

March 2021



The New Corner Café at Cornerstone Christian Fellowship

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

- Galatians 6:9 -



Save
the
Date

**BUNT ASSEMBLY GENERAL
MEETING**

**FRIDAY 26th March 2021 at
7pm**

At Casuarina Baptist Church

This meeting is for the purposes of approving the budget for 2021/2022 and to vote on several matters, including changes to the constitution.

All interested Baptist Family are welcome to attend.

President's Message

Easter is fast approaching. I realise that you may have plans for this Easter season. I wonder if those plans include some stillness, some contemplation and reflection? Sometimes I like to find a quiet place and contemplate life. Maybe there is a significant place that you go to, either in your home or maybe in the beauty of the natural environment, that special camping spot. In the last chapter of Matthew's Gospel, we find this statement, *"After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb."*

I wonder if they just wanted to sit by the tomb and quietly contemplate all the events that they had witnessed. I wonder if they just wanted to sit by the tomb and share with one another some of the things that Jesus had said to them before his death. I wonder if they just wanted to be silently thoughtful, not even speaking a word to each other, just sitting, just being.

If that is what they were planning, it certainly is not what took place. No, there is a 'violent earthquake' and a messenger from heaven 'rolled back the



stone and sat on it'. From here the angel speaks to the women, *"Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.'"*

It goes on to say that the women left, 'afraid yet filled with joy' (Matthew 28:8). Every Easter I am attracted, like some sort of magnetic force to those five words, 'afraid yet filled with joy'.

The very next voice they hear is that of Jesus himself, saying "Greetings, do not be afraid...." (Matthew 28:9-10)

May Jesus disrupt your life this Easter, and may He bring joy!

Mal Good

Corner Café at Cornerstone



Everyone deserves a second shot

Cornerstone Christian Fellowship officially opened Corner Café on the 6th of February. The café is meant to provide a bridge to the community of Howard Springs and eventually help provide funding for Life House ministries.

These ministries will include projects and programs that reach out to vulnerable groups of people. 'Chef's for Life' is one such program that

teaches about nutrition and how to cook for families and individuals. 'Gardening for Life' teaches how to grow plants for food. Other plans include a homework centre and workshops.

The café is run by Isaac and Vanessa Broad and is open from Wednesday to Saturday from 7am till 1pm.



Matt Kernick and Neil Wright lead a discussion in Church

The Food for Life program has been growing in the number of customers and we have been enjoying the fellowship with the people that come in.

We have been kicking off the New Year with Connect Groups starting to meet again and we are hoping that sometime this year we will be able to start a Sunday afternoon Word or topical study time.

Our mission over the next two to three years is to increase the engagement of the church members with the Word and we will be busy planning how we can do that across all ministry areas.

We are also planning some church-wide gatherings with the first to be a picnic dinner at Cullen Bay on the 20th of March.

Pastor Neil Wright



Shining for Jesus at Ali Curung

The Ali Curung Church continues to shine a light for Jesus in their community.

As well as the Sunday service for praise and teaching, the church is keen to disciple and grow their people in the Word of God. They have a weekly program of Bible Studies for men and women on different evenings and a Thursday Prayer meeting for everyone.

The regular Community Meal on Saturday evening is open to all and is a time of enjoying good food and company, usually ending with the playing of popular action songs that the children enjoy so much.

Reaching out to those in need in the Ali Curung community is a high priority and a way to show the love of Jesus especially to widows and widowers.



With the help of Debbie and Murray Aldridge, the church has established 'Elijah's Pantry' and from this store supply they deliver food and comfort – sometimes by wheel barrow and sometimes by car. The funding for this pantry comes from the Church Offerings as members commit to regular giving.

Arana and Jerry Rice (above) are two of the Church Leaders at Ali Curung. They have asked :

Please Pray for those caught up in family business in Ali Curung, Willowra, Tea Tree and Yuendumu.

Please pray for God's Peace over all communities.

Lajamanu Church—Bringing Joy in Difficult Times

There have been more Sorry times at Lajamanu as church and community are mourning the loss of loved ones, in particular, the loss of a respected church leader last year.

Yet amongst the difficulties, the church is bringing joy to the older ladies. Each Sunday after Church, they are sitting down



in the Ceremony area to share stories and encourage the ladies. Lynette Tasman says they are really enjoying this.

