

July 2014



BELONGING PEOPLE



Women came from around the Territory to attend the Baptist Women's *Together* Conference in Darwin

The New President's Message



First and foremost I would like to thank the retiring President, John Baynes, for his work and service over his term at the helm. He is a very inspiring and understated man who has poured his heart and soul into the mission of Christ to the Walpiri people. It was really encouraging that he took the time to personally visit a number of the churches in the Baptist Family of Churches over his time. Also a big thank you to Bruce Clow who completes 3 years in the Secretary position, one in which he feels very inadequate, yet has performed admirably. We have also seen the stepping down of Glenda Beljon as the Treasurer over the last year. Thanks y'all for your hard work and dedication to Christ's cause.

The BUNT Assembly was held on 14th June at Cornerstone Church's meeting place at Good Shepherd Lutheran College in Howard Springs. It would have been lovely to have been in our own building but unfortunately we still have a little way to go with that. It was my first meeting as President and it is an honour to be able to serve the body of Christ in this way. My hope is that as we grow together over the next two years we will become everything that God would have us be as a family of churches. Of course it is not all about the Baptist Union and each of the pastors or ministers in the union are fully committed to the one Church in Darwin. The churches here are very blessed with the leaders that they have and can be very grateful and thankful for them.

To conclude, praise God for what is ahead as we co-labour with Christ to establish His kingdom here on earth. May He richly bless us with His love and joy and keep us spotless till the day of His coming.

Neil Wright



TOGETHER *Territory Women's Conference*

A*cross the Territory, Across Demoninations, Across all Ages*
It may have started out as a prayer, but God turned this catchphrase into an amazing reality for this year's TOGETHER Territory Women's Conference. More than 200 women from 30 different churches and communities across the NT travelled to the venue at DoubleTree by Hilton in Darwin in May.

The theme was 'Living True Inside and Out' and our keynote speaker was Karen Wilson, executive minister at Riverview Church, WA. She spoke from her recently published book, 'The Inside Story', which details her journey of learning to live life authentically.

While this inspiring weekend gave us the opportunity to worship, pray and network with other women from all over the Territory, we were also able to raise about \$15,000 for Freetset which is a Fairtrade, not-for-profit business that offers employment to women trapped in the sex trade in rural villages in India. We also put together 35 hampers full of luxurious beauty items. They have now been delivered to the Alan Walker Cancer Clinic for women receiving treatment for cancer.

Annual Gathering of NT Baptists



The 2014 Baptist Assembly was hosted by the Cornerstone Church and held on Saturday June 14 at Good Shepherd Lutheran School, Howard Springs. Special guests this year were **Robin Carter** of Baptist World Aid and **Greg Thomas** of Baptist Financial Services who both explained their roles and how they work with churches in SA and the NT. Director of Ministries **Rev. Mike Mills** from SA, also provided valuable input. Pastor Ernie Mitchell, the new pastor at Katherine Baptist Church was welcomed at Assembly for the first time.

Norm and Karen Roberts working with the Yapa churches in Central Australia made the long trek to the Top End. This was their final Assembly before they retire after 10 years service with Global Interaction working alongside indigenous churches, mentoring, pastoring and encouraging. Assembly passed a motion acknowledging the contribution made by the Roberts and making a strong recommendation that this vital ministry to the Yapa churches be continued.

Pastor Toni Rehrman (Darwin) and **Rev. John Whitbourn** (Casuarina) both gave thought-provoking devotions as part of the Assembly.

Neil Wright chaired the Assembly and then assumed the role of BUNT President after holding the Vice-President's position. Neil succeeded John Baynes who was required to be overseas in his role as IMB missionary.

Bruce Clow stepped down as Secretary after 3 years of valuable service and **Vivian Carson** was elected Treasurer and Secretary. Four Committee positions were filled by Bob Adams, Bruce Clow, Mal Sercombe and John Whitbourn.

Changes to the Constitution were passed with the Executive Committee being renamed the 'Assembly Board' and restructuring the new Board by amending the membership to reduce the size of the Board.

The Assembly endorsed the creation of the **Lloyd and Win Kent Memorial Fund** to provide financial support for pastors and key church leaders to attend ministry and training activities to directly support their ministries. Funds will be provided by Churches and the Union to make grants of up to \$1000 per event available to applicants.

