening to the varied life adventures of residents. John is particularly good at remembering resident's full names, where they come from and an interesting point about them!

The fourth Thursday of every month, DBC has a church service at Pearl. Last service, 21 residents and 2 family members attended. We share in singing, communion, a message from the Bible, and offer individual prayer. Hearing the oldies sing out the old hymns brings great joy to God and our hearts. Thanks to Braden Compton and Emma Kubler who come and play the piano. We had the opportunity to officiate at 3 memorial services in 2018.

One of our Darwin Baptist Church members lives at 'Pearl' and she loves to share the good news of Jesus. Now she brings her friend to DBC every week. Thanks to Gary Parker and the team who provide transport enabling this to occur.

Our pastoral care ministry involves caring for the residents, family members and staff's emotional and spiritual needs. Our regular visits allow us to build trusting, caring relationships. In aged care, loneliness is an issue many residents face. We have the privilege of bringing words of encouragement, hope and a smile. Some residents also enjoy having the Bible read to them and personal prayer. Residents who are experiencing significant grief and loss value gentle, caring and deeper conversations that God orchestrates, helping people at their point of need. Warren is known to bring in his dog, resulting in great joy for people missing their pets.

Every week there is an opportunity to share with someone about God's love or engage people on issues of faith. One man who I regularly chat with said, 'Thank you for bringing me closer to God'. A lady who was active in her Christian life in her younger years, was gently challenged to consider putting God first in her life. She responded to God's promptings and over the weeks eagerly came along to church and joined in prayer. Another lady with a painful and oozing sore, when prayed for, received healing seen by a marked improvement. She loves to share her testimony of healing.

Residents of Pearl enjoy entertainment from DBC's 'Mainly Music' group that visit three times a year. There's a lovely interaction between the DBC families and residents at those events, building ongoing friendships.

What could we achieve without the Holy Spirit's help?...nothing! It is clear the Lord leads and guides our conversations and manner; His love touching the lives of those to whom we minister. It is a joy to serve the Lord at 'Pearl'.

Merrilyn Prossor
Chaplain, Pearl Supported Care

*Beryl with
Chaplain Merrilyn*



*Chaplain John with
Pearl residents,
Jan & Rodney*

Good News in the Outback

Kalkaringi

At Kalkaringi Church leaders held a Christmas Day lunch at the church with many of the community attending. Great initiative and organizing was displayed by the church ladies



Jessiah, Blake, Ezekiel, Titus & Juria

Recently these Kalkaringi boys, were wanting to know more about Ngaji (God). Michelle and Serenatook them up to the cross, which stands on a high point above the community, and sat with them, encouraging them.



Lynette Tasman & Narlita Patrick



Lajamanu

Lynette Tasman and a couple of church ladies were in Balgo, WA, for ceremony time. They told how excited they were when local women asked them to come and share the Jesus story with them and to encourage them with Bible stories and wisdom.

This is an encouragement for all who have been praying and supporting Global Interaction's philosophy of: **"Empowering communities to encounter Jesus in their own cultural way."**

Easter celebrations for the Outback churches will be held at Willowra in April.

Lajamanu continued

Jerry Jangala recently dedicated a new stage at the the Holy Ground at Lajamanu. This is the open space where the Church often meets for worship and singalongs, a place where the rest of the community can see the church in action and join in. Please pray for Pastor Jangala as he leads and teaches his people in Wapirra's way.



Bill and Pauline Morrison, Support Workers with Global interaction

Bill and Pauline continue to work at increasing their financial support from its current level of 75.6% to the necessary 100%. Thankyou to churches and individuals who are supporting them.

Pauline had her Knee replacement on 19 November in Melbourne and is continuing to make good progress. Their family have been an amazing support and encouragement to them.

They express thanks to all who have blessed them by praying, sending cards, phoning and making meals over this time. Bill has returned to the NT earlier than planned and Pauline will follow in early March.

For Prayer

- ◆ For Peace within the communities of Kalkaringi and Lajamanu
- ◆ Many church folk in both communities have significant health issues. Please pray for them, especially for Patrick Lacey (Kalkaringi) and Robyn Payton (Lajamanu), both key church leaders.
- ◆ Pray that the churches will know God's presence and guiding in all they do.
- ◆ For local believers to be increasingly equipped to share Jesus within their own families and communities
- ◆ For continued healing and improvement following Pauline's knee surgery.
- ◆ For Bill and Pauline's support to reach 100% so they can continue their ministry amongst the indigenous people of the NT.
- ◆ For the next stage of Bible teaching in the communities as Bill and Pauline connect with a Bible College that may facilitate a course available on community.

