

June 2013

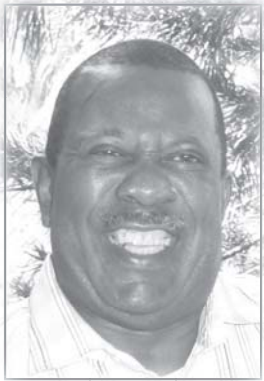


**BELONGING
PEOPLE**



Baptist Women's 'Together' Conference Committee

President's Message



I have been privileged to have this opportunity to serve you for two years as President of the Baptist Family of Churches in the NT. My wife, Carmen, and I gratefully appreciate all your encouragement, and the opportunity to partner with you and pray for the salvation of many people. In my time as President I have learned much from the Executive Board and this has helped me understand more about the BFCNT in general. Thank you for all your support in prayers.

It has been an exciting two years hearing how each church has moved in ways that are culturally appropriate for them, to spread the Good News of salvation wherever we are, wherever we go and whatever we do. I PRAY that the Lord would continue to open doors for our churches and that He will continue His work in building up a strong sense of fellowship between members .

My challenge to all the BFCNT Churches is in God's Word, "*I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone, for kings and for those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Saviour, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth*". (1 Timothy 2:1-4 NIV) I know God is using people here in the NT who are obedient to His call to take His message of hope to those who are without hope.

Again, I PRAY to God that each of you will be filled with His power, wisdom, strength, joy and hope as we serve Him faithfully each day of our lives.

Because He Lives,
John H. Baynes

Photo, Front Cover: Committee of the Territory Women's Conference
L-R Standing: Claire Cowen , Pauline Morrison, Sue Clow, Kym Fleming, Toni Rehrmann, Amanda Dunn, Dot Meakins. L -R Kneeling: Caron Leith, Dee Avery

RISE UP!

Together
TERRITORY WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

Saturday 1 June saw the birth of an exciting event that has been in the planning for two years by the committee of the NT Baptist Women's Ministry under the leadership of **Pastor Toni Rehrmann**. Their vision is for women around the Territory to be empowered and built up through inspired worship and Bible based teaching and also to become more involved in advocacy and justice for other women.

Over 160 women came from all over the Northern Territory to participate in the inaugural Territory Women's Conference, **TOGETHER, Rise Up**, held at Darwin Baptist Church. And they were not disappointed! This exciting event proved to be all that was promised, bringing inspiration and blessing to many.

Sue Peters of Queensland, the National Director of Australian Baptist Women, was the key speaker. Her passion to see women embrace the freedom, healing and grace that is found in God was reflected in her message - along with a good dose of humour!

Davina Avery of Casuarina Baptist, gave a moving presentation about her challenging walk with Dissociative Identity Disorder, depression and anxiety resulting from severe childhood abuse. Her passionate love of the Lord and complete surrender to Him shows the miracle of God's healing touch.

Those present were touched and challenged by the Freeset story, a Fairtrade, non-for-profit business in Kolkota, India, that works to bring women out of the sex trade - freeing them to a life of dignity and hope. Freeset also works in rural India to prevent trafficking of young girls into prostitution. Conference women responded from their hearts by sponsoring children through Baptist World Aid and through donating to Freeset with \$4,000 raised at the Conference.



Reconciliation at Cross Roads



One of the most significant events in the life of Cross Roads took place on the last weekend in February with the repentance, forgiveness, healing and reconciliation between the Church and previous Pastors, Paul and Anne Downie.