Please Pray

>For the **Youth of Lajamanu**, to stay away from trouble and to find hope and purpose in Wapirra

>For **Pastor Jerry Jangala** who has been unwell

>For the **Church Leaders** to have wisdom and keep trusting Warpirra in every situation



Friday April 2nd – Mon 5th April 2021

Riyala Campsite, Noonamah

For youth in years 7-12

Cost \$180—sibling discount available

Register at www.sunt.org.au by 23rd March

or contact Ox ph 0408 603 098

**See SUNT website for more Camps and Kids Games
planned for other regions.**

Mat and Shannon Anderson Our Outback Team



A rare visit to the beach for Mat, Shannon, Beth, Peter, Caleb and Samuel

As the pandemic challenges of 2020 continue, Mat and Shannon Anderson, together with their four children, continue to be the core of the Outback Team, ministering at Yuendumu, while travelling to other communities as they have opportunity.

Mat recently reported a couple of encouraging conversations. The first was with some of the young adult males in the community in the wake of a very difficult incident that occurred near their home.

The needs of young people in remote communities are often great, resulting sometimes in behaviours that are less than ideal. However, Mat and Shannon seek to engage positively even when those behaviours sometimes impact them negatively. We are wise to remember that the Lord is with us in such times, something Mat would attest to.

The second conversation involved the young grandchildren of a godly Christian lady. They spoke with Mat about wanting to know about Jesus, for they saw in their grandmother, and heard in her stories about Jesus, something that made them curious about faith.

She is obviously a very positive influence on these young lives. It is a great reminder that we too, can influence others by what we say and do, either towards Christ or away from Him.

Another positive that we would ask readers of *Belonging People* to pray about, is a very early, but promising conversation with other individuals considering whether God might be calling them to join the Outback Team. Two of them are a very experienced ministry couple with existing links to Central Australia. While this is a very early part of a longer process of discernment, it is of great encouragement to know that God might be bringing in other workers to stand alongside Mat and Shannon.

Finally, with border restrictions easing, Viv Grice, the Outback Team Leader, is planning to visit Darwin and some of the northern communities with Mal Good

just after Easter, connecting with members of the Indigenous Taskforce that aims to help strengthen and grow connections between BUNT churches, Global Interaction, National Baptist Ministries, and our indigenous brothers and sisters.

We would ask that you pray that these plans would be able to be implemented, especially in light of the ever-changing travel situations posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is an encouragement for the Global Interaction team partnering with BUNT churches. We thank you for your interest, support and prayers.

Vivian Grice
Outback Team Leader
Global Interaction.

Please Pray for the Anderson Family

- ◆ **Unity as a Family**
- ◆ **Wisdom around Ministry Plans in 2021**
- ◆ **Smooth transition between school years**
- ◆ **Thanks to God for His nearness**
- ◆ **Praise for His help in the everyday and the extraordinary**



Giving Thanks for the Ministry of John and Jan Whitbourn

In November 2020, John Whitbourn officially retired as Associate Pastor at Casuarina Church. In a moving tribute, during the Worship service, Peter Kent expressed the gratitude of the church family for John and his wife Jan.

John and Jan Whitbourn were known to Casuarina Baptist Church many years before they joined us and shared ministry here. We knew them through their mission work amongst our Baptist indigenous brothers and sisters and through their ministry at Palmerston Baptist Church.

John and Jan – team Whitbourn - are a great team, and though John has been the one with the official roles, Jan has been a tower of strength and support throughout. We love and appreciate you both so much.

In May 2007, CBC needed an interim pastor. We asked John and Jan to come and help us for a “6 month” interim at CBC....in fact this interim extended for 2 years.

During the two-year interim, John assisted the church to work through the process of finding a new pastor who was appointed in 2009. The church so much appreciated and valued John’s ministry that we asked him to continue as Associate Pastor. John chose not to seek a stipend from the church and became Honorary (unpaid) Associate Pastor.

Also, around this time, the church was reaching out to support refugees settling in Australia, including many of our Karen folk and also to others from various countries in the detention centres. John’s many years of experience in cross-cultural ministry now fitted him so well to work with the refugees and he took to this role with passion and dedication.

Many of these people were hungry to explore faith in God, now that they were in a country that allowed them to do so, and John spent countless hours visiting and sharing the Gospel with them and baptised many at their request. Many are still in contact and still walking and growing in faith, thanks to John’s work with them.



Baptism of a young Karen man at Lake Alexander in 2010



*Jan and John with Kacey Robertson
and Eddie Robertson, a church leader at Yuendumu*

In 2011, and again in 2016 when a pastor left, John once more took on the responsibility of interim pastor. How blessed we were to have him shepherd our congregation through times of change such as this – providing a stability and continuity of immense value to the church.

John's ministry enabled CBC to continue to grow and reach out, to really be the church, rather than just marking time.

Several years ago, John fought a battle with cancer, which the Lord mercifully enabled him to win, all the while continuing to serve, and never drawing attention to his situation.