The Heart of a School Chaplain



Last issue we featured Britt Hedrick, a vibrant school chaplain in Katherine. Now meet **Amanda Lockwood** another of our NT Chaplains whose life is committed to following Jesus and showing His love to young people.

As well as her part-time chaplaincy work, Amanda is one of the Youth Leaders at Casuarina Baptist where she is also on the Leadership Team. Amanda came to the Territory in 2014 and was delighted to be offered a chaplaincy role, supported by the Uniting Church, and has had the opportunity to be part of three Darwin rural school communities.

Amanda is excited to transfer across to the Scripture Union NT Chaplaincy team this year and is looking forward to developing new partnerships to support Darwin school communities.

Amanda describes herself as ‘not a Counsellor, not a Teacher, but someone who walks alongside students’. She adds, “I am passionate about Community Connection and children seeing their value and role in that community. It’s a privilege to be in these schools – to walk alongside them.’

I asked Amanda to describe some of the activities she is involved with in the schools she currently serves. It turns out she is one busy girl!

- Supporting Playgroups and attending whole School events which opens opportunities to meet and mix with families informally
- Running Kids Club in her office at lunchtime—a space where kids can engage in quiet activities away from the hustle and bustle of the playground. Often a time to chat with Amanda.

- ‘Opt In’ which requires parental permission, group and individual support programs helping children problem solve and learn coping strategies
- ‘Seasons for Growth’ - a program especially designed for children experiencing grief and loss

Amanda encourages family dialogue and communication and liaises with the School Principal about student issues and progress.

I asked Amanda what God has been teaching her through her chaplaincy experience. Her response was, ‘How diverse each community is. Recognising my own capacity and how to work and live within it. Also, that I am never alone. God chose this for me. This is where He wants me to be.’

Above all Amanda believes the School Chaplain needs to be approachable . In Amanda’s words , ‘The heart of a chaplain needs to reflect the heart of Jesus’.

That says it all!

Andrea Adams

Please pray

For Amanda in her role as she demonstrates the love of Jesus to school children.

For Churches and Christians to come alongside Amanda and other chaplains in supporting them in their respective schools.

For MORE Christian Chaplains in the Darwin area, especially men who are familiar with the local culture.

For more information on how to become a Chaplain with Scripture Union NT, or how to get involved in supporting chaplaincy, please contact SU via their website, or email director@sunt.org.au

John 3:16

For GOD so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten SON, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting LIFE.



Celebrating Karen New Year 2758 with Casuarina Baptist Church

For CBC, since the resettlement of the Karen into Darwin through UNHCR beginning in 2007, their faith is inspiring and fellowship, a blessing.

To share in the Karen New Year celebrations on Saturday 19 January 2019 was a joy and privilege. Yeh Mi Mar and Steven led us through the program. The Larrakia welcome to country was given and the VIP speaker, Ga Neh Mi, of the Australian Karen Organisation, explained the 'Karen year 2758'.



The dance presentations were elegant and beautiful.

Past Persecution

Understanding came through the song 'Star of the East' which spoke of the Karen people, persecuted, forced to flee their homes, knowing nothing could save them, only God. They sang of 'When we accepted Jesus as our Saviour, we were given an escape into freedom. When others see our lives improve in Jesus, we become a light to them. People call us the star for God, a star from the East. We bring all people to Jesus, a light forever that never ceases.'

Vision for the Future

A next song 'How To Write Your History' encouraged reflection and action through its 'Remember how our parents and grandparents faced trials. When you are alone and you remember all the past events of grief, they compound, and you are full of tears with a painful heart. When you realise this, you open up to a vision for your own future, make your own decision, your own personal history. Have a dream for the present about the Nah Stone. Make a plan for your own history.'

Honour God in Everything

Exalt the Lord in everything', a song from the heart, encouraged honouring God in every aspect of life - the workplace, the army, local and national governments. 'Let God shape your character, teach you, govern your wealth. Remember it is God who saves you and daily provides for you. Live your life pleasing Him. Honour God in everything.'

Cherry Lin thanked people for their involvements and encouragement. Such support enabled the Karen to hold their celebration.

At the same time, many Karen worked behind the scenes preparing a feast of Karen fare of coconut milk and rice powdered noodle drink, bamboo soup (Ta Ka Paw), coconut milk jelly, fried chicken, beef curry, fried fish, lotus, prawns and chili sauce.

The Karen New Year – a joy and privilege shared. May God bless our Karen friends.