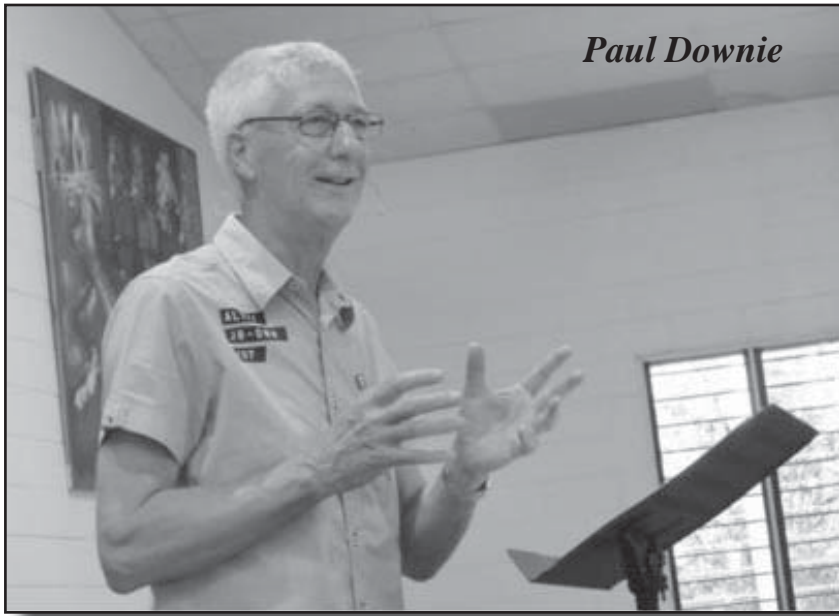
A little over ten years ago, Paul and Anne pastored what was then Palmerston Baptist Church for around 9 months. Early this year it was brought to Bruce's attention that, all those years ago and in the midst of difficulty, two warnings received from the Lord went unheeded. Others chose a course of action which, sadly, placed Paul and Anne in a difficult situation, with very little option but to resign.

It was immediately obvious that "something" needed to be done. Following discussion with the Elders, Bruce rang Paul to ask if both he and Anne would travel to Palmerston and join in a time of reconciliation - with all expenses paid by Cross Roads. Paul's immediate response was: "...(we) were just talking about that last week and wondering how it could be healed".

Paul and Anne arrived in Darwin on Friday 22 February. A series of meetings and discussions took place on Friday and throughout much of Saturday.

In the Sunday morning service, following the worship, with the Elders and their wives at the front, Bruce apologised to Paul and Anne on behalf of the church and "...those who have gone before...", asking for forgiveness and saying "Sorry". There was also repentance and asking God for forgiveness. Paul and Anne both gave their forgiveness and then apologised to the church, asking forgiveness for not staying.

As part of the “ceremony” and in response to one of the warnings from Revelation 2, a candle was lit as a prophetic symbol of the “lampstand being restored”. Paul and Anne served communion to Bruce and Sue, who then served the Elders. At that point everyone else was invited to come forward to share communion – amidst hugs and tears. Following communion, Paul went on to preach and lead the rest of the service.



The observation was later made: “That service was the most challenging, moving, and powerful time of reconciliation and healing that I have ever seen.” Since then, there has been quite a change in the ‘atmosphere’ at Cross Roads with a real sense of “...the end of one chapter and the beginning of a new...”

To Paul and Anne who were prepared to make the time available, to travel to Palmerston and who were so willing to come face-to-face with, and work through, some incredibly painful and difficult memories and experiences, we say, *“Your courage and commitment are examples to us all. Thankyou.”*

Pastor Bruce Clow

Kalkaringi: A Story of Buses and Overcoming

Easter was once again a memorable time for the church folk at Kalkaringi after being unable to attend Easter in Katherine due to the bus being too small. Celebrations began on Friday morning, walking up the hill to the cross where singing, Bible reading and prayer were all participated in with joy and reverence.

On Saturday afternoon the work team from Berwick Vineyard in Melbourne arrived and began their cultural experience with a night sing-along at the church surrounded by children, dogs and intermittent rain. Over the weekend the team spent time with the children, playing games, doing craft, writing songs and then performing them,



*Children
writing and
singing new
songs with
Teresa and
team*

Judith took the visiting ladies out to look for bush medicine which was a great highlight. The Sunday morning communion (tea and damper) was very moving for all at church. We all went down to Watties Creek to share with those being baptised.

Katherine Christian Convention: The large bus organised for KCC was unavailable so the leaders decided to make two trips into Katherine with the smaller church bus. This was well organised and appreciated by all of the church folk.

