

March 2015



**BELONGING
PEOPLE**



Jerry Jangala Patrick

The President's Message



I hope everyone had a great Christmas. This year has been flying past already and it is sometimes hard to work out where to focus our time. What is important to you? What is important to God? And how do you actually give time to do what He wants? One thing we really need to do is work out what is our business and what is 'nunya' or none of our business!

It is so easy to get distracted by our business and think that activity equals fruitfulness. At the same time it is also easy to fall into the trap of doing nothing and just resting. In truth, we do need both rest and activity for lasting fruit to form in our lives. We are members of a body and God is actually calling us each to do our part. Think about that.... not your part plus someone else's, and not sitting there and doing nothing.

One reason why people burn out is because they take on too much and the fruit becomes poorly formed. This is sometimes because there are others who refuse to take part in building the kingdom. In John 15 we read the great promise that, if we are active, God will prune us and we will produce more fruit. The scary thought is that the branches that produce nothing will be cut off and thrown into the fire.

Take some time to pray and let God guide you into what He wants for you this year. We all need each other.

Blessings,

Neil Wright

Front Cover:

Pastor Jerry Jangala Patrick celebrated 80 years on 1st January.
Read more on pages 12-13.

CHURCH ON A CATTLE STATION



Willowra Baptist Church is located on Willowra cattle station, three hours north west of Alice Springs. On land belonging to the Warlpiri people, in a thriving community that operates a cattle business, the church people form the local expression of the Body of Christ. The church building has a unique front wall, symbolizing God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Church leader Elwyn Jurrah says: “We want our church mob to be really good people, one family belonging to Wapirra God, worshipping him and being holy.” With the disruptions caused by family infighting in 2014 now past, the church is free to continue its program, witnessing to the community about the love of Jesus.



Elwyn is ably assisted by a group of leaders, and they find their building (completed in 2008) a great help, especially in hot, wet or windy weather. He asks that we pray for the church group, that they will stay strong and develop in their Christian life, and for him as he leads the church. He is hopeful that GIA will be able to find a new missionary couple to provide support and input.

Rev. John Whitbourn

Warlpiri Christmas Celebrations



Katherine Warlpiri Baptist Church

The wet weather on Christmas Day did not deter the Warlpiri Camp believers from celebrating the Birthday of Jesus in Katherine. They invited their neighbours in the Warlpiri Camp Community for a Morning Worship Christmas Celebration. The Warlpiri women led in praise and worship, sharing personal testimonies and our own Adrian Cook shared God's Word. After the morning service we had a lunch Christmas Fellowship for everyone. Praise God it went well and also was an opportunity to invite and welcome the people in the community to come to church.

PRAY that God's glory and power will be upon each believer as they continue to witness of His greatness during this year.

Knuckey Lagoon Fellowship, Darwin

Victory Community Church, which meets at Bagot Aboriginal Community, invited the Knuckey Lagoon Mission Outreach to a Combined Christmas Worship Service. In the afternoon there were sports and games for the children followed by a movie about the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Knuckey Lagoon Aboriginal women participated in community singing of praise songs. We praised God for the unity of spirit and purpose between the two Aboriginal communities. After the worship service Bagot and Knuckey Lagoon women enjoyed serving food to everyone and shared a 'Happy Birthday Jesus' cake. It was indeed a wonderful combined fellowship of two Aboriginal communities with opportunities to pray together and get to know each other better.



Carmen Baynes

Building Fund

As part of the Baptist Union's ongoing commitment to working amongst the Warlpiri and other desert people of the NT, a new ministry has commenced at Knuckey Lagoon (15km south of Darwin CBD) under the leadership of BUNT church planter, Rev John Baynes. The fellowship there has been given the use of a building to establish a church in the community and is looking for some financial assistance for the renovations. This is a great opportunity for the wider Baptist churches to partner in ministry with our Indigenous sisters and brothers.

**For more information contact
BUNT Secretary, Vivian Carson
at buntres@gmail.com**





Obedient to the Call

*Former DBC Pastor, Jim
Kime, with present Pastor,
Mal Sercombe*

Darwin Baptist Church was extremely blessed to have one of our former pastors, Rev Jim Kime come to visit recently. Some of us were also fortunate enough to hear his story...