Andrea Adams

Working with SABU to Protect Our Kids

A big transition over the last few years has been the memorandum of understanding that we have entered into with the South Australian Baptist Union. This has been done to help boost resources and efficiency. Personally it has been valuable to me to have Director of Ministries, Mike Mills, encouraging not only myself but also the other church leaders here.



very professional people at Child Abuse Consultancy Education and Training (CACET). Their help came at the perfect time for us as we were struggling through the minefield that is child protection these days. With their help we have been able to set up a very stringent procedure to help protect children in the Baptist churches. It has become a requirement for all workers in the children's departments to undergo their training. ***God loves kids and we should too!***

One of the biggest benefits that we have seen with the memorandum is the help to BUNT in setting up child protection policies and training from the

***Pastor Neil Wright
President BUNT***

WORSHIPPING WAPIRRA

Ali Curung Easter

What an amazing roll-up of Yapa at Ali Curung for Easter 2014 celebrations over 18-20 April. The 5 communities of Yuendumu, Willowra, Ali Curung Lajamanu and Kalkaringi were all represented along with another 6 communities joining in the celebrations, which commenced on Good Friday evening and concluded on Easter Monday evening.

Numbers varied across the various nights and meetings on the Easter weekend, peaking at 350 people in attendance at the Saturday night sing a long! Across the four Nights, the Yapa worshipped Wapirra/God in song, prayer, and testimony from around 7pm-1am, 6 hours each night, plus 3

hrs in the Sunday morning worship service. Yes, that's 27 hrs worshipping Wapirra/God across the weekend in a public forum. Sunday morning featured 3 Baptisms and Jerry Jangala Patrick leading the Lord's Supper and playing the boomerangs. Praise the Lord for a great weekend, which was Norm and Karen's last Easter with the Yapa.



Willowra Work Team

One weekend in May, 13 Alice Springs Baptist people travelled 340km to Willowra to pour a 'slab' for the Church bus shed. The slab is 8 metres by 3.6 metres, suitable for a Coaster bus.

Cam Boland led the Team which included Builder/Concreter, Brett Major to supervise the job. The Team mixed concrete all day Saturday on a lovely 31 degree day, and then worshipped with more than 30 people on Sunday Morning. A great weekend of Work and Worship. Praise God!



Baptisms at Ali Curung:

Two ladies were baptised at Ali Curung back in late February. The ladies, along with all the church mob, arrived on Sunday morning, full of anticipation for the baptisms...to find...uh oh...there was no water in the baptistry!! No worries to the Yapa; we get the hose going, do church together, have lunch ... and return again at 4pm when the baptistry is full and ready for the baptisms. Napanangka Rosie and Napangardi Beryha were baptised by Napurrurla Marjory.



Friends pray for Norm and Karen at the June Baptist Assembly

The Encouragement of Prayer

One of our greatest learning experiences in our 10 years in the NT Outback with the Yapa, has been in 'prayer'! There isn't anything the Yapa don't take to Wapirra/God in prayer (that headache, that worry, that belly ache, that big or small thing), and there is no better moment to pray but 'now' - on the phone, in the street, among the crowds, at a sing a long, whenever and wherever. Norm and Karen' faith has been strengthened through the development of our prayer life, 'thanks to the Yapa'!

Pray for the Lord's strength and wisdom for Norm and Karen over the next couple months, as they travel long distances and welcome several visiting groups out bush.

Norm and Karen Roberts

OUTBACK OPPORTUNITIES

*The Willowra bush - lovely
after summer rains*



*Japaljarri Norm
sharing a cuppa with
Jangala Clancy*



*Ali Curung kids with Karen and
(L) at the the Mission House*



*“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down,
shaken together and running over. The measure you use, will be
measured to you” Luke 6:38*

New Pastor at Katherine Baptist

Hi from Katherine and from Ernie Mitchell, brand new pastor of Katherine Baptist Church. I have been here now for just over two months and am feeling pretty settled. It has been a good two months, with lots of happening and lots of people to get to know.



Life has been busy right from the start with a few events that helped me to meet other pastors and Christians in Katherine. The first was my **Induction service**. It was well attended by pastors from other churches in Katherine as well as the KBC congregation. The next event was the **Katherine Christian Convention**, for which I was told we would be leading the worship on the Sunday morning. I asked who would be leading and was told “you will be”. That was OK. We had some help from the Ingrams from Darwin and from some Katherine people, and it was a good morning.