Many women are going up to the cross on the hill during the week to pray for the community. It is such a peaceful and quiet place to spend time together and with Ngaji. Men and women's Bible studies are very well attended with great hunger for more about Ngaji and how to live for Him.

Lajamanu Christians Get Creative

Early morning devotions on Monday, Wednesday and Friday have been inspirational for us all. These mornings at 6 am we meet at a different home with a different person leading the devotion. It has been so encouraging to start the day with our brothers and sisters in Christ reading the Bible together, listening and praying.

What a wet Easter!! We attended Easter in Katherine hosted by Katherine Warlpiri Church. We appreciated camping at Morrow's farm. Friday church service, sing-alongs and sharing times were encouraging to all who attended.



The Vineyard Team came to Lajamanu and spent four days with the church and some of the folk they had previously met in Melbourne. Creating a large painting (above) was a highlight for the team spending most of Saturday paintbrush in hand. Fabulous painting! Friday night was spent camping out bush, fire, swags and yes and much to our alarm a snake hanging around, but all ok!

Katherine Christian Convention: The men of the church practised a play called "Lazarus" for a few weeks before the convention. It was great fun and laughter as they created and acted and it was really well received at the convention! The women moved many hearts when they danced the Repentance Purlapa. This is a dance that was created out bush last year.

Easter at Ali Curung



*Prayer Circle
during Easter*

Just prior to Easter, the folk from Yuendumu, Ali Curung and Willowra decided to hold their Easter celebrations in Ali Curung instead of travelling the long distance to Katherine. 150 people in all from the 3 Churches gathered over the weekend for 3 Easter night Sing-alongs from 6pm to 1am (7hrs each in length!) with continual singing and sharing stories, while 80 people gathered for Sunday Morning Worship. Despite this last minute change of venue the Yapa gathered together in strength of numbers and heart for great Easter meetings all round. Praise the Lord!

70 Boxes of Op Shop Clothes



On 20 February, Norm and Karen arrived back in Alice after time out bush, to be met by daughter and father team, Robyn and Morris and Andrew, from Donald, Victoria, who had travelled to Alice Springs with 70 Boxes of op shop clothes - estimated at 1.5 tonnes of stock. The community of Donald, facilitated by Alison McEwan, had organised this lovely gift of op shop clothes to come our way. Praise God!

STOP PRESS!

Yuendumu Families Making Peace

Norm and Karen Roberts share of peace meetings between rival families at Yuendumu that occurred on 7 April. The families met 'without any Kardiya (white fellas) present' and in their own way sorted out their differences. When Norm and Karen visited recently they rejoiced to find a peaceful community. "Everyone is very happily moving around and engaging with each other." Pray that Wapirra (God) will be with these families maintaining peace through forgiveness. Praise Him for the steps already taken in the peace process.



Detail of Nampijinpa Jeanies's Painting of the 'Lost Son/Loving Father'

Yapa Paintings fund 2014 Sydney Trip

Seven of ten advertised Yapa Paintings depicting New Testament stories have sold over the first 3 months of 2013. There are currently two paintings for sale and another on the way to complete the Fundraising of \$4000 for four Yapa Ladies to visit Sydney/ACT for a Baptist Ladies meeting in November, 2014. If you would like one of the 3 remaining Christian paintings by the ladies at Yuendumu/Willowra, please contact Norm by phone or email. Each painting costs \$400 in addition to \$60 Postage, and is framed ready to hang on your wall at size of 91cm by 62cm.

Katherine Baptist at the Markets



Katherine Baptist Church held a stall at the local market on 27 April to raise funds for the Birthing Kit Foundation (Australia) which is an organisation dedicated to improving the conditions for women who give birth at home in developing countries. They state that “every 90 seconds, a woman dies of complications related to pregnancy and childbirth. With an estimated 385,000 women dying annually in childbirth, many from

infections acquired during childbirth, there is a great need for our clean birthing kits”.

