

**July 2023**



*Mal and Chris Good Join the Outback Team*

## ***Moving Towards—NT /SA Amalgamation***

**T**he journey continues and step by step we are moving toward the amalgamation becoming reality. At the BUNT Assembly on 24 March the motion to proceed with “all necessary steps” to enable amalgamation was overwhelmingly approved. Then more recently, 19 May, the Assembly of Baptist Churches of SA (BCSA) unanimously agreed to similarly “take steps to work towards amalgamation”. We thank God for his ongoing leading in this space and for the wonderful sense of affirmation across both the NT and SA churches.

The BUNT/BCSA joint taskforce is now focusing on finalising the proposed amendments to the BCSA constitution that will provide the legal framework for the amalgamated entity. Once this has sufficiently progressed the next step will be for the BUNT Assembly, at an appropriate Assembly meeting later in the year, to take the vote to wind up BUNT Inc. and for member churches to join the new entity. Similarly, the BCSA Assembly will be agreeing to adopt the revised constitution ... it is all a matter of getting the steps lined up appropriately.

While the vision continues to be of enriched and enhanced support for healthy, vibrant church communities living, proclaiming, and demonstrating the Kingdom of God in our needy and broken world, we recognise there will be a mixture of emotional responses to these changes. All change will bring some element of grief and we want to acknowledge this reality, while continuing to affirm the overwhelming benefit of the amalgamation.

***Rev Mike Mills  
Director of Ministries  
Baptist Union of the NT***



## *From the President*



***Hello Everyone,***

I hope the Dry Season is treating you well. Certainly for our brothers and sisters in the communities of **Daguragu, Pigeon Hole, Kalkarindji and Lajamanu** which were hit by flooding and evacuated to Darwin, the dry weather will be very welcome. One blessing was that we had church members from these regions attend Top End churches while they were in Darwin.

**Casuarina Baptist Pastors, Mal Good, and his wife Chris Good** are now members of the Outback Australia Team with Baptist Mission Australia. There is a real resolve to strengthen connection between all of our Baptist Union Churches as well as our connection with Australian Baptist Ministries, who have had a continued and committed presence in many of our remote Churches. Having Mal and Chris in this position is certainly a blessing.

There has been approval of a new **Child Protection Policy** and this is now in place. The commitment to child protection for our churches is a high priority and one of the strengths of the movement.

In regard to this we have had no claims against the redress scheme put in place due to the Royal Commission into Institutional Child Sexual Abuse. A zoom meeting with the Child Protection Contact Officers to help in understanding changes for the churches and answer any questions around the changes will take place on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> June.

An **Assembly Meeting** was held on the 24<sup>th</sup> of March to vote on making a formal commitment to the process of winding up as an association in the Northern Territory and amalgamating with the Baptist Churches of South Australia. This was not the vote to wind up, which will take place on a further date once the Baptist Churches of South Australia have passed the constitutional changes necessary. There were nine of the Territory Churches represented at the meeting.

Planning is underway for the **Baptist Family Gathering**, to be held at Casuarina Baptist in September this year. I highly recommend that we all commit to the gathering and come to hear some high quality speakers.

**Neil Wright**  
**President**  
**BUNT**

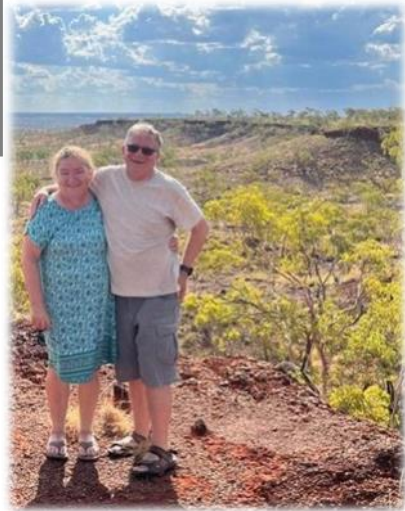
## ***Mal and Chris Join the Outback Team***

**M**al and Chris Good have been married for 40 years. They have four adult children and five grandchildren.

They both studied at Vose Seminary in Perth and have been in pastoral ministry for over sixteen years. They first served in rural WA, then relocated to Darwin's northern suburbs in 2017, where together they pastor the multi-ethnic Casuarina Baptist church. During this time, they started to connect with several Indigenous believers. They began visiting Kalkarindji and Lajamanu each year to encourage the local believers, who strive to follow Jesus in their own distinctive ways on their traditional land.

