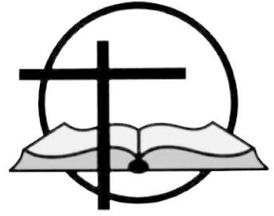


July 2019



Casuarina Baptist Church Celebrates 50 years with Pastors and Missionaries, past and present.



From the President

Mal Sercombe

Passive? ... Or active?

Many of us will know Psalm 46:10 – “Be still and know that I am God”. It is a text that can sustain us in anxious or uncertain times, when we feel powerless or unable to control or influence our circumstances. At its heart this text expresses dependence on God; a choice to let go and let God get on with what he wants to do (Not that we are really in a position to stop Him). In the NASB the text reads; “Cease striving and know that I am God”. There is certainly a place for that stance. It is essential to incorporate into our lives, time to just sit with God; to listen and to worship.

Last week I heard about a church where the staff spend the first half hour of their day ‘soaking’ in God’s presence and they report being more productive because of it. So, this is not a call to withdraw from the action or to be lazy; this is preparation for action.

There are many texts that urge us to

action. Consider Paul’s words as he commits himself to share the good news of Jesus;

We proclaim Him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect (mature) in Christ. To this end I labour, striving with all His energy working powerfully within me.” Col 1:28-29

Importantly, Paul is clear that he strives with the energy he receives from Jesus. His energy comes from relationship.

Paul writes to the church at Philippi and says:

“... conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel.”

His hope for this church is that they would be unified and active in the gospel. I want to urge two things:

Let us take time to be with God, to be still and know his presence. Let us take time to listen, worship; to be renewed strengthened and filled by his Spirit.

Let us be active in the things God has called us to; serving in his name and with his strength.

Let us be passive AND active.

Knuckey Lagoon Church

A small, but faithful group continue to meet at Knuckey Lagoon on a Sunday morning for Bible study and prayer. They are an active witness in this Indigenous housing community on the outskirts of Darwin. Douglas Tasman and his wife Carolyn attend the small fellowship and

Douglas leads a Bible Study on Sunday mornings. Transport and support is provided by Dave and Kathy Glasgow along with Christy Carter from Darwin Baptist Church.

Please keep the Knuckey Lagoon Church and the community at Knuckey before the Lord in prayer.



Douglas and Carolyn with Dave, Kathy and Christy

***The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases;
His mercies never come to an end;
They are new every morning ; great is Your faithfulness.
Lamentations 3:22-23***

‘Better Together’



TOGETHER 2019 was a great time to CELEBRATE all the many ways in which **“We are Better Together”**. As we looked back over the past 7 years at all that God has done in us and through us there was much to celebrate and praise God for!

A key part of our vision – as well as bringing women together from across the NT to be empowered to have an impact for God’s Kingdom wherever He has placed us - is to make a difference in the lives of others, both globally and locally. We were so encouraged to be able to celebrate just how much of a difference our generous giving has made over the past 7 years as we have supported local women in need and the work of Baptist World Aid Australia in the developing world!

We had two remarkably gifted speakers in **Karen Wilson and Fadzi Whande** who both brought powerful messages around our theme **“Called for More”**. They encouraged us to step out knowing who we are as Daughters of the King and to say “Yes” when our God calls us to go so that we can know His empowering and enabling!

Our new venue ,Cornerstone Church, Howard Springs, worked so well for us and enabled us to all experience a powerful time together of worship, learning and prayer and scrumptious food in ways that only God could orchestrate! Many women commented on how this was our best year yet - and now we look forward to all that God has in store for TOGETHER 2020!

Toni Rehrmann



**Speakers: (L—R)
Karen Wilson,
Fadzi Whande.
Toni Rehrmann**





Schools Step Up to Help Foodbank

In early June the Darwin High School Food for Life Cooking program supplied 90 cooked meals for the Foodbank NT Food For Life Community Mobile Pantry. All the allocated meals were speedily distributed by the Mobile Pantry at Humpty Doo and Palmerston. Food For Life Coordinator, Roderick Alivia, said the meals cooked by the students from Darwin High School were very popular and they hope that this joint venture will continue as the program expands. Thank you Darwin High School.



The Dry Season Canned Food Drive was in June. Collection bins at Woolworths and Coles attracted a lot of donations and 16 schools generously participated. Jingili Primary School, Palmerston Senior College, Durack School and Nakara Primary School all made a great effort

As stocktake began in late June, including counting of the cans, Year 12 students from SEDA NT came to volunteer. Foodbank thanks them for their help in sorting the cans and taking time to learn about what happens behind the scenes at Foodbank.