Thank you to contributors – Yeh Mi Mar, Eh Paw Hla and Naomi Havens

Di Gronow



Shockwave at Alice Springs Baptist Church



God's Story – God's Family

What is Jesus?" asked the young girl. Taken aback I replied as best I could. "Jesus is a person, a who not a what."

This question opened my eyes to the need for the gospel in Central Australia and in particular the town camps that are dotted all around Alice Springs. And so after numerous discussions with Indigenous elders, the kids and the Church, Shockwave was launched.

In the heat of an Alice Springs January, children and their families were conveyed to the **Alice Springs Baptist Church** for a three day holiday program - the central theme being ***God's Story - God's Family***.

"But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God." John 1:12.

The participants were taught the gospel with many choosing to become part of God's family. Relationships were built. Learning to live God's way was encouraged through activities such as bike-riding (teaching responsibility), horse-riding (building trust) and life-skills such as cooking and serving.

A team of three from Geelong made the road trip up through the desert and along with the rest of the Central Australian team worked hard in the 40 plus degree days. The reward was people confessing with their mouths that Jesus is Lord and believing in their hearts that God raised him from the dead. It's encouraging that many participants are now attending the Sunday church service.

The mission field is in our backyards but it might as well be in a different country as English is their second or even third or fourth language and Indigenous culture is very different from Western culture. "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you;" (Matthew 28:18-20)

Shockwave will continue as a regular fortnightly discipling program.

Robyn Janssen



Building relationships and having fun at Shockwave



John and Vivian Carson

have moved from Darwin and are happily settled in retirement in Wollongbar, Northern NSW.

They are attending Alstonville Baptist Church and enjoying the fellowship there. They can be contacted on 0422 201 191 or vivian.carson@gmail.com

Planting the Gospel Seed

Darwin Baptist Church



Four years ago the wife of one of our associate pastors, **Robyn Del Rosario**, felt challenged by God to begin a language ministry that would reach the increasing number of Japanese ladies coming to Darwin due to the Inpex gas plant.

“I met a number of these ladies through Mainly Music and was keen to help them settle into Australian culture and to develop their language skills, so we began our Language Exchange – a relaxed environment where I could help them with their English and they could help me to improve my Japanese,” Robyn says.

Since early 2015 the group has been meeting for a couple of hours each Thursday morning to chat and participate in language-based activities such as learning about national heroes, reading children's books and cooking cultural recipes.

“A couple of years ago I asked the ladies if they would be comfortable with us taking a look at the Bible each week and discussing it together. They were interested and politely accepted my invitation and so every week since we have spent some time together in God's Word.

“For many of these ladies it is the first time they have ever heard the Gospel message.

“In 2017 we spent the entire year following the metanarrative of the Bible, spending time looking at the big story of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation and considering its application to us today.

“At the end of the year our Senior Pastor, Mal Sercombe, joined us and presented the ladies each with their own Japanese and English bilingual New Testament.

“It was a very special occasion and the ladies have religiously brought their Bibles along each week since. Since beginning the Language Exchange we have had the opportunity to hand out fourteen Bibles to ladies to make their own and we trust that God is continuing to make the seed grow that has been planted in their hearts.”

Robyn says it has been extremely encouraging to see God working in the lives of the ladies and their families as they have sought to understand His Word and in particular, what it looks like to follow Jesus in a Buddhist and Shinto entrenched culture.

“Last year one of the ladies suggested that it might be helpful for us to memorise Scripture together, so of course I jumped at the opportunity!

“I suggested that perhaps we could choose a verse to memorise for the term and pull it apart bit by bit each week.

She suggested that that would be too easy and that instead perhaps we could memorise a verse each week... and so we did! She didn't miss one memory verse but recited them all perfectly.

“Many of these ladies are only in Darwin for a year or two or three and are then required to move on as the next stage of the Inpex project is completed. We know that God's Word does not return void but accomplishes that which He pleases and so we trust that God is continuing to work on these ladies' hearts as they seriously consider the cost of following Christ, whether in Darwin or back in Japan.

“It was a privilege to have a number of the ladies join us at our Christmas service last year and in our homes over the Christmas period. God is at work in their hearts and your prayers for their salvation would be truly valued.”

Robyn Del Rosario with Kate Wood



Big Changes in a Little Time

For the Anderson Family

Mat and Shannon Anderson, with their children Beth, Peter, Caleb and Samuel, moved to Yuendumu late last year to work with Global Interaction as part of the Outback Team.