**In April 2023 Chris and Mal joined Baptist Mission Australia's Outback Australia team part-time, whilst continuing to pastor Casuarina Baptist Church. For several months each year they are walking alongside the primarily Warlpiri believers in Lajamanu.**

Mal and Chris consider it a great privilege to be part of this team and a greater privilege to be welcomed into the Indigenous communities.



**Both have much to learn in this space, as they want to be good listeners who seek to hear the voice of God, as well as the voices of their Indigenous brothers and sisters. In this amazing mix, may they all seek to hear what the Holy Spirit is saying to the churches.**

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## **PRAYER POINTS**

- Pray for Chris and Mal as they journey alongside Indigenous church communities and leaders.
- Pray for humility and wisdom as they seek to listen, learn and disciple well.

***Vivian Grice***  
***Outback Team Leader***



## ***Commissioning Service for Mal and Chris***

**O**n Sunday June 4<sup>th</sup> Casuarina Baptist held a commissioning service for Mal and Chris Good as they begin their service with Baptist Mission Australia on the Outback Australia Team. Mal and Chris have discerned a call from God to serve the Lajamanu community and will spend a number of weeks each year living and serving in the community.

It was a privilege to stand with the whole congregation to bless and pray for Mal and Chris as they start their work. We enjoyed joyful worship and shared the communion meal together. As we gathered around Mal and Chris to send them off in prayer, part of that prayer was spoken in the Walpiri language. I felt very emotional hearing this ancient language praising God.

Please uphold Mal and Chris in prayer as they learn about life in Lajamanu. Mal and Chris have worked hard to complete all the preparatory requirements for Baptist Mission Australia. They are also praying for more partners to come alongside them to help them serve God.

If you are interested in partnering with Mal and Chris through prayer, encouragement or financially please visit the website to find out more [www.baptistmissionaustralia.org](http://www.baptistmissionaustralia.org)

### ***Lisa Cornell***

*Lisa is the NT/SA Leader of BMA and led the commissioning service*

***Donations to these intercultural team members are NOT TAX DEDUCTIBLE***





## ***So Much To Share!***

***It has been a tumultuous half year for the Anderson Family at Kalkarindji.***

**T**here is so much to share!  
We are so thankful to be finally feeling settled after almost a year of constant transition and change. We have found some rhythms and routines that are helping us to feel grounded and we are so thankful for the last 10 weeks of living here in Kalkarindji!

### **Flood recovery**

One of the major happenings on community over the last few months has been the efforts to restore and replace housing and the work crews have been very busy. They have knocked down quite a few houses and are putting them up again very quickly. They are using modular homes which have been constructed elsewhere and are brought in on trucks.



*The Anderson Family: Mat and Shannon with Peter, Beth, Samuel and Caleb*

What a blessing to have these crews here, putting in very long hours and living away from home. Pray for their safety and for the new houses to be all ready soon!

We have been so amazed at God's provision through the flood appeal and we are excited to share with you in the future how those funds are used. We are thinking together with church leaders how best to direct the funds but our heart behind there use is focused on bringing people together and building unity in the communities. Thank you to those who contributed to that appeal!



## **Easter at Kalkarindji**

The Easter celebrations this year were much quieter than they have been in previous years due to the floods. Many residents were still in Howard Springs and those of us who were back were feeling quite tired. We still got together for a Good Friday walk and reflection time, a Sunday morning service followed by some baptisms and in the evening, a special Fish Dinner with Catfish and Barramundi provided by some of our local fisherwomen. It was a special weekend to celebrate together!

## **Visiting Friends**

We had a wonderful surprise visit a few weeks ago when some of our dear friends from Yuendumu came to Kalkarindji and stopped in to see us for the afternoon. It was really wonderful to be together and see some our friends again!



## ***For Prayer and Praise***

- Praise God for the rebuilding happening all around, both physically and emotionally
- Thank God for the Ladies Bible Study group!  
Pray for the health of our church members and their families, particularly those who have to seek treatment very far from home and family.
- The upcoming busy calendar and many visitors. Pray that the trips will build and add to the things God is doing near and far.
- Please lift up those who are on the edges of church, that they will feel welcome to join us and grow!

**Pray for God's help and patience with the many little things it takes to do ministry in a remote place.**



## *New Bibles*

Many Kalkaringi residents lost everything including their Bibles in the floods earlier this year. **Ellen, Judith and Joanne** (L-R above) were among those who received Bibles gifted by the Bible Society. It was such a blessing and they were warmly received.