Mission Focus at CrossRoads

Missions have become a key focus for CrossRoads with teams travelling to Timor Leste twice annually, Cambodia, annually and, in a more recent development, into Arnhem Land. At this stage, and with a variety of opportunities being explored, it's expected the Arnhem Land trips will develop into something more than once or twice a year.

Doug and Janelle Cantrill have primary responsibility for Missions and their commitment is contagious. So good to see the growth and development in those choosing to go on these trips at the cost of time, of frequently being seriously outside their comfort zone, learning how to work together (often in trying situations) and in unfamiliar cultures. Not to mention the financial cost involved. Yes there might be a cost involved – but we reap what we sow. God is faithful.

Greg and Julie Bailey from Christian International's Eaglenet Ministries were invited to run Stage Two (Stage One is a prerequisite) of the 'Hearing God's Voice' seminar back in February. We are looking forward to hosting Stage Three, hopefully before the end of this year.

Earlier this year **John Oates** passed on. John and his wife, Shayn, had been part of CrossRoads for quite some time when John's health began to decline.



John Oates 'A Good Life'

Over the last few months of his life, John was bedridden, cared for at home by Shayn. John repeatedly said 'I've had a good life'.

Back in the early 1960's John lived in Nhulunbuy, working as a ships engineer, for a time on the Darwin-Nhulunbuy barge, to support himself and his family while serving with a mission organisation. John's whole face would light up as he recounted some of the ways the Holy Spirit was moving, at times with healings and miracles taking place. 'We had a real revival going on', he would say, with many giving their lives to Christ, being baptised both in water and in the Holy Spirit. The last thing John said to me was: 'I've had a good life. God has been so good to me'. John was a real inspiration and it's been a privilege to have known him.

Pastor Bruce Clow

Walking In The Light Bush Training Camp

Kalkaringi and Lajamanu Churches

Bush Training Camp was held over the weekend of Friday 31 May—Sunday 2 June about 80km south of Lajamanu, one of the communities supported by Global Interaction’s Bill and Pauline Morrison.



The theme was **“Walking In The Light”**. This flowed on from the Katherine Christian Convention, and tied in with the themes of previous Bush Camps over the past few years. Bill and Pauline provide a description of Bush Camps: The timing of the camps is important, as the camps need to fit around a lot of other things going on in the dry season – community sports weekends, school holidays, town shows, as well as funerals and sorry camps.

The Bush Camps are rotated between the communities of Lajamanu and Kalkaringi, with the local church folk selecting the camping site. Priorities in choosing a site are availability of water, supply of good wood, a clear camping site with shade. The camp area must be far enough out so there is no phone reception!



On Friday afternoon the camp is set up and the ground cleared and raked ready for tents, fires and a place to sit together.

Usually Bill and Pauline sleep in swags on the ground, but this time was a bit different. Pauline was concerned about getting up and down due to her recent knee replacement so instead it was stretchers, blankets and warm clothing. "We are proud to say we were the only ones attending who didn't sleep in a tent. It was truly amazing to see the Majestic Milky Way and star constellations gazing up from our pillows at night."

They struck the coldest weekend this year so it was chilly and windy during the night with maddening flies during the day. Thankfully they had access to plenty of good wood for the fires!

On Saturday morning Jangala and George drew the iconograph for teaching on "Walking in the Light". This displayed great precision and team work. The Iconograph was the basis for teaching by Jangala and Bill through the weekend. Everyone enjoyed Bush Camp especially the visit from Ivan and Verl Jordan, past missionaries, on the first morning.

Bill and Pauline Morrison



Jangala and George

For Prayer

1. We are praising God for the Training Camp and the response from those who attended. A great praise point to note, is that there were no distractions stopping the camp from going ahead.

2. Many of the church leaders in both communities have chronic health issues at present. This affects everyone so we would value prayer for healing, team work and strength for them to keep their eyes on Jesus.

3. Over the next few months we have many visitors coming. We would value your prayer as we plan and prepare for the teams.