Then **Steve Grace** was coming through Katherine so we didn’t want to miss that opportunity to have the gospel proclaimed in public. We hired one of the local parks with a stage, and had a Country Gospel Concert. Organising it was a first for me, but I got to know a few more pastors, and also how the local council works. It was a great night of co-operation between four of the churches in Katherine, and we thought we should do it more often.

Darwin Baptist Church invited the men from KBC to their **Blokes at the Station** camp. It was held at Ebenezer Waters, a 2500 hectare property owned by the Farrell family. There was plenty of room for motorbike riding, archery, shooting and fishing, as well as some time to help the neighbours, and time to listen to God’s Word, and think about how we follow Jesus today. There was some good feedback that the Bible input was encouraging, as was having the opportunity to get together with other blokes and talk about life.

***God Bless,
Ernie Mitchell***

'Business As Usual' at Nhulunbuy Church



Its 'business as usual' at Nhulunbuy despite the many changes happening in the Gove community since the company that employs most of the town's population is being wound down. A great annual event, the combined Churches Easter Dawn Service, was led this year by **Mal Farnsworth** of Nhulunbuy Baptist Church.

Mal and his wife, Kylie (pictured), were in Darwin recently for the NT Baptist Assembly and were a blessing to the gathering as they shared and participated.



Farewells are sadly now a common occurrence in Nhulunbuy and the church family are pictured at a fellowship farewell for one of the deacons, **Ben O'Brien**, and his family who were moving to Brisbane as a result of the shutdown.



Please continue to pray for all at Nhulunbuy in these days of change.

THE FAIR TRADE FOLK OF ALICE SPRINGS

The 'Fair Trade Folk' commenced as a ministry of the Alice Springs Baptist Church in 2008. Through a Bible study series at church a group began having a regular stall in the Todd Mall Markets. The stall aims to provide a Christian presence in the mall and the Alice Springs community, to provide ethical shopping options, engage people in discussions about poverty, injustice and God's heart for the poor. Ultimately we aim to introduce God's values and the radical message of Jesus in a culturally sensitive and relevant manner. The stall sells coffee and tea, jewellery, hand made toys, handicrafts and baskets, to name a few.

Products sold support a wide range of projects in developing countries. Group members have a personal connection with these partnering organizations in these countries and liase with them. As a group we meet every few months to discuss logistics and also to pray for the organisations we are partnering with. The stall also runs campaigns, often from TEAR and Baptist World Aid.



God has been faithful and despite being run by volunteers, being not for profit and having freezing winter mornings in which to set-up , the stall is now in it's seventh year. In this time we have given away lots of Bibles and **Essential Jesus** books. We have talked with people who are surprised that Christians care about the poor and have become a part of Alice Springs market community life.

Elise Sweeney

Kalkaringi Rejoices in Easter Baptism

This year we were unable to travel to Easter celebrations in Ali Curung as our bus was being repaired. It was good to be able to share with each other over the Easter weekend, walking to the cross on Good Friday morning, sing a longs and Sunday Services celebrating Jesus' death and resurrection.

On Sunday afternoon many gathered at Watties Creek for the Baptism of Jezebel. Her love for Ngaji/God has grown over this past year, so evident when she came up out of the water. Her face **Shone!**



We always love travelling into Katherine for Katherine Christian Convention. We get our gear together, pack up food, kids, bedding and off we go. There was an opportunity for us to pray for people on Sunday night after the message with Lajamanu church singing as we prayed. It was lovely to feel Ngaji's peace.

Jezebel and baby

On 22 - 23 May four women travelled with three other ladies from Lajamanu to Darwin for the Women's Conference. It was so encouraging to be with other women who are facing the same struggles and joys as we do. Hearing other stories of how God has changed and touched women's lives helped us not to feel so isolated.

Tuesday night is Men's night. This group is going strong with men being encouraged to walk as men and to be Ngaji followers in their families, work and communities.

Contributed by Church Leaders

Travelling with Lajamanu Church

Greetings! We would like to say how much we enjoy reading **Belonging People** and hearing what is happening in other churches in the N.T. It gives us encouragement and joy to be a part of what God is doing in our Territory. Our year has started as always with much travelling:

Easter at Ali Curung. Two buses from Lajamanu travelled to Ali Curung to share in the celebrations with our other Yapa brothers and sisters.