Jim and his wife Marilyn were married in Sydney in 1961 while he was in his final year of theological training. Jim recalls, "One morning we had a guest speaker at the College, talking about the need for a resident to work with the Aboriginal people at Lajamanu in the Northern Territory. I remember hearing him call out, 'Isn't there a young man willing to go?' and it came to me with great conviction that that young man should be me!

"Not long after this I was preaching on prayer and departed from my script, which is always a dangerous thing for a pastor to do, and began speaking about the need to be willing to be used by God to answer our own prayers. 'If I pray for God to send missionaries to Lajamanu it might be that He will send me!'

"So I went home to Marilyn – we had only been married 6 months at this stage – and said, 'How about we go to an isolated aboriginal community in the Northern Territory to live?'" So in 1962 Jim and Marilyn packed up their belongings and moved to Lajamanu. They spent almost four years helping to build a church and ministering to the people in the small community.

They also made occasional trips back and forth to Darwin during this time, eventually moving to the small city at the end of 1966 to conduct leadership training courses. It wasn't until 1968 that Jim stepped into the role of DBC pastor. "I remember families coming from all around Australia to worship with us. We had an outreach program for people with an interest in reaching indigenous people and tried to integrate ourselves into the community as much as possible.

Jim continues, "A church is only as strong as its fellowship, when people are really joined together in Christ, so we put a tremendous amount of prayer into what we were doing." While Jim and Marilyn's Darwin stay only lasted a couple more years (they returned to Sydney in 1970 to continue in other ministry and mission work), they have revisited several times, dropping in on their old church to encourage its members.

"I was delighted to be back at the church once again. It was exciting to see the warmth in the people and positive atmosphere in the place. I do pray that God would bless the church. I pray that He would come into the lives of its people with grace, meeting them where they are and taking them on into the future to accomplish His purposes, which ultimately is to become Christ-like."

***Jim also visited Lajamanu and Kalkarini on his trip to the NT.
Bill and Pauline Morrison write...***

"**God** refreshes us in many different ways. Jim Kime was at Lajamanu and Kalkaringi in the early '60's and revisited there late last year, meeting and reconnecting with old friends. The joy on Jim's face and on those he spoke with has been both an inspiration and encouragement to us both.

It is with great interest that we have been listening to the stories of what life was like for the very first missionaries here in this hot dry land. We praise God for the work that each previous missionary couple have invested into Kalkaringi and Lajamanu."



***Jim with Stephen
at Kalkaringi***

Alice Welcomes New Associate Pastor



Foreground: L-R, *Pastor Robert Dunn, Connie Dunn, Kate Lyons, Nigel Lyons*

Alice Springs Baptist Church has welcomed a new Associate Pastor. A Commissioning Service for Nigel Lyons was held at the Church on Sunday, 1 February, 2015. Nigel has accepted the position of Associate Pastor and, with his wife Kate and daughter Alicia, moved to Alice Springs from Sydney in mid-January. Praise God for this new addition to the ministry team at Alice.

*Therefore my dear brothers, stand firm.
Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully
to the work of the Lord, because you know that
your labour in the Lord is not in vain.*

1 Corinthians 15:58

Combined Katherine Churches Pray

On the eve of Australia Day, Sunday January 25, 2015 most of the Katherine churches gathered together to PRAY for our nation of Australia. Held at the Christian Outreach Centre between 7:30 to 9:30 in the evening and led by Pastor Ernie Mitchell of **Katherine Baptist Church**, we prayed for the political leaders of Australia, particularly the Prime Minister, and the Governor-General as well as leaders in national, state and civic government. Our prayer was that they will look to God for guidance and wisdom as they lead our nation.

Participating churches were Bethel Church, Warlpiri Baptist Church, Anglican Church, Heritage Community Church, Christian Outreach Centre and Katherine Baptist Church.

Carmen Baynes



At Cornerstone Church.....