Drama in the Skies

with BRAVO VICTOR JULIET

During the 1970s the Baptist Union of the Northern Territory operated 'Baptist Aerial Missions' with a Cessna 206 aeroplane, call sign B.V.J. Greg Vaughan was the enthusiastic Chaplain/Pilot who ministered to cattle stations and Baptist missions. This was a very practical and valuable ministry to the NT outback .

The following is a memory, not forgotten, from Garry and Robyn Hayes.

There was a BUNT meeting at Hooker Creek, now known as Lajamanu, on the long weekend in October. Two planes from Darwin went to the meeting. One plane was BVJ with Greg Vaughan, Rev Robert Brown and Garry and Robyn Hayes on board. We had a great weekend of fellowship.

It was time to return to Darwin after lunch on Monday. The first plane took off at about 1pm and BVJ about 30 minutes later. Greg submitted his flight plan for the 3 hour flight to Darwin. Greg was, as usual, in the front left hand seat with Robert behind him and Robyn behind me. Greg took off and headed 360o north to Darwin.

After climbing to about 2,000ft Greg said to me, who had a restricted pilot's licence, "You fly us to Darwin, level out at 7000ft." I replied, "Thanks, Greg as I can get some hours up". Greg read his book. Above the drone of the engine there was much talk going on in the rear seats

It was a very smooth flying and, as time went by, I thought that it would be nice



to divert for 5 minutes and fly over Wongi Falls as this was where the Darwin Baptist Church held their family camps. It was then part of Stapleton Station owned by the Townsend Family. When going to camp we had to drive through the home-stead paddock to go to the falls, so I was familiar with the area.

It was only an extra 5 minutes so I didn't tell Greg as he was engrossed in his book. At 7000ft and 40 miles from Darwin airport, it was near time to call Darwin tower and get clearance to enter controlled air space which we were approaching. Just then Robyn tapped me on the shoulder and asked where we were. I told her to look down on the right and there was Wongi Falls. Robyn said she could see it and it looked good from the air.

Seconds later the single engine Cessna spluttered and stopped. Greg dropped his book eased the controls forward and asked "Where are we?" To his left I showed him the disused airstrip of Stapleton Station. We headed for that while gliding and trying to get the engine started by changing fuel tanks. The gauges showed plenty as we had more than enough.

The engine again roared to life and stopped. This was serious – Robert and Robyn went to prayer and by now we were down to 5,000ft. It was time to call Darwin Tower –

Greg to Darwin: "This is BRAVO VICTOR JULIET - we are diverting to Stapleton Station".

Tower: "What for?"

Greg: "The engine has stopped."

Tower: "Are you ok?"

Greg: "Yes we are at 4,000ft and nearing the Stapleton airstrip."

Tower: "Advise when landed."

We circled around and worked out wind

direction (there was smoke from a fire in the distance) and our height for landing. Greg made a perfect landing with no power. Safe - no harm to all on board or the plane. We were greeted by two youths who said, "You came down in a hurry". Then Mr Townsend arrived and told us that the last plane to land on the strip did not have a fan (propeller) on.

Had I not diverted for those extra 5 minutes we would have been making an approach to Darwin over the harbour and no airstrip only water. The consequences would not have been good.

Proverbs 3: 5-6

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and he will make straight your paths."

We praise our Heavenly Father for removing the obstacle of the Darwin Harbour and providing us with an un-used airstrip.



Garry and Robyn Hayes

Casuarina Baptist Celebrates

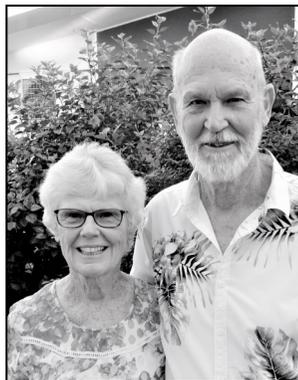
Remember Celebrate Dedicate



For the people of Casuarina Church, the weekend of June 22nd and 23rd was a time to remember, to celebrate and to dedicate themselves anew to God's work. This was a joy-filled weekend of reunions and thanksgiving to God for 50 years of knowing His goodness and guidance while serving Him in the northern suburbs of Darwin.

On Saturday we heard from pastors and missionaries and remembered how Casuarina sprang from the vision of Darwin Baptist Church in the 60's. Two of those present, Peter Kent and Andrea Adams, remembered the bush block where the Church was constituted in 1969. We remembered Lloyd and Win Kent who held church services in their nearby home before the first church was built.

We heard how, in 1974, Cyclone Tracy tore apart the church buildings and manse and how the church met for many months in the ruins before rebuilding.