At the Katherine markets our ladies sold lots of produce, including gift cards, jewelry, fridge magnets, knitted toys, pot plants, cakes and slices, all handmade/cooked by the women in the church. We raised a fantastic \$440 on the day, bringing our total fundraising efforts to over the \$1200 we needed to make up 400 birthing kits.

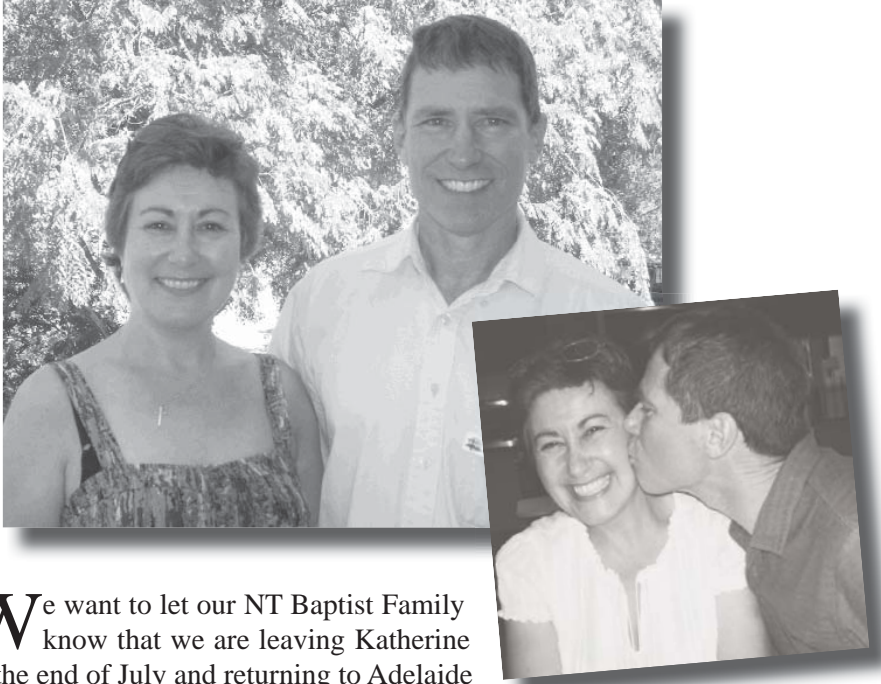
We are looking forward to our Assembly Day on Saturday 25 May (which would have already happened by the time you get this news!) when we will put together 400 kits to be sent overseas to wherever there is the greatest need. Each kit contains: a plastic sheet, gloves, soap, blade, string and gauze. We have also been given a generous donation of \$450 from the midwives at the Katherine Hospital, to be passed on to the Foundation .

Overall, we have had lots of fun working together to raise these funds and are thrilled to be able to help this worthwhile cause.



Caron Leith

Farewell to Peter and Caron Leith



We want to let our NT Baptist Family know that we are leaving Katherine at the end of July and returning to Adelaide after taking long service leave through August and September.

We have enjoyed our time in Katherine and have made some lovely friends whilst here. We will miss the church in particular and those of you outside of Katherine whom we have got to know a little over the three years we have been here. It wasn't an easy decision to make but we feel that it is important right now that we be near family. At this stage, we do not have another church to pastor but would appreciate you joining us in prayer as we seek God's calling and guidance at this time.

Thank you to everyone who has been a part of our life and time here in the Northern Territory. You have all contributed to making our time here most blessed and enjoyable. We will miss you.

Love and blessings
Peter and Caron Leith

Baptist Bush Church

National Youth Week



This April our Church hosted a live music gig for National Youth Week. Eleven local youth bands attended and the church ran festival activities and a barbecue. The event theme was 'Jesus Loves You', with intervals between the bands performances for a scripture reading. The event was well attended by the community and a great time of witnessing about Jesus' love. Youth who normally would not attend a church had a great time and were very respectful and appreciative of the church, so much so, there is another

Thanks to Baptist Care FoodBank who has been supplying old bread and vegies to feed animals in the rural area. As Peter Fisher says 'it's all about recycling food'. People in the rural area with pigs, chickens, horses and cows have really appreciated it, as it saves them money buying food for their livestock and in many cases the animals are very precious to them.