Mat's extended family live in Alice Springs which is about a 3 hour drive from Yuendumu. In January they learned that Mat's Dad has a serious illness from which he is not expected to recover. In their desire to spend precious time together the family have moved back there for a few months to be near him and to help care for him.

Mat and Shannon are thankful to have made a good start on Culture and Language Learning in Yuendumu with the help of two Yuendumu ladies. In Alice Springs they are able to continue with this learning with another friend who has agreed to be their language nurturer.

They write, "This is a major milestone in our journey of cross-cultural life and work. We are really thankful to God for this provision! "



Mat and Shannon seek our prayers for:

Their Family:

- ◆ Mat's Dad- spiritual and physical comfort
- ◆ Beth and Peter - as they start a new school

Culture and Language Learning:

- ◆ for uninterrupted learning time

Outback Communities:

- ◆ The Church at Yuendumu
- ◆ Peace and reconciliation in Willowra and Ali Curung

"Please pray for spiritual joy, growth and protection for us in this season."





*By David Turnbull
State Director SA/NT*

A New Year Dawns

2019 is up and running. The New Year's resolutions are potentially by-gone memories!

At the start of this new year, I was reminded of William Carey's famous statement, "Expect great things from God. Attempt great things for God."

What expectations emerge for the year ahead for you?

This statement came from his 1792 speech to Baptist ministers in northern England advocating for the Baptists to participate in overseas mission. The result was the formation of the Baptist Missionary Society.

As the State Office of Global Interaction embarks on the 2019 journey, there is an exciting anticipation for the year ahead with God:

For what will happen through the ongoing contribution of our cross-cultural workers in their settings. The feedback of provision and transformation continues to stimulate much joy. **Rob and Deb in Cambodia** report how God is working in a woman they befriended who was barren and feeling ashamed as a consequence. This woman is now expecting a child.

For the ongoing provision for **David and Susie Haydon** and their children who are in the process of building a partnership team so they can depart Australia in the middle of 2020 to live and work amongst the Yawo people in Malawi. They are seeking opportunities in South Australia and the Northern Territory to share their story and inspire others with what is happening amongst the Yawo.



The Haydon Family

The State Office looks forward to engaging with you throughout 2019. Thanks for your support. May you have a rich and rewarding year too as God works through you as you bless others.

Cornerstone Church

Connecting with Community

It has been wonderful moving into our new building and we are already seeing the church building being used by a number of community organisations. We have a calisthenics club, a dance group and Bible study group using the building as well as after hours school care. We will also have the **Building Blokes conference (March) and the Women Together conference (May)** at the building this year which is exciting.

Work has started on our kitchen area which we hope to have finished by the end of April.

Food for life has been slowly gaining in numbers but we would appreciate more people coming along. Andrew Kernick and the team are working on ways to increase the size of the community they are wanting to develop.

We received a thank you from the Howard Springs Primary School for our involvement in reading to the primary school children. There are about a dozen or so volunteers who are involved. The Chaplain, Karen Parrott, relayed a story about how she entered a classroom where they were talking about people from the community who help them - 'Cornerstone' was written on the board which was a real honour.

Prayer would be appreciated as we move out this year and work on developing our Life House program to work with at risk youth (and adults) to create some good life paths.

Pastor Neil



Katherine Baptist Church

Still Going Strong

Katherine Baptist Church is now into its 31st year.

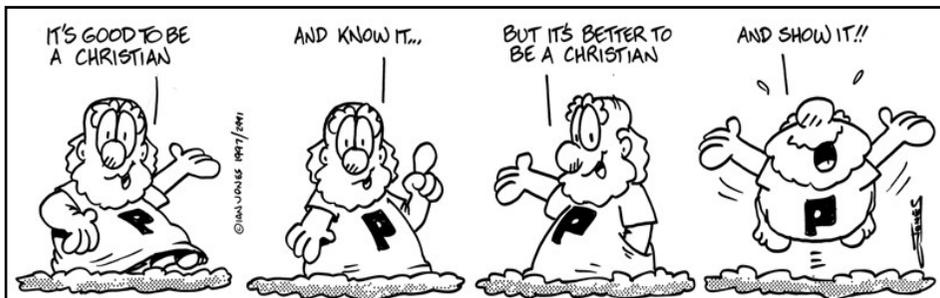
We tend to see in the short term in our increasingly fast-paced lives. But God sees in the long term. A couple with vision to 'plant' a church, **Gary and Lily Stone**, started Katherine Baptist Church in 1988. The first group of members took out a loan and bought a manse which was paid off 17 years later.