## *Ladies Bible Study*

*Shannon Anderson writes,*

‘One of the areas of great encouragement lately has been the ladies Bible Study group at church. They have been meeting for long before we arrived, but with all the flooding and changes this year it was harder for the group to restart. In the last few weeks, however, we have been meeting and the group has been growing. It’s been really encouraging to see everyone enthusiastic to learn and grow together as Christians.’ **Praise God!**



## *From the Outback Team Leader*

Following severe floods in March that required evacuation of a number of communities, Mat and Shannon are now re-settled in the remote northern community of Kalkarindji, continuing their ministry of support and disciple-making among the indigenous members of the northern communities.

We are grateful as a team for the substantial funds raised to support the work of the mission and local churches in the communities of the north, Kalkarindji, Pigeon Hole and Daguragu.

Mal and Chris Good, pastors at Casuarina Baptist in Darwin, have joined the Outback Team on a part-time basis, and will be based out of Lajamanu, when they are on country.

From July 9 - 11 the Outback Team will gather in Lajamanu for team building and discussion with indigenous leaders in preparation for a Bush Training Camp later in the year. Please pray for safe travel as the team cover vast distances in ministering to remote communities.

***Vivian Grice***

Ellen, evacuated from Kalkarindji, found a warm welcome at Cornerstone Church with Pastors Neil and Matt



## ***Mentoring Senior Youth Toward a Life of Discipleship at Darwin Baptist***

In a world where school-aged youth face numerous challenges and questions about their belonging, identity, and purpose, mentoring and discipleship play a crucial role in guiding, equipping, and preparing them for life after year 12. At the recent Scripture Union Leadership Training Day, **Steven Miles, Youth Worker Darwin Baptist Church (DBC), and Jayden Ilett, Youth Intern DBC**, delivered an interactive case study sharing the successes and surprises of how DBYouth (Darwin Baptist Youth) started an intentional mentoring and discipleship space called SHIELD, with eight Year 12's in 2022.

**We are all called to be disciples of Jesus that make disciples.**

Matthew 4:19 - *"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people."* Matthew 28:19-20 - *"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

According to Jesus, from beginning to end, to be a disciple is to make disciples.

**As part of SHIELD our mentors modelled an 'Up In Out' life:**

**UP** - Jesus developed a pattern of prayer and listening to God. Our mentors prayed regularly for their year 12s and prayed with them.

**IN** - Jesus chose a core community to prioritise and invest in.

Our mentors committed to supporting and investing into their year 12. This looked very practical, meeting their physical needs, encouraging them, Walking through tough times with them.

**OUT** - Jesus developed a rhythm of being and bringing good news.





Mentors invited their year 12s into their everyday life, and modelled to them how to live out what they are learning in practical and authentic ways.

### **What was SHIELD exactly?**

We created SHIELD to be an intentional space for year 12 youth to grow deeper in their relationship with God, nurture their leadership giftings and be mentored one-on-one over the course of a year by a DBYouth Leader. A key focus over the year was to debunk the myth that you needed to be a mature, wise Christian to disciple another.

The year 12's read the Bible each fortnight using the Discovery Bible Method with their mentor. This taught them that reading the Bible this way is simple, repeatable, and transferrable, which encouraged and enabled them to consider reading the Bible with their friends too.

### **School Leavers Connect Group.**

Many of these year 12's have created a Bible study group in 2023.

SHIELD has continued in 2023 with seven new year 12's participating this year!

### **What did we learn?**

We learnt that managing eight young adult mentors is a lot of work. In 2023, we created two new 'Check-in Coordinator' roles, filled by two amazing middle-aged people. These coordinators are tasked with checking in with the young adult mentors once a month and running through the same content of reading the Bible and modelling an 'Up In Out' life to them. Praise God for our willing and able church family!

## ***Mentoring Senior Youth continued:***

**Considering mentoring senior youth or young adults at your church?**

We want to share our SHIELD documentation with you, so you don't have to reinvent the wheel! Simply follow the QR code to access the material.