Please pray for Joyce Gullick and the family with the passing of Clem, who has now gone home to his father in Glory. Clem preached every month at the Bush Church and will be missed. His final message was an encouragement to continue to serve the Lord Jesus, share the Good News and spread God's love in Christ Jesus.

The BBC hosted a morning tea for friends from the Stolen Generation wellbeing group. It was a great blessing to listen to the elderly people sharing their stories.

Pastor Sharon Crook



Members of the Stolen Generation enjoy Morning Tea

Small Groups Grow at Cornerstone



It has been a great start to the year with a campaign in our small groups titled, 'What on Earth Am I Here For?' It allowed for connections with each other to be deepened. Also non-churched people were invited to attend and a number came along which was fantastic. From this, we now have some small groups who are continuing to meet regularly. Some great testimonies have come out of the course - people are understanding that their passion can be used for ministry and that it is not about only 'ministers' ministering.

Good News! We have been granted the lease for the land at Howard Springs so we can begin to plan and build.

Pastor Neil Wright

Knuckey Lagoon Outreach

Knuckey Lagoon is located on the outskirts of Darwin. John and Carmen Baynes are working at the invitation of the people here to establish a church.

Recently, after many months of praying and attending Bible Studies and Church, Joyce Hargraves followed the Lord in baptism at Lake Alexander right after our morning worship service at Knuckey Lagoon Aboriginal community.



Sunday School and Church Services

The morning and evening Sunday Services are well attended and Sunday School is going well too. Children are hearing Bible stories, learning action songs, doing Bible puzzles and playing games, and sports. We pray that the children will share what they are learning with their families.

PRAY for Joyce Hargraves in her Christian walk and as she witnesses to to her family and friends.

PRAY for a house to become available at Knuckey Lagoon for Church services and Sunday School.

PRAY that the Holy Spirit would raise up men and women in this community to lead and minister in the church.

Katherine Warlpiri Baptist Church

EASTER CELEBRATION

Katherine Warlpiri Baptist Church hosted this year's Easter Celebration with over 150 people attending, including some African visitors from Melbourne. The churches at Lajamanu, Bagot, Ali Curung, and Knuckey Lagoon joined us to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. It was a wonderful weekend of teaching, prayer, praise and fellowship, even though we had rain for a few days .

On Sunday the local community in the Warlpiri camp were all invited to a barbecue after which Pastor Jerry (Jangala) Patrick shared the Word of God. We were blessed by the Purlapa dance from the Lajamanu church ladies and singing by the Warlpiri Baptist Church children. This was followed by a Sing-Along which finished at midnight!



KATHERINE CHRISTIAN CONVENTION

Over 500 people came together to celebrate the 46th year of the Katherine Christian Convention held at Morrow's Farm on 4-6 May. Many Churches and communities participated. Pastor David Woodbridge was Guest Speaker; his theme was ***Life-changing Words - Stories from Jesus***. The Children's Ministry was led by Glen Simpkin of Scripture Union.

Among the many items shared by the various churches was a skit put on by Herbert Mosquito, Adrian Cook and John Baynes from the Warlpiri Baptist Church.

Outback Team Get Together

Over March 8-10 the Global Interaction Outback Team Annual Meetings were held in Alice Springs. Karen Newnham (Global Interaction Director of Member Care) chaired the meetings held at Alice Springs Baptist Church. Bill and Pauline Morrison, (Lajamanu/ Kalkaringi,) Sue and Doug Heckathorn (Alice Springs) John Wilmot (Newman WA) and Norm and Karen Roberts (Yuendumu/Willowra/Ali Curung) joined together. Outback Team business was dealt with and there was good fellowship between team colleagues who live up to 2000km apart in their different workplaces. Following further episodes of ill health, Norm Roberts has resigned as the Outback Team Leader and Chairperson. Norm and Karen's single focus is now with the Yapa at Yuendumu, Willowra and Ali Curung.