Gary & Lily Stone

The group also assisted local Aboriginal people to start the Warlpiri Baptist Church in the small community where Warlpiri people live within Katherine. Both these linked churches are still going strong and continue to be a witness of God's love for all people in the Katherine region. In the next issue of *Belonging People* we will tell more of this story. (Currently, Gary and Lily continue to faithfully serve God in Guatemala)

Alice Mitchell



Used with Permission

Challenges for the Knuckey Lagoon Church

History

The Fellowship at Knuckey Lagoon was started some years ago by Rev. John Baynes using the community hall and reaching Warlpiri people there.

At that time, John was offered a dis-used building to use rent free as a church on condition that it be renovated. BUNT financed this and the work was carried out largely by a team of volunteers from several churches. The building was then used as the church for a number of years.

After John's death last year, the leadership of the church fell to elders Japangardi Tasman and his brother Douglas Tasman (also known as Gideon).

Both were from Warlpiri country but had to live in Darwin for renal dialysis.

Unfortunately, Japangardi also passed away last year, and though Douglas had the key for the building he had no vehicle for transport, so the meetings were discontinued for a while.

Dave Glasgow became aware of this situation and offered to transport Douglas there each Sunday, so the meetings resumed in November, mostly with Warlpiri people attending but also occasionally one or two of Dave's friends from Maningrida.



Bible Study at Knuckey Lagoon

Current Situation

Douglas Tasman is leading a Bible study service each Sunday morning with the temporary support of Dave and Kathy Glasgow, using the Simplified English Version scriptures.

Douglas has the physical handicaps of amputated legs and fingers, as well as renal problems, but this is outweighed by his enthusiasm and love for the Lord. He now has a car, but there are some problems in getting a licence renewal which is subject to medical review.

Early this year changes were made at Knuckey Lagoon that prevented the church from using the building they have used previously. Douglas and other church members, supported by Dave Glasgow, have been able to negotiate the use of an alternative building with Yilli Housing who have offered the use of the community hall. Yilli has offered to clean it each Friday ready for the Sunday service and have moved all the chairs and other church equipment from the other building to the hall. Douglas and the Warlpiri people have agreed to this arrangement.

Dave Glasgow

***Douglas Tasman,
Knuckey Church Leader***

Praise for:

The church continuing under Douglas. Douglas' wife, Carolyn, or a relative usually available to drive him. Yilli Housing wanting to see a church continue at Knuckey Lagoon, and making the hall available.

Pray:

For the Holy Spirit to wake up the people of Knuckey Lagoon and do a powerful work in them through this fellowship.

That other tribal groups, as well as Warlpiri, will be keen to attend the studies, and that the numbers attending will increase.

That Douglas will be able to re-gain his driver's license.





Resourcing Christian Ministry

www.bfs.org.au



Baptist Financial Services

Reflecting Jesus | Courage | Integrity | Relationships | Collaboration | Accountability

Baptist Financial Services Australia Limited ABN 56 002 861 789 AFSL 311062

Belonging People

Newsletter of the NT Baptist Union

Editor: Andrea Adams

GPO Box 4460, Darwin, NT 0801

Email: adams.andrea1@gmail.com



Missions Interlink Short-Term Training weekend Course Preparing Christians for Cross Cultural Engagement!

When: Friday 8th March evening to Sunday 10th March

Where: Youth For Christ, Darwin, 36 Batten Road, Marrara

Cost: \$175 (including food)

To book: www.Trybooking.com/BAFGJ

For more information search... MISSIONSINTERLINK.ORG.AU/MIST

An Indigenous Australian Fellowship night

Invited: Everyone—even if you are not attending the whole course

When: Saturday 9th March from 6:30pm on

Cost: \$10 including a meal





TOGETHER NT 24-25 May 2019

Territory Women's Conference

We're better together

www.togethernt.com.au

TOGETHER WOMEN are those who come together from across the Territory, across denominations and across generations to be encouraged, empowered and to make a difference for God's Kingdom – both locally and globally! This year we will be celebrating 7 years of TOGETHER and we are in awe again of how God has orchestrated it all. There will be life-changing moments as we come together around friendship, food, worship, prayer and powerful messages from our inspiring guest speakers **Fadzi Whande & Karen Wilson** on the theme **CALLED FOR MORE**.

See more info about TOGETHER 2019

@ www.togethernt.com.au

where REGISTRATIONS are open
from MARCH 4.

SCHEDULE

Friday May 24 7pm– 9:30pm

Saturday May 25 9am – 4pm

VENUE

Cornerstone Christian Church

85 Whitewood Road

Howard Springs NT