***Steven Miles***  
***Youth Worker***  
***Darwin Baptist Church***

### ***Lisa Visits Darwin***

*Lisa Cornish, Baptist Mission Australia SA/NT State Leader, enjoyed a brief respite from the chilly winds of Adelaide on a recent visit to the Top End.*



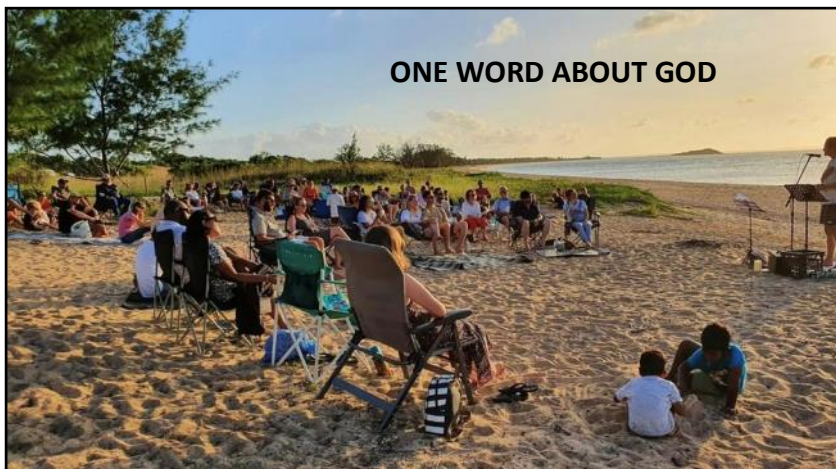
I had a wonderful time visiting Darwin for May Mission Month in the last week of May. It was great to have some time in the warm weather and to share in May Mission Month in the NT.

Thanks to Mal Sercombe, Neil Wright and Mal Good for inviting me to share with their church families and small groups.

I met many people who are interested and supportive of mission work going on in Australia and around the world. I also had the chance to visit Nungalinga College and learn about the wonderful work they have been doing for 50 years.

***Lisa Cornish***

# Beach Church at Nhulunbuy



## ONE WORD ABOUT GOD

**What's ONE WORD you would use to describe God?**

This is the question that **Melissa Barclay, a leader at Nhulunbuy Baptist Church**, put to those attending the recent Combined Churches Beach Service at Cape Wirrawuy.

People were encouraged to bring one word about God and a related scripture and share for one minute, the aim being to encourage each other and build up the Body of Christ.

Here are the words that many brought and which gave encouragement to those gathered at Beach Church.

**GOD IS:**

**Inexhaustible  
Creator  
God of the Impossible  
Unconditional  
Love  
Joyfulness  
Eternal  
Compassionate  
Constant  
My Rest  
Able  
I AM  
Merciful  
Sovereign  
Intimate  
Intentional  
Holy  
Friend**



## ***Katherine Baptist Church and the Katherine Christian Convention***

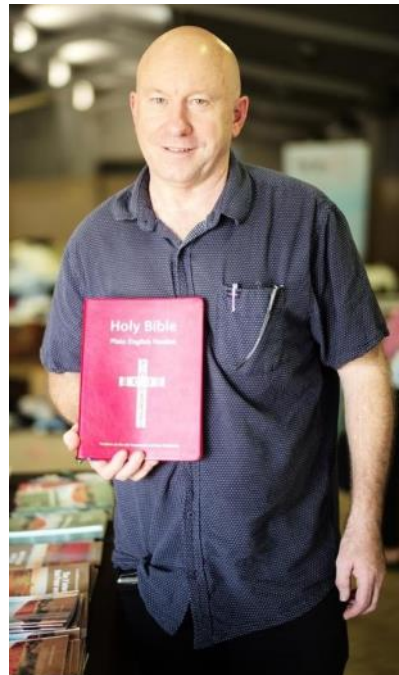
**K**atherine Baptist Church was closed on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April! We were at the **Katherine Christian Convention (KCC)** at the Showgrounds. KCC is a unique annual event, celebrating NT indigenous and urban faith. **“All One in Christ Jesus”**, is the motto.

Christians from remote communities and ‘townies’ join together for two days to share in the preaching and celebration of Christ in many languages

The key speaker this year, was Greg Anderson, Anglican Bishop of the Northern Territory, a man with wide ministry experience, in the city and in tiny bush churches.

For further information on KCC go to: Website: <https://kathcc.org>

***Jim Matheson***



Held over the May Day long weekend, the theme for this year was **“Working Together for the Gospel”**. Bishop Greg Anderson led the Bible Studies in Philippians. During the weekend, the Plain English Version mini-Bible was launched. This includes almost all of the New Testament and some of the Old Testament This PEV has been designed for Aboriginal people whose own language is not English. Bishop Anderson used the PEV in his teaching.