The Outback Team:

***Back L-R: Norm & Karen Roberts, Sue & Doug Heckathorn,
Front L-R: Bill & Pauline Morrison, John Wilmot***

Pigeon Hole Community Outreach

Pigeon Hole is located in the bush about 300 km south-west of Katherine. We praise God for the faithfulness of local leaders Elmo Anzac, his wife Marjorie King and their daughter Cristisha Anzac, as they train and are mentored. They are learning to work as a team serving the Lord with perseverance along with ladies like Mildred and Barbara Hector supporting them.



*Elmo and
Marjorie,
Church
Leaders at
Pigeon
Hole*

PRAYER REQUESTS:

PRAY for a permanent place of worship at Pigeon Hole Community. At the moment they are using the school for worship and Sunday School.

PRAY for the leadership, and growth of the small group of believers.

Ask God that Pigeon Hole Community would respond to the gospel and that many more will come to know Christ.

PRAY that the Lord will raise up Godly leaders who will be bold risk-takers in sharing Jesus Christ.



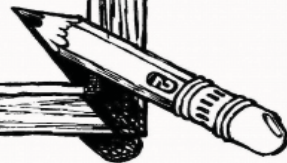
Baptists Welcome Royal Commission on Child Abuse

Australian Baptist Ministries has welcomed the announcement by Prime Minister Julia Gillard of a Royal Commission into child abuse and institutional response. "Abuse of any kind is incompatible with Christian mission and Christian community. Where abuse is alleged to have occurred, information should be treated seriously and addressed through established protocols," ABM National Ministries Director, the Rev. Keith Jobberns, said. "We intend to participate fully with the Royal Commission to uncover the truth and develop a stronger culture of transparency and accountability for all.

Australian Baptist Ministries has in place a national response to known offenders, and Baptist associations in each State have established protocols to deal with allegations of child abuse," Rev. Jobberns said. "The wellbeing of children must always be a first priority for families, churches and other institutions. We pray for those who have been hurt and betrayed by those entrusted to their care, and commit ourselves to work to ensure a safer and more just society for all," he said.

Belonging People

**Newsletter of the NT Baptist Union
Editor: Andrea Adams
GPO Box 4460, Darwin, NT 0801
Email: adams.andrea1@gmail.com**



Weekend of Narnia at Darwin Baptist



Easter has always been a wonderful time of remembrance and celebration at Darwin Baptist Church. But this year was extra special as we rejoiced C.S.Lewis-style! Using the novel, **The Lion, the Witch and The Wardrobe**, we explored the parallels between Aslan and Jesus Christ, specifically the choice both made to sacrifice themselves so that others could be saved.

On the evening of Good Friday, the church was transformed into a winter wonderland. Visitors had to push aside jackets and coats in order to walk through a wardrobe and enter 'Narnia'. Met by the lamp post where Lucy first met Mr Tumnus, they then had to negotiate their way around snow-covered pine trees to find a seat to watch The Lion, The Witch and The

Wardrobe movie. While the temperature of the room was freezing (thanks to some hard-working air-conditioners), no one was grumbling, with Turkish Delight and popcorn being handed around.

On Saturday we had a 'games and adventure' afternoon at the Jingili Water Gardens, which concluded with a picnic tea around a stone table. The table was then broken on Sunday morning during our Family Service. It was, without doubt, a weekend to remember.

Kate Woods



Conversation with John

Our BUNT President, Rev. John Baynes, came to the Territory 11 years ago with his wife, Carmen, to work with the Warlpiri people in Katherine. Since then they have also nurtured the small communities at Pigeon Hole and Knuckeyes Lagoon and seen many baptised and become followers of Jesus. They have also witnessed the emergence of Church Leaders in each place.

John, where did you grow up and what was it like?