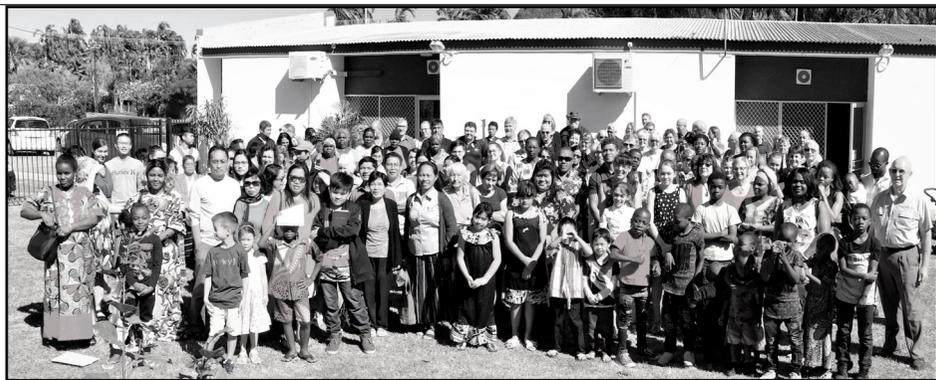


Jim and Ruth Gallagher, who arrived soon after Cyclone Tracy and served Casuarina Church for 15 years were special guests. They spoke about the challenges and joys of their ministry at Casuarina. A man of vision who stood for righteousness and truth, Jim also helped in the construction of the present church.

Ken and Giselle Herweynen, who met and married at Casuarina Church and were greatly impacted by Jim's ministry were also special visitors. They went on to have an amazing ministry in Poland with outreach to people in desperate need, establishing Elim, Christian Centre in that country.



Mike Mills, our Director of Ministries for SA and NT, spoke by video link, of his early days as a young engineer in Darwin attending Casuarina Church and coming under Jim's ministry.



Pastor John Whitbourn recalled the recent past, when over a 5 year period, 400 Asylum Seekers attended our church, 80 of whom were baptised. John and others had a sensitive and loving ministry to these refugees before the detention centres in Darwin were closed.

In the Sunday morning service we celebrated God's goodness as **Pastor Mal Good** led us through a time of dedication for the future of Casuarina Church. A generous morning tea followed the Service and a large Birthday Cake was cut and enjoyed while fellowship continued.

Celebrations were in full swing on Saturday evening when about 120 people shared in a sit down dinner and listened to more stories of God's goodness.

Andrea Adams



Blokes at the Station

Darwin Baptist Men Go Camping



BATS (Blokes at the Station) camp is a yearly and more recently, a Queen's Birthday-weekend tradition for men.

Since 2011 men from all over the country (Katherine, Alice Springs, Geelong and Parkes) have been travelling to Mike and Deborah Farrell's property at Ebenezer Waters near Douglas Daly to fellowship with one another while fishing, hunting, riding motorbikes, practicing rifle shooting, clay shooting and archery.

The men thoroughly enjoy the hospitality of the Farrell family, who year after year, go to great lengths to ensure our men have a comfortable stay. As well as ensuring the property is prepared for the camp they have, over the years, built a mobile kitchen, toilets and showers for guests.

This year's guest speaker was John Robertson, senior pastor at Riverlife Baptist Church in Brisbane, who focused his devotions and messages on experiencing the presence of God.

For Mal Sercombe, DBC's senior pastor, seeing men respond to John's messages was one of the best parts of camp. "I think the highlight for me was seeing about 30 fellas responding to the message, saying, 'I'm hungry for more. I want to get in over my head, out of my depth. I want to trust God more and let Him work through my life'."

Blokes at the Station cont.

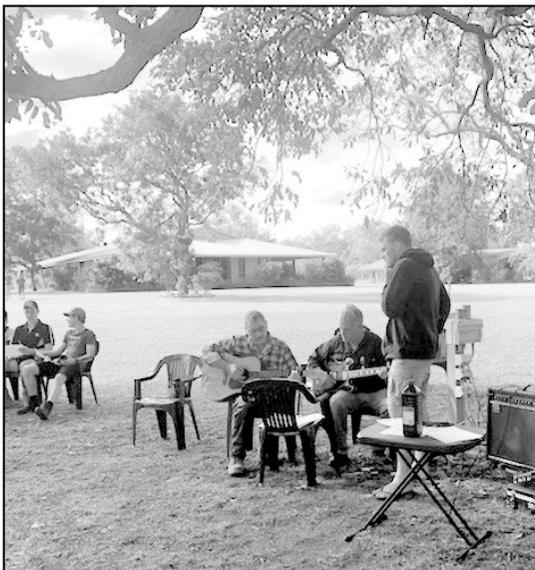
On the Saturday morning the men divided into groups and completed community engagement projects within the Douglas Daly area. These projects were of significant benefit to the farming community, for whom resources both in terms of finances and manpower have been tight.