Leading the singing at Katherine Christian Convention

Katherine Christian Convention was a wonderful time of worship, meeting old friends, camping and hearing God's word spoken. Lajamanu and Kalkaringi church joined together to lead Saturday night pre-service worship. It really was a time of unity and joy as we stood side by side worshipping Ngaji/Wapirra/God as one family. Pastor Jerry Patrick (left) and Bill Morrison presented together the teaching on the theme 'Holy Spirit and Us'.



NT Women's Conference Lynette, Robyn and Annette attended along with four women from Kalkaringi. We have come back having had a great time listening, learning and sharing with other women over the weekend,

Contributed by Church Leaders

CORNERSTONE CHURCH - A CARING COMMUNITY

Last year a small group from Cornerstone Church visited the Mitsidi Church and JLife ministries in Malawi, S.E. Africa. As a result of the visit there has been an outpouring of practical help and generous gifts from the Cornerstone Church in Howard Springs.

Jodie Harvey who heads the Kids Church writes,
“Cornerstone Kids Church is amazing! At the end of last year we heard about a trip to Malawi that a few of our members had made. The kids were excited and interested to see how other people lived and loved God too. We decided to collect money to send to the kids church in Malawi. We raised \$120 for the kids in Malawi at Mitsidi Church. We were shocked and amazed to know that they had 180 kids in their Kids Church. We loved being able to help them.”



Malawi kids show the gifts sent by Cornerstone kids

Ian and Kym Fleming who travelled to Malawi last year were so impacted by the plight of children orphaned by HIV aids living in poverty that they have established Project 1:27 (see James 1:27) to help local families foster children so cultural and community ties are not lost and to protect these children from human trafficking. Ian has returned to Malawi many times to continue Project 1:27. Check out his web site **www.project127malawi.org**



Cornerstone kids have fun

Viv Britza will be in Malawi for around 3 weeks later this year working on

- The women's sewing ministry
- Helping 9 young couples from Mitzidi Church with start-up costs to commence a small business to get out of poverty.

This is where her missionary parents, Rev Bill and Beryl Britza served.

Cornerstone's New Church Site

After worshipping in school buildings for a number of years, Cornerstone Church is excited to have their own block of land.

The block, on Whitewood Road, Howard Springs is where their Church will be built. Praise God for His provision and for the faithful and patient people at Cornerstone!



Volunteering in Jesus' Name

Early Monday and Thursday mornings, several volunteers meet at the Foodbank NT warehouse to pick up the truck and collect groceries donated by supermarkets all over Darwin. On Tuesday and Friday mornings these same volunteers collect bread instead of groceries.

On Tuesday afternoons a bigger group of volunteers meet at the warehouse to sort and organise the collected items, ready for not-for-profit and charity organisations to purchase. On Thursday mornings yet another group of volunteers meet at Casuarina Baptist Church to serve and love the people coming to shop at Food for Life. The list of jobs carried out by our volunteers could go on and on, but the more important point is that each and every one of these jobs has a significant impact in our community.

Last year Foodbank NT distributed enough food to make up 191,475 meals for those less fortunate. In the past two years Food For Life at Casuarina Church has served more than 60 clients, all of whom are living on government benefits.

None of this would have been possible without the help of volunteers. While we thank God for our volunteers each and every day, we actively celebrated their contribution during National Volunteer Week with a BBQ and awards night. It was a wonderful time to stop, chat and enjoy one another's company.

We are so grateful for these wonderful people!

For more information about volunteering at Foodbank or Food For Life, please contact Baptist Care NT on 8947 3669.





Foodbank and Food for Life

Five Baptist Care volunteers were recognised for their commitment and service at the 'NT Volunteer of the Year Award' night held recently at Parliament House in Darwin. The ceremony was attended by more than 200 people, including Chief Minister, Adam Giles.

John Stokes and Annette Kent (left) were nominated for an Achievement in Excellence award. Pauline Ong (centre) was nominated for a Long Service medal. Warren Douglas and Nathan Wade (right) were nominated for Certificates of Appreciation.



COMMUNITY CONNECT AT CASUARINA

As a church there is a high priority on looking at ways in reaching our community for Christ and as we reflect on some of the words of Jesus from Matthew 25:35..."For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in," caring for the needs of others is a clear imperative from Scripture, especially those apart from our church community!