In a little old place in Florida, USA called DeSoto County. We lived way back in the woods and gathered all our food straight from the earth. We caught brim on fish hooks made from safety pins. I didn't wear shoes till I went to High School. We spoke Creole; I couldn't even talk proper English till I went through High School. My Father was Jamaican and my Mother African-American but it was my Grandma (we called her 'Grandmapa') who brought up me and my brother Joey. All my boyhood I was called Larry Barry. It wasn't till I joined the Marines that I found out my real name was John Baynes!

What led you to a career in the Marines?

In my last year of High School all branches of the Defence Force conducted tests for interested students. To my surprise I passed the test and chose the Marines because I liked the uniform! After Boot Camp in 1968 I went to Okinawa, Japan then to Vietnam for 18 months during that war. I was stationed in various places in USA, Japan and North Korea. In 1990 I was in the first Gulf War in Iraq then I retired after 22 years. I really came to know Christ when I was in Okinawa.

Who was the most influential person in your life?

A lady at my home church called Doris Robinson, also an African American, was the person who most influenced my life. She became my mentor but more than that, she was the Mum I never had. I called her 'Mum'. Mum Doris encouraged me, chastised me, loved me, prayed for me and pushed me. She taught me what it means to follow Jesus. That's when I decided to go to Golden Gates Theological Seminary (Bible College) for 4 years. She encouraged and helped me through my Bible training. She was there all the way for me right up till last year when she went to be with Jesus. She even visited us twice in the Northern Territory.



John, have you ever experienced racism or prejudice?

All the time when I was growing up. I didn't have friends mostly because I was poor, raggedy and black; people treated me badly. Many times I had to run and hide from white fellas on horses who were out to kill and hang. But something inside me stopped me from getting angry. I was determined that bad people would not make me angry. Even now it doesn't matter what hurtful things people say or if they get upset I won't retaliate. I believe God used those experiences to make me strong and so I would treat all people the same. God loves everyone equally whatever race or colour.

What has God been teaching you since you came to the Northern Territory?

To Listen! Listen to God and listen to the people who I am called to serve. I try to do what God tells me to and not what man says. At the same time I need to respect and hear the voice of my colleagues and the people I work with. I have learn a lot from my Christian colleagues here.

What is your favourite Bible verse?

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” (Phil: 4:13)

Without Him I could not do anything.

CASUARINA BAPTIST CHURCH

Resolving Every Day Conflict

We are in the midst of an 8 week series where the message each Sunday introduces the topic that will be discussed in connect groups that week. We are also taught during this series how conflict can be a very healthy thing and provide an opportunity for growth as a person and as a Christian.

So what is it about? Well it is about dealing with conflict in our lives which could be at home, at work, in the church; it could be something big, but often it is the small things that get in the way of healthy relationships. The Sunday messages are clear and to the point and the Connect groups use a DVD where the study is presented with questions for discussion at the end. I know in the group that I attend that there has been a lot gained through what we are learning together.

In a nutshell how does this work? I suppose the easiest way is to say that it is all Biblically based. The series draws out how Jesus dealt with conflict, both personally and how he taught through parables or in the way he answered people's questions.

I know from speaking with Pastor Mal Sercombe that this series made a big difference to people's lives at Darwin Baptist when they did it and I can see how it can make a difference for the people here at Casuarina Baptist as they start to apply the skills taught in this series.

I highly commend this series and encourage others to use this in their church setting.

Grace, Peace and Blessings,
Pastor Paul Avery





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The Lord wants His people to be healed and free in order to minister more effectively to others!

FREED TO LIVE DAY

It is God's desire to release those trapped by addictions, bring forth those oppressed by circumstances, and bring healing

At the Freed to Live Day you will learn how to receive God's plan for healing – the victory that Jesus won for YOU on the cross.

The Freed to Live Day will include times of praise and worship, teaching, and reflection.

There will be time for short Ministry Sessions over the weekend.

For more information call

Dee Avery: 0408 024 449
or email - deeavery@live.com.au

Venue: Multicultural Christian Fellowship -
2 Earhart Crt, Marrara

8.30am - 5pm
Saturday 27th July, 2013

Cost: Single \$20
Couple \$30, Concession \$15



NY BAPTIST WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

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