One of the regular highlights of KCC is the celebration nights where groups present Christian songs and dances. Everyone enjoys these evenings of sharing faith through song and dance and they often go on until late in the evening.

Scripture Union has run the Childrens Program at KCC for decades and this year the team of Kylie, Rachel and Johan did a marvellous job keeping the kids engaged and active.

Bishop Greg observed, *“In recent months, there has been considerable media attention given to trouble, violence and crime in the Northern Territory. KCC demonstrates such a different situation, with people from so many different communities and backgrounds coming together peacefully and with real enjoyment in being together, because they have given themselves to Jesus and are trying to live as his followers .”*

**Andrea Adams**



**L: Bishop Greg Anderson**



## *Highlights at Yuendumu*

**D**anny and Beth Hunt, part-time with the Outback Team and based in Yuendumu and surrounding desert communities write of the many highlights of their recent time alongside their Indigenous brothers and sisters.

### **Community Involvement**

Deeper conversations were developed with local community and organisation leaders and Danny and Beth were invited to join the **Yuendumu** stakeholders' meetings.

### **Prayer**

While living in community there were continuous one-on-one requests for prayer, and also people who were praying for Beth and Danny.

### **Easter Baptisms**

On Easter Day they watched the sunrise as they, hiked the hill with others, to the cross above Yuendumu. Later on Easter Day, they joyfully shared in baptisms and child dedications. Also on a positive note, are the Women's Bible Studies starting in Yuendumu.



There was excitement when a much-needed shade tree was planted in the grounds of the Yuendumu church. *(See photo)*

Visiting the communities of **Willowra, Ali Curung and Murray Downs** and surviving the 4WD roads was a cause for thankfulness as well as seeing the near- completion of repairs to the Willowra Church.



Having **Mal and Chris Good** join the Outback Team, part-time, is a definite highlight.

The launch of the first **Warlpiri encyclopaedic dictionary**, 60 years in the making, also happened during their time on community, a most significant language event.

**Animal Escapades included**—an owl in the kitchen, a mouse in the bedroom, a near collision with a cow and calf as the Hunts hurtled through a deep sandy creek crossing, a snake in their front yard, and a ‘cheeky’ dog bite.



**Your PRAYERS take us together to the FRONTLINE:**

**PRAY for family, community and church leaders** dealing with so much hardship.

**PRAISE God for Mal and Chris Good** supporting the Anderson family

**PRAY for someone full or part-time to join us** down south.

**PRAY for the resolution of the underlying issues in Alice Springs and beyond.**

# **Cornerstone Connecting with Community**

## ***Opportunities to Connect***

This year Cornerstone has been focussing on different ways that we can connect as a church community, but also ways that we can connect with our wider community. Over the May Day weekend, we held our Church Camp with the topic, 'The Goodness of God' as our focus. This was a great opportunity to hear and share testimonies, spend time in prayer and build stronger connections with one another.

## ***Market Day***

More recently, we had the opportunity of holding our first CCF Market Day. This was a successful day for our community as we saw many families from the rural area pop in to check out the car boot stalls, grab a coffee from the Corner Cafe and wander through the market stalls.

## ***Praise and Prayer Points***

***Food for Life*** continues to be a central hub for many Rural and Palmerston residents. Each Tuesday we have an average of 30 regular families connecting in to purchase their groceries and connect with one another. It has been an opportunity for many of our customers to connect and build strong friendships. This is such a valuable ministry, and we continue to ask for prayer for it to be sustained and strengthened.

***Mainly Music*** is another ministry area in Cornerstone that is thriving. Over time we have seen those attending begin to support and encourage one another. It has become a safe and welcoming space for many families. Please pray for us as we are in the process of seeking more helpers to continue running this ministry next year.

***Nicole Marsh***



**Cornerstone  
Church  
Camp**



**Market Day Stalls**



**Happy Clients  
at  
Food For Life**

## *Remembering Marilyn Wilson*



**O**n the 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2022, Cornerstone Christian Fellowship lost a loved member of our congregation. Marilyn Wilson joined Cornerstone early on in it's journey and was the Public officer of the church from the registering up until she passed away.

**Marilyn was an amazingly hard working and generous woman who served the congregation and leadership of the church for over a decade and was involved on the committee for most of that time.**

She was one of the main supports during the building process and a person who quietly worked in the background despite her loud personality

**Marilyn also served cheerfully and willingly for two years as Treasurer to the BUNT Assembly Board.**

We do miss her immensely and are so grateful to God that we were able to know her and call her part of our church family.