So a group of people under the leadership of Suzie Conden decided to start a ministry aptly called "Community Connect". We have been pleased to be able to serve people in different ways in our community. This has included helping people move home (small units), cleaning a property, preparing it for sale for a sole parent after a marriage breakdown, several garden clean ups and meals provided to others. In one case meals were provided for a mum whose husband was serving overseas and she had a newborn and a toddler. The instruction to us in that case was "something that I can eat with one hand".

"Community Connect" is not offering an ongoing garden maintenance program or regular cleaning. We offer a "one off" help to those who find themselves in a difficult position, and try to show them the love of Jesus through what we do.

Pastor Paul Avery



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ESL @ DBC



English as a Second Language (ESL) classes have been running at **Darwin Baptist Church** for over a year now and have proved a great way to demonstrate God's love and endeavor to meet a real need in the community. Refugees in Darwin on bridging visas do not receive English classes and the lack of language ability makes it even more difficult for them to fit into our communities.

Although we don't have many students, some have become regular attenders and have found friendship and support through the group. The ESL classes are ably led by John Wilkins with the support of numerous volunteers.

We are so thankful that as a result of our ESL classes some students have found faith in Jesus, while others have commenced attending church. Please pray for refugees in our communities and detention centres because they are in very vulnerable situations and are desperate for the hope of the gospel and the love of the church.

Warren Douglas
Assoc. Pastor

Win Kent Partner, Pilgrim and Friend

In February this year, Win Kent passed into the presence of her Lord and Saviour. Win was a pioneer in Baptist work in the NT. Rev. John Whitbourn gave a eulogy at her memorial service and part of that we share with our readers, many of whom knew and loved Win.



Win's involvement in ministry and Christian service goes back a long way – to the 1940's, when Win as a young lady was undergoing comprehensive training in domestic science, office work, missionary theory, and Bible study. Then in 1947 Win travelled to East Pakistan where she spent four years, first learning the Bengali language, then teaching in Christian Endeavour groups, teaching sewing in Hindu and Muslim villages, and finally running a girl's school and hostel. That's an impressive start!

Before going overseas Win had met Lloyd, and whilst she was on the field they became engaged by letter – ah! the romance! She continued a further 2 years there and returned to Australia in 1951. Instead of returning to East Pakistan, as was planned, Lloyd and Win entered the Baptist ministry, and found themselves serving churches across Melbourne's western suburbs for 12 years, and later across the Top End of the NT.

After her marriage, Win became what she remained for those 60 years of marriage - a partner in ministry. As the Bible says, Win was Lloyd's ***helpmeet*** – an old English word perhaps, but summing up the meaning very well. A partner in marriage, two people with differing roles, but working together towards the same goals. They were in everything together, whether it be establishing a new church or travelling to a remote community for some meetings or growing orchids.

1964 saw the move to Darwin. Lloyd and Win, with their two young sons, Peter and Andrew, made the long trip up through the Centre to take up residence in Darwin. For what reason? Simply to obey the call of God to begin a new ministry in the Top End.

As a result of their early efforts, a church was established, and it remains today, Darwin Baptist Church. Over the years, other churches were established, Casuarina, Palmerston, Katherine..... I'm not sure how many churches Win was a foundation member of, but there are a few! Other ministries begun also: the Baptist Union of the NT, North Australian Baptist Homes Trust, Katherine Christian Convention, to mention just a few. Win never stayed behind when Lloyd travelled to a remote community for meetings. She would always be there. I remember the four of us travelling in one car out to Kalkaringi in about 1983, chatting about all manner of things.

Win was passionate about the Lord's work, and it's true to say that she was involved throughout her life in seeing God's Kingdom advance. She went about her service humbly, not seeking public acknowledgement, and always with quiet dignity. Over the years, Win has endeared herself to a huge number of people, fellow mothers and wives, members of the congregation, her many indigenous friends, refugees from Indonesia, Africa, Burma or Iran. I've seen how people respond to her, and we have all experienced and appreciated her smile and her gentle ways.