- Great news for us as a church with land clearing taking place in preparation for our church building.
- This year we are really concentrating on small groups to produce great personal and community growth
- Lots of beautiful families have left Cornerstone to go interstate but, Praise God, we are welcoming new families in.
- We're looking forward to the Foodbank van visiting us at the end of the month.

Pastor Neil Wright

Breakfast Is Served!

“No child should have to worry about where their next meal will come from...”

Foodbank NT's Schools Breakfast pilot Program has begun, with 17 primary, middle and high schools across the Territory now receiving regular food packs for students.

The locations of the schools vary, stretching as far south as Watarrka National Park (Kings Canyon), as far east as Borroloola and Nhulunbuy, and as far west as the Bulla community (342km west of Katherine).

Each school receives fully subsidised food for 100 meals per week. Our Darwin- and Katherine-based schools have their food delivered weekly by our new, specially-purposed School Breakfast Program vehicle, while half term packs of food are freighted to our more remote schools.

“No child should have to worry about where their next meal will come from, yet a shocking number of kids in the Northern Territory are in this position, often going to school without breakfast,” says Justine Elder, our Schools Breakfast Program Coordinator.

She adds that with research showing school breakfast programs encourage school attendance, improve school performance and increase physical health, the benefits of Foodbank NT's School Breakfast Program should be enormous.

Foodbank NT hopes it will be able to expand the program later in the year if the opportunity and more importantly, funding becomes available.

Kate Woods



Right:
Happy Breakfast Kids at
Middle Point School



Below:
Delivering and unpacking
Breakfast supplies at
Nightcliff and Rosebery
Schools



Jerry Celebrates 80 Years



1st January 2015 - 80th Birthday

Jerry Jangala Patrick, Pastor at Lajamanu Baptist Church, celebrated his 80th birthday with family and friends on New Years Eve. An evening service was held and at the conclusion of the service the leaders were prayed for and encouraged.

A birthday supper came out, much to the surprise of Jerry. He enjoyed the evening with a specially made footy shaped birthday cake and gifts.

Jerry is a faithful man of God and a respected leader, who has impacted the lives of many on community and all over Australia.

Please pray for Jerry as he continues to preach, lead and encourage others around him.

Jerry's Story.....

Around two decades ago Jerry told his story to Belonging People. We reprint part of that testimony here as a tribute to Jerry and to our great God who is mighty to save!

"In 1971 I found myself in proper trouble. Drinking too much and smoking cigarettes. The government had told me in 1966 that I was a free citizen. Free to go and look for work. Free to go to the pub. For a while that made me very happy...drinking and fighting. Then I got really sick. I turned around and started to look for help from my own people. Witch doctors, bush medicine, anything. I was very skinny. Losing weight. I started wandering every way trying to get help.

Then Jesus Called Me

I was asleep at night. I could see a light in a dream. I thought, "At last I'm gonna die now!" Someone was coming straight down and grabbed my right hand. I thought, "Maybe this one is Jesus".

He took me walking. We found that new place - good country. There was a fence first then a long golden gate. One tree was here and one tree was there. There was a big building with one door. Inside it was really nice and beautiful.... From one room I walked around inside. Nice one. Jesus was still waiting at that gate so I came back. I wanted to talk to Him but suddenly - he was gone. Disappeared.

I thought this is the one. This is Jesus!

From that time I know. He called me himself....I went straight for that church and told them. Bill Parish was the missionary then. I went to church all the time and heard his message. I kept on going to church,... not because my family was there, no, because the Lord called me. In 1972 I was baptised in that old church. I still didn't read English.

In 1979 the Lord was giving missionaries new work.

They were teaching church leaders at training camps. The first was at Rabbit Flat. From there the Lord has been teaching me little bit by little bit. Getting more better to write now. I want to praise the Lord that He wanted to teach me to read his word. Thats the story I want to write and that was true. "

Cross Roads Goes Forward

It's always exciting to stand at the beginning of a new year, wondering what God has in store. A few months ago He impressed on us that what would actually take place in the years ahead depended very much on our own level of commitment and obedience.

A broad overview: several years ago, God began the process of re-planting the church within the church - a seven year process, almost to the day. For Cross Roads, 2014 was our year of establishment and consolidation. Now we're starting the journey of crossing over into our inheritance, truly beginning to both receive and possess that which God ordained from the beginning.