It has now been 13 and a half years that John and Jan have been with us and we have been immeasurably blessed by the tireless, humble, wise and Godly service they have done together amongst us and amongst others here in the Territory and from all over the world who were in need of the Gospel.

John and Jan.....have been the Lord's amazing provision for all of these times.

Casuarina Church gives God the glory for who you are and all that you have done in His name. Bless you both!

Peter Kent

MINISTRY FAIR at Darwin Baptist Church

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. 1 Corinthians 12:27

Darwin Baptist Church marked the start of the New Year with a celebration service aimed at showcasing the different ministries that take place within the church.

Just as one body has many parts – every part useful, every part needed, every part with a contribution to make – our “Ministry Fair” was a chance for the church to come together to see what we do and explore new opportunities for serving or praying.

“When one part is not working well, the body is disadvantaged. The body is not able function normally and that is one of the reasons why a day like today is important,” said our Senior Pastor, Mal, when introducing the fair.

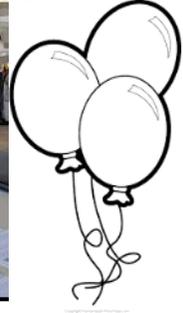
“We have a chance to consider our place in this magnificent body of Christ, of which we are a small representative part.”

More than 20 stalls were set up around the church for the morning, with representatives from Kids’ Church, creche, grounds and maintenance, aged care ministries, Christian growth courses, IT support and connect groups (to name a few).

“It is a countercultural thing for our lives to be characterised by the question, “How may I serve you?” but it is a transforming thing,” said Mal. “Can you imagine a whole community that lives with that question top of mind?”

Once the congregation had time to visit each stall, the church came together for communion, lunch and a time of fellowship.

Kate Woods



Some of the stalls at Darwin Baptist's Ministry Fair

BELONGING PEOPLE

This issue of Belonging People, as well as past issues, can be found on the BUNT website. [www.ntbaptist.org.au/belonging people/](http://www.ntbaptist.org.au/belonging%20people/)

Sisters in Christ at Casuarina

The Ladies Coffee Mornings recommenced for 2021 on February 20th. These mornings, held monthly throughout the year, are a great time of fellowship for those who attend. We sit around small tables, having our tea and coffee out of fancy teacups and just enjoy spending time together. Many contribute to the delicious morning tea.

We have a variety of speakers from within our group who share short devotions. Many friendships have begun, strengthened and grown, through these mornings, as women just enjoy sitting and chatting to each other. Friendships are made all the sweeter, because of our love for Jesus and his love for us, the One who makes us all sisters in Christ.

Chris Good



Congratulations to Ricky Su, ADF Chaplain

AUSTRALIA DAY HONOUR

Chaplain Ricky Su was awarded the **Conspicuous Services Medal** in the 2021 Australia Day Honours List, for his work as an Army Chaplain.

The citation reads, 'For meritorious achievement in leadership, pastoral support and welfare management within the Australian Army.'

Ricky thanks Casuarina Baptist Church for its support during the family's time in Darwin.

"It was a very intense three years.

To Di (Gronow) and the Prayer Team, thank you for praying for us as a family and my role in the Army, especially during my deployment to Iraq.

It has sustained me spiritually."



Ricky with wife, Pip, and

Congratulations Ricky and may God bless you and your family as you continue to serve Him in Sydney.



Crossover Easter Offering 2021

Partnering together to help Australian Baptists share Jesus

Crossover has partnered with Baptist Churches around Australia at Easter time for over 30 years now.

Crossover is Australian Baptist Ministries' agent for helping pastors equip people in the local Baptist church to share the good news of Jesus.

The Easter Offering is Crossover's only source of funding and is vital in

facilitating and supporting church leaders as they equip their congregations for mission.

In 2020, Crossover's budget was significantly down due to Easter services not taking place because of the National COVID-19 Lockdown.

Please consider how you can support Crossover this Easter.

Meeting the Needs of Vulnerable Territorians



Packing Christmas Hampers to be freighted to various locations around the NT.

Baptist Care NT (BCNT), through the ministry of Foodbank NT and Food For Life, continues to grow and expand to meet the increasing demands of feeding vulnerable Territorians. For example, in the lead up to Christmas 2019, the number of Christmas Hampers packed and distributed totalled 464. Compared to the lead up to Christmas 2020, the number of Christmas Hampers

packed and distributed was 1580. This significant increase is reflective of the increase in demand BCNT has seen for food during the Covid Pandemic. A second example is that at the height of the crisis in the last quarter of the last financial year, demand was up by 61%, the equivalent of an additional 86,000 meals leaving the warehouse during that three-month period.