We say with gratitude that Win has been a godly and genuine friend to us, an elder sister, a mother, a fellow pilgrim, someone who seemed to understand whatever it was you were going through. So we thank God for every remembrance of her. She's now with the Father, experiencing joy unspeakable and full of glory. She has run the race, finished the course, the various ministries that God has put before her, and she has heard her Lord say "***Well done, good and faithful servant.***"



*The Kent family in 1964
on their way to Darwin*

John Whitbourn



Ken and Giselle with daughters, Kate and Sarah

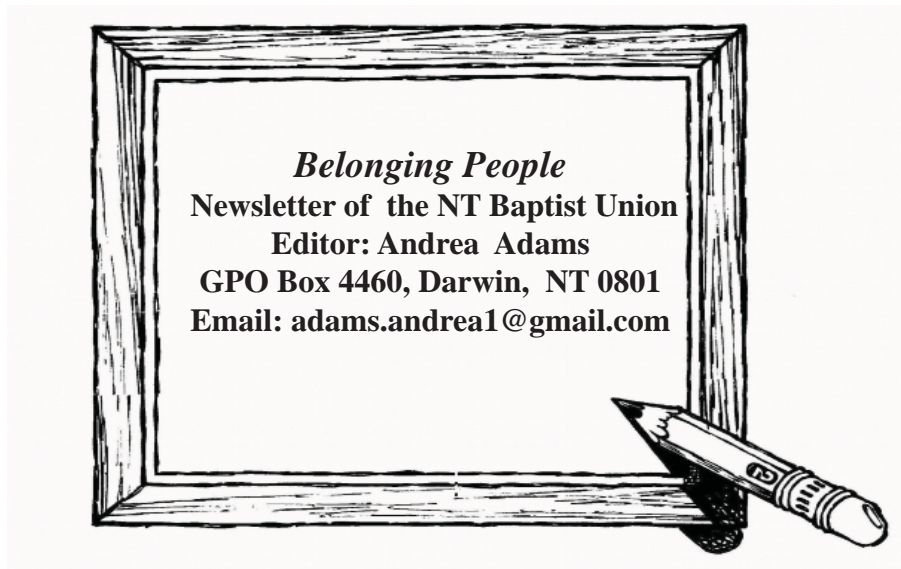
on mission

Ken and Giselle Herweynen, missionaries to Poland, were recently in Darwin to visit their children, four of whom have been living in Darwin. They also attended their son Stephen's wedding to Tylea which was celebrated in Bali.

Nearly thirty years ago Ken and Giselle, then a young married couple with a three-month old son, were sent out by **Casuarina Baptist Church** to Bible School in the USA. After their training they were assigned to West Germany. This became the beginnings of a journey to Poland and the establishment of Elim Christian Center, in the hills of south-west Poland.

'Dying Buildings, Living Stones - God at work in Elim Christian Center, Poland', by Shirley Jeans and Mary Campbell, records the Herweynen's adventures for the Lord, starting out in an old bus and travelling between campsites in Poland, to the present time, where Elim Christian Center has been established in a once derelict, now beautifully renovated castle. A thriving Baptist church now exists with many believers who came to the Lord out of difficult circumstances, childhood neglect and family alcoholism. The Baptist Church is now run by Polish nationals with a second Pastor who was the first child convert, recently appointed. It has been an amazing and miracle-filled journey!

Learn more at <http://elimcenter.pl/>

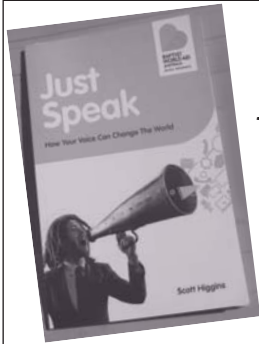


.....also on mission

John and Carmen Baynes, as part of their International Mission Board (USA) commitment, have been in USA and now in the Philippines visiting family, attending training workshops and working alongside colleagues. Pictured here in Bicol, Philippines at a Training the Trainers workshop, their prayer is that each person who attended the workshop will be burdened to share the love and forgiveness of Jesus to people who need the Lord.

John and Carmen return to their work with the Warlpiri people in August.





***JUST SPEAK.....
How Your Voice Can Change the World
by Scott Higgins***

This recently released book by Baptist World Aid Australia is a timely call to all Believers to be vocal about addressing the injustices that surround us us at home and overseas.

Scott Higgins, shows how we can be effective in “doing justice” by using our voice for those who have no voice. The book includes a preaching and small group study guide but is also most valuable for personal use. Videos to support the Bible Studies can be downloaded free at www.baptistworldaid.org.au

Get your copy from Baptist World Aid Freecall 1300789991 or email hello@baptistworldaid.org.au Cost: \$11.95



Women from around the Territory pray for each other at the recent 'Together' Conference.