Late last year we received a prophetic 'word' which is significant in establishing our new direction: Then the LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you." So the place has been called Gilgal to this day. (Joshua 5:9) This is the season where all that the enemy intended for harm will be reversed and those curses will become a blessing. This is your season of those dreams and visions becoming reality with a new sense of Holy Spirit at work with His plans and purposes being revealed and established. This is the season where God's original plan for this House will be made manifest. The 'reproach of Egypt' has been rolled away. Exciting times!

Pastor Sue

At a recent business meeting, members voted to officially recognise Sue Clow as 'Pastor', a role she was already fulfilling, and she has also completed exactly the same Bible College course as Bruce.



Visitors

It was good to have Hugh Lumb home for a few weeks between semesters at Mars Hill Bible College in Seattle and to have him preach his first sermon – which he did well. Hugh always brings with him a real sense of contagious enthusiasm and we're looking forward to his return in May.



Hugh Lumb

We're also looking forward to having prophets Greg and Julie Bailey join us for the weekend of 27-30 March.

Pastor Bruce Clow

Community Christmas Dinner at Casuarina Church

Christmas Day was a bit busier than normal at Casuarina Baps last year. Around 30 volunteers worked together to provide Christmas lunch for about 50 people from the community. Much of the food came through donations from local businesses. It was a great day and thanks go to those from other churches who partnered with us to make this day a success.



Lajamanu Women Visit Brisbane

During October, 2014, six Lajamanu women, with Bill and Pauline Morrison, spent 12 days in Brisbane hosted by the D'ihyaan Indigenous Church, B'irra Women's Ministry. It was a great time of reflection, sharing stories and singing in Warlpiri, with the women using traditional dance to tell Bible stories. The interaction between these women from a remote community and the urban Indigenous women was healing and restorative through the talk and the sharing of stories, resulting in a better understanding and enabling meaningful prayer.

This visit is the first of what is hoped will be many cultural exchanges, bringing about a greater understanding from both remote and urban Indigenous people. Many thanks go to past missionaries, Iris and Graham Paulson, for bringing this about.

Bill and Pauline write:

"PLEASE PRAY!"

We would value your prayers for the communities at this time, especially as we are down south for holidays and Home Assignment during February and March.



Ladies paint up in Brisbane

In December two elderly women passed away - one in Kalkaringi and one in Lajamanu. On Thursday 18th December a young boy of three was found drowned in the creek at Lajamanu. It has caused a huge amount of distress for the family, as well as the wider community.



The Roberts Say Goodbye

After ten years as missionaries amongst the Central Desert people, Norm and Karen have completed their work at Ali Curung, Yuendumu and Willowra. They are back in Bendigo, with the red dust still swirling in their nostrils! They are missing their Yapa friends, some of whom are regularly in touch. If you also would like to keep in touch with the Roberts their address is:

52 Bassett Drive, Strathfieldsaye, VIC 3551

Email: nkrobo1@bigpond.com

All loaded up for the trip from Alice to Bendigo



NEW BUNT WEBSITE

BUNT Secretary Vivian Carson has been working with John Glenn from SABU to develop a BUNT website. While this is still in its early stages, it is worth a visit to discover some of the events that are happening this year for NT Baptists.



The web address is: <http://www.ntbaptist.org.au/>
Watch this website for more exciting developments.

Trekking for Change in Nepal

Dan Truloff is not quite sure quite what to expect when he arrives in Nepal in September as part of the **Baptist World Aid Australia Trek4Change** team. "I've done some reading but I know that's not going to prepare me for what I'll experience. I'm sure it will be a bit of an eye opener!"

Dan will be joining other Baptist World Aid supporters on what is sure to be the experience of a lifetime. Over a two week period, from September 21 to October 4, 2015, the group will trek amongst some of the highest peaks in the world before spending two days alongside locals to see first-hand the life-transforming impact good community development projects can have for children and their families living in poverty.

"I'll be doing a fair bit of fundraising before I go. I've only just started this but already people have been really responsive. I sent an email around work