***Neil Wright***  
***Pastor***  
***Cornerstone Christian Church***



Answers to some of your more common questions...

***We are holding a community 'Fun Day' which includes various stalls. Is this covered by our insurance?***

Stalls where money is raised solely for the church are generally covered. However, stalls where goods are sold and monies kept by the stall owners are not covered. If you are running a community event, I recommend you give me a call to discuss exactly what is proposed. For some activities, the Insurer would require specific risk management plans in place to ensure cover.

***Why doesn't our Personal Accident insurance cover medical expenses that are fully or partially covered by Medicare?***

Unfortunately, Section 126 of the Health Act prevents personal accident insurance companies from paying medical expenses which are subject to a full or partial rebate from Medicare, including the Medicare Gap. Due to this Government legislation, Insurers can only pay Non-Medicare Medical Expenses.

***Glen Thornley***  
***BIS State Insurance Manager SA & NT***  
***0412 055 832***  
***glen.thornley@baptistinsurance.com.au***



## Transition Training for Indigenous Ministry

Are you a Christian, and  
1) wanting to  
2) or already  
live and work with  
Aboriginal Australians?



T-TRIM addresses the key issues  
involved in making an effective transition to working with Remote  
Australian Aboriginal peoples.  
This is a great PD opportunity to develop your cross-cultural capacity.

### **T-TRIM**

**27 Sept -6 October**

**Living and Working with Aboriginal Australians + taster of units  
(27-29 Sept)**

**Aboriginal Languages (29 Sept + 30th Sept)**

**Health, Cultural Safety and Chaplains (2nd Oct)**

**Living in Two Worlds (3rd Sept + 4th Oct)**

**Christian Spirituality in Aboriginal Australian context (5th & 6th Oct)**

**LOCATION:Nungalinya College, Darwin**

**Register at: [bit.ly/TTRIM2023](https://bit.ly/TTRIM2023)**

**Search online: Missions Interlink T-TRIM!**

**CONTACT: Rachel Borneman**

**MI Ministry Leader**

**[nt@missionsinterlink.org.au](mailto:nt@missionsinterlink.org.au)**

**0412998594 (Please Text)**

# ***Growth and Challenges for Foodbank NT***

## **Food for Life Food Hub Project**

With the continuing cost of living pressures making it harder for average Australians to make ends meet, the Baptist Care NT Food for Life program has seen a 500% increase in patronage during the first half of 2023. This increased volume has put significant pressure on our staff and volunteers with customers even queuing prior to the doors opening each Saturday morning. To accentuate the problem even further, corporate donations are down year on year by over 20% meaning we have to do more with less. We wish to thank our amazing volunteers who provide unwavering support for allowing us to continue to provide this important service to the NT community.

## **Support for Emergency Disaster Relief in the Northern Territory**

The Northern Territory is prone to major natural disasters on a regular basis and Baptist Care NT Foodbank program is regularly called upon to provide support during these times. In March 2023, the Daly, Tiwi and Gregory districts experienced severe flooding. Amid challenging times, Baptist Care's volunteers rallied together to provide food and drinking water to those evacuated to Darwin after the initial flood and delivered over 500 hampers for evacuees returning to their homelands.

## **Continued Growth of the School Breakfast Program**

As part of our ongoing commitment to supporting the community and ensuring the well-being of children, Baptist Care Northern Territory has been actively involved in the **Foodbank School Breakfast Program**. Building upon the success of last year's trial, we are excited to announce the expansion of the School Breakfast Program in the Northern Territory. The positive response and interest from new schools wanting to join the program have been overwhelming. In the first half of the school year, we onboarded 20 new schools into the program. This expansion will continue into term 4, 2023, with the aim of having a total of 51 schools registered in the program by the end of the year. The increasing number of schools joining the program reflects the significance of our efforts in addressing childhood hunger and promoting well-being within the community.

***Matt Pettit***  
***Business Development Officer***





# Baptist Family Gathering

**Date: Friday 15th - Saturday 16th September 2023**

**Venue: Casuarina Baptist Church**

Join together with Baptists from across the Territory for a time of fellowship, prayer, food, and great speakers.

**Keynote speakers: John Robertson,**

Senior Pastor, Riverlife Baptist Church, Qld.

**and Melissa Lipsett ,**

CEO, Baptist World Aid Australia



Save  
the  
Date

More information will be sent to churches later.



*Belonging People*

Newsletter of the Baptist Union of the NT

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