One group helped lay turf after repairing land that feral pigs had destroyed, another group headed to a pineapple farm to help weed overgrown patches and trim suckers, while a third group helped the Farrells clear more of “Josh’s trail”, a track that is being created in memory of their son who died in a motorcycle accident six years ago.

On the Saturday night, Mick Novinetz cooked a feast for about 75 guests. As well as beef shoulder and rubbed ribs, the men enjoyed smoked chicken, rotisserie roasted pork, and steak and snags on the BBQ. The Farrells blessed the men with the perfect end to the evening, sticky date pudding.

Men want to return to camp year after year and those of the wider community are invited too. It is a great opportunity to engage together around activities and teaching for personal reflection, challenge and growth. They are very much looking forward to next year!

Kate Woods and Lincoln Agnew





**GLOBAL
INTERACTION**

*By David Turnbull
State Director SA/NT*

Celebrating Milestones



Bangladesh Christians Celebrate 100 years

June marks my first anniversary as State Director for South Australia/Northern Territory. A whirlwind year with so much to be thankful for. For the wonderful interest and generosity of churches for May Mission Month. As Global Interaction is a faith-based agency, God answers prayers through you. My prayer is that you and your churches will continue to grow where you are planted and sow where you are called.

Praise God for the lives being touched and transformed by the good news in our contexts through the faithfulness of the cross-cultural workers. We give thanks to God for the resources to stay for the long-haul. This long-term vision clashes with a contemporary societal perspective that desires quick responses and instant outcomes.

Bangladesh is one of the world's most densely populated countries. It is home to more than 160 million people and nearly half of the population live below

the poverty line. The majority of the population follow Islam, 9% are Hindu and less than 1% claim to follow Christ.

Australian and New Zealand Baptists first began work in Bangladesh over 130 years ago. The churches that resulted from that early work combined to form a Baptist family in 1919, and this is the centenary that they have just celebrated.

Since the early 1970s, that ministry has been led by local people. There are thriving faith communities that form part of the Baptist Associations. Global Interaction still continues to offer advice, training and some financial support for partner organisations and church groups.

Global Interaction has more milestones to acknowledge in 2019. The 70th anniversary for the Baptist work amongst the Enga, from which there are now over 400 local churches within the Baptist Union of Papua New Guinea.

Global Interaction cont.

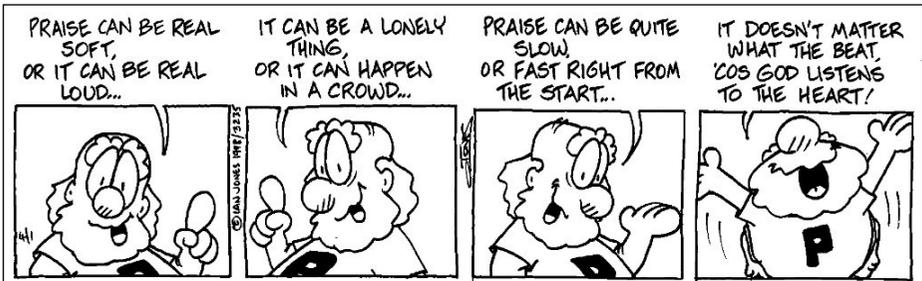
This year also marks the 50th Anniversary of Global Interaction's engagement in Zambia. The first cross-cultural worker, nurse Gwen Chambers, departed work in the Kafulafuta clinic 18 May 1969. The partnership lasted 29 years when on 28 June 1998 a moving farewell handover ceremony to the Baptist Union of Zambia occurred.

These milestones bring much encouragement as Global Interaction ventures into new contexts for the long-haul, where sustaining the workers in Africa, Asia and Central Australia becomes significant.