I want to acknowledge the incredible generosity of the NT Government, our Corporate and Individual Donors – without whom we would not have been able to meet the extra demand.

As we look to the end of March 2021, when the Jobseeker and Job Keeper payments are completely wound back, we are expecting another surge in demand. As a result, over the last few months, we have made a concerted focus on increasing capacity. Additional pallet racking has been installed, a new forklift was purchased,

the warehouse shop was renovated and new food suppliers brought into our supply chain.

At the same time, BCNT is looking to expand into the community services sector, so recently employed a Business Development Officer. At this stage a comprehensive needs analysis is being conducted, some high-level meetings with the NT Government and lots of conversations happening with potential stakeholders.

BCNT is here to meet the needs of vulnerable Territorians.

Peter Pilt
CEO BCNT

**Hampers to the Heart Program
The Mayor of Alice Springs helps
Peter unload 100 Food Hampers**



God's Family in the Outback

Katherine Baptist Church

One of the good things about living in the Outback is the willingness of people to support each other.

Distances may be big, but bonds between Christians are strong.

For instance, the Katherine churches take it in turns to run Sunday services in Mataranka, just 100km away, meeting with a small group of people who live on cattle stations and small communities.

Three of the Katherine church pastors recently drove to Alice Springs as one of their number took up a new posting there in February.

We get used to continual people movements. Having the Defence Base in Katherine makes this a certainty. There tends to be a wide demographic within all the Katherine churches too, but only one or two in each age group. This is a blessing as we can easily be more like a family.

What is the Church?

It is the people of God.

We love being part of God's family, here in the Outback.

Alice Mitchell



***Pastor Ernie Mitchell
outside
the Community Hall
where***

With 2021 underway, there is a focus on new beginnings, the hope of returning to some level of normality and moving on. As I embark on another year, there is hope that draws me closer to God with a thankful heart as I know that the Lord of the Harvest is at work.

Global Interaction has commenced its four-year Strategic Roadmap, with the vision of 'vibrant faith communities following Jesus in their own distinctive ways' at the forefront whilst striving for a sustainable future as we practice good stewardship of the resources entrusted to us.

It will be central to the May Missions Month program (<https://globalinteraction.org.au/be-involved/may-mission-month>).

David, Susie, Anushka and Kyran Haydon have commenced their culture and language learning and are settling into life in Mangochi, Malawi.

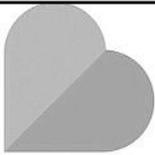
Ben, Sam, Elizabeth, Anna and Finlay Good, left on 19 February to commence their third term amongst the Yawo in Mozambique, after over a year on extended home assignment, with the hope of reconnecting with their team and Yawo friends as they continue down the path of following Jesus.

Your prayers are vital as we face these new beginnings. May you know God's presence in your life in whatever you face this year.

Dr David Turnbull
(08) 8357 1755

info@globalinteraction.org.au





**BAPTIST
WORLD AID
AUSTRALIA**
Be Love. End poverty.

Even in the Dark Places

with Marbz Diaz

**the new National Church Engagement Manager
at Baptist World Aid Australia**

When Marbeun Diaz was growing up in the Philippines, he spent his first ten years living in a red-light district. Surrounded by poverty and heartache, the young boy began to question, ‘Where are you, God, in this dark situation?’

Now Marbuen (or as he prefers, ‘Marbz’) leads the Church Engagement team at Baptist World Aid Australia.

After 18 years pastoring a church, he joined the work at Baptist World Aid and in December 2020 was promoted to his new position as National Manager, overseeing a staff of five across the country. Today, with a deeply held conviction that ‘God is always there - present even in dark places’, Marbz’ passion in service and leadership is to inspire others to see God at work where they might not otherwise.

BWA: Tell us a bit about your role and why you love being a part of Baptist World Aid.



MARBZ: I love being a part of what God is doing here – both overseas and here in Australia. As a pastor, I felt called to make disciples and that is still my calling. It is a privilege to be part of an invitation to churches in Australia to join in what God is doing in vulnerable communities overseas.

For me, the gospel is an invitation to step into empathy, and ask, ‘How will God’s grace respond to the situation faced by those on the margins?’ It is not enough just to be accepted into God’s grace; he wants us to grow in that grace.

BWA: But sometimes issues around global poverty can feel overwhelming. How do you stay hopeful?

MARBZ: Firstly, seeing the witness of my brothers and sisters overseas brings about a fire in my soul that encourages me. They lead me in my understanding of what resilience is and what faith looks like. In situations of crisis, upon crisis, or war upon war, the witness of these faithful servants will outlast any conflict. Their witness is like the Cedars of Lebanon in the Psalms.