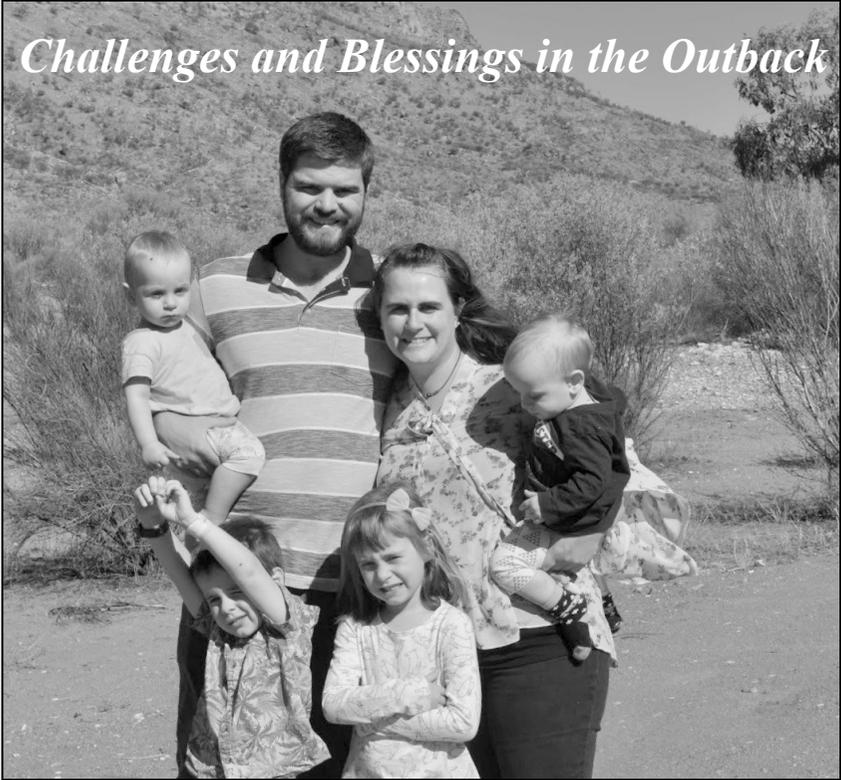
Bangladesh Taxi-Bike

Thanks to the New Zealand Baptist Missionary Society for the use of the Photographs from the Bangladesh Baptist Church Fellowship Centenary.



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Challenges and Blessings in the Outback



We have been living in Alice Springs now for almost six months! This has been a challenging season but we are so thankful for the faithfulness of God in and through these highs and lows.

Beth and Peter are well settled in their Alice Springs schools and have been enjoying excursions and special events that their schools put on. We have enjoyed watching them blossom in their friendships and in their school skills.

Caleb and Samuel are both walking confidently now and Caleb is even attempting a run at times of urgency. They have a few words each and they love playing peek-a-boo and singing a few songs.

We had such a run of birthdays in March and April that they managed to learn how to sing Happy Birthday! We are really blessed by these two fellows and thankful for their overall contentment in life and each others company.

Mat has been working very hard dealing with his father's estate and getting that organised. He also has been spending a fair bit of time and energy trying to get the house in Yuendumu safe, and fixed.

As many of you know there was significant damage to asbestos walls and therefore contamination of the contents and rooms. We are very pleased to say that the house has been fully decontaminated at this point and we now can get builders in to make the repairs and updates as soon as the insurance claim is processed.. Mat has been out to the house several times and was able to remove personal items after the decontamination.

Shannon and the kids have not been back to Yuendumu since January and they all miss it and speak often of wanting to return. This will still be many months off in all likelihood due to the nature and extent of repairs required.

During all of this we have been incredibly blessed by the people of God in Churches all over Australia, many people have been praying and sending support and encouragement. We have been so amazed and humbled at the feeling of being supported from so many sides. God is good to us. We have been encouraged by 2 Corinthians 1:3-11 and 2 Corinthians 4:16-18. Scripture is a fount of encouragement that never ever runs dry!

Thank you all for your prayers, support and encouragement!

Mat and Shannon Anderson
Global Interaction Support Workers
in Central Australia

*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort who comforts us in
all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the
comfort we ourselves receive from God.*

2 Corinthians 1:3,4



Johnson's Incredible Story

Samara Linehan
Baptist World Aid

Meeet Johnson. A loving little boy who desperately wants to help his family.

He's 14 and lives in Uganda. He lives with his mother, two brothers, sister and grandmother. His father is forced to find work away from home.

Johnson understands poverty – the struggle to get enough food – and he badly wants to help. He's taking the burden on his own young shoulders.

"Life was difficult because I did not have anything to eat. When there is no food, I have no energy. When I don't have school fees, I try to go to school even though they send me away, I come back."

What a great heart Johnson has! He wants to finish his education, to help his family. But look at the pressures on him – no food, no energy, no money for

school fees and added to this was the constant worry over his little brother.

"My brother suffers from epilepsy. I knew there was nothing to use for treating him and I knew that he would die."

But then something incredible happened... a child sponsor from Australia steps in! A kind Christian family became Johnson's child sponsors and things began to change.

Johnson's family received a goat and they sold its offspring to pay for his little brother's treatment. His mother also received farming training and began a small business selling vegetables.

"It helps me because it gets some money that she pays for my school fees."

Now Johnson can attend school without being sent home. His brother receives the treatment he needs.

The family is much healthier because they have enough food. Johnson has the energy to study... and to pursue his dream of becoming a teacher.

And it's all thanks to a kindhearted sponsor who became part of Johnson's

incredible story. . You can do the same for others like Johnson!

**Be part of an incredible story.
Sponsor a child today.
Call Baptist World Aid
on 1300 789 991**

Kingdom Opportunities at Katherine



The Katherine Baptist Church has been looking at various properties around town with a view to finding a suitable permanent home.

Pastor Ernie Mitchell has been invited onto the McFarlane School Council, a privilege not often given to community members outside the school. Along with school chaplain, Britt Hedrick, who is also on the School Council, they are pleased to be able to pray for and support the school.

Another opportunity has opened up at McFarlane School. Ernie and fellow pastor, Andrew Mc Allan, of the Heritage Church in Katherine, have started a school choir as no specialist music teacher and no choir existed.

Once a month KBC Men and Women and their friends meet for Bible Study and Fellowship on separate Saturdays. During the Dry Season these are being held in the open at MacLagan's Farm (formerly Morrows).

Katherine pastors from different denominations also meet together for 'Coffee on Wednesday' an informal but good support for those ministering in the town.

***Praise God for the Christian outreach
by Katherine Baptist and other
churches and for the cooperation
between local churches.***

Cornerstone Church

Salt and Light in the Community

It has been around 9 months since we moved into our new building at 85 Whitewood Road. We are pleased that the building has been available to community groups to use or hire and we now have a number of organizations that have been taking advantage of that including calisthenics and dance groups as well as Bible study groups. The **Building Blokes and Women Together** conferences have also been held here in the new building.

Food for Life is picking up and there is a really nice regular community starting to form and the team is doing well. The great thing is to see the

relationships that are forming between the volunteers and the customers of Food for Life.

The youth team is doing well and has just completed a small workshop to help improve their preaching.

Naomi Hunter has started a Parents Group for stay at home parents providing support and connection for those that have small children. They meet fortnightly on a Thursday.

Our annual fundraiser for Howard Springs Primary was on the 20th of June and raised around \$1250 for the school. We had a good number of people turn up to help sell sausages and drinks.



Pastor Neil Wright

Pastor Neil with his Dad, Ron Wright, an active member at Cornerstone.

Baptist Union of the Northern Territory

Administrator (Part Time)



The Assembly Board is seeking a committed, servant-hearted person to serve the Baptist Union of the NT as Administrator. This person will be well organised, able to turn their hand to a variety of tasks and will understand the importance of this role to the Baptist Churches of the NT. The Administrator will support the work of the Assembly Board and assist with the general operations of the Baptist Union of the Northern Territory. The position is part-time (15.2 hours per week).

For enquiries or to receive a position statement, please contact Mal Sercombe,
P 08 8941 0701; E pastor@dbc.org.au



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Baptist Union of the NT ASSEMBLY 2019

20 September - 21 September 2019

The BUNT Assembly for 2019 will be held from Friday evening 20th September through to Saturday 21st September at Casuarina Baptist Church. Details will be sent to Churches closer to Assembly time.

The Speaker this year will be **Rev. Steve Ingram**. Steve is the Chair for Australian Baptist Ministries and a member of the Baptist Care WA board.

Steve is a supervisor and coach to numerous pastors and executive leaders. He will also be preaching at Casuarina Baptist on the Sunday.

Belonging People

Newsletter of the NT Baptist Union

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