Our supporters here in Australia also inspire hope. They don't know our brothers and sisters in these places, and yet they respond, in solidarity to loving their neighbours, with generosity. Seeing the work God is doing in his people here in Australia, seeing their generosity and God's grace at work, gives me hope.

First, pray. And then, pursue awareness.

BWA: What are some ways we can practically participate in addressing global challenges today?

MARBZ: First, pray. And then, pursue awareness. Our prayer creates a desire to understand these situations better, that understanding then deepens our care and leads us back to prayer. We don't come to God hopeless, we come with faith. When we pray, we pray believing God can and will act. When we pray, we come to understand our place in seeing God's kingdom come here on earth.

Meredith Wright, Baptist World Aid.



Used with permission



Baptist Financial Services



As the Northern Territory (and SA) Relationship Manager for BFS and Insurance Manager for BIS, it is my privilege to be your *One Stop Shop* for anything relating to finance or insurance services for Baptist Churches and organisations throughout the Territory. While Covid 19 has interfered with my first year in this joint role and messed up my initial plans to visit from Adelaide, I am ready and waiting to be of assistance in any way I can.

Financial information and forms for transaction or investment accounts, and for loans can be found on the BFS website at www.bfs.org.au Information on how to go about making an insurance claim can be found on the BIS website at www.baptistinsurance.com.au

Additionally, the BIS website also has lots of information to help in Risk Management, and a range of On-Line courses you can register for to train your people in how to recognise hazards and many other useful things.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any issues I can assist with. For Finance matters, I can be e-mailed at glen@bfs.org.au or for Insurance matters on glen.thornley@baptistinsurance.com.au

Thankfully, I have the same Mobile number no matter what you are calling about – 0412 055 832. I look forward to speaking with you soon.

Glen Thornley
Relationship Manager



Missions Interlink Northern Territory brings together mission organisations, Bible colleges, churches and service organisations to foster collaboration in a common purpose, to promote, equip and inspire believers to reach the nations with the Gospel.

In the January 2021 T-TRIM course, missions involved included, Nungalinya, Coordinate, World Outreach, Wycliffe, Pioneers and Youth With A Mission. Dr Cathy Bow, coordinator of Missions Interlink Language Learning course, and Darwin long termers, Annette Bailey and Dr Mally McLellan also participated.

'Living between Two Worlds' is the next course coming up on April 10 and 17.

Facilitators will be **Margaret Miller** (of Coordinate and 30+ years working with Aboriginal Australians), along with **Dr. David Turnbull** (from Global Interaction SA/NT, and Senior Lecturer in Intercultural Studies at Tabor) . This unit will be run in hubs with facilitators and via zoom. For more details contact:

Rachel Borneman,
nt@missionsinterlink.org.au
Phone: 0412 998 594



TOGETHER Territory Women's Conference 2021

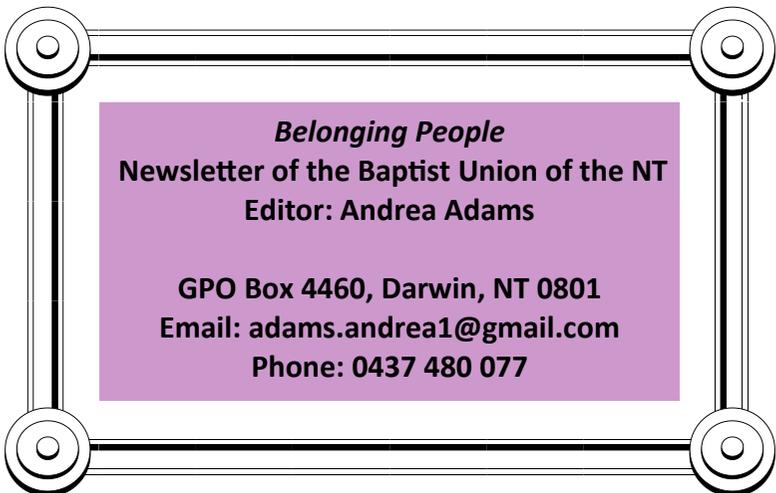
Friday evening 28th May

Saturday 9am - 4pm 29th May

at Cornerstone Christian Church

85 Whitewood Road, Howard Springs

Details and registration forms available soon.



Belonging People

Newsletter of the Baptist Union of the NT

Editor: Andrea Adams

GPO Box 4460, Darwin, NT 0801

Email: adams.andrea1@gmail.com

Phone: 0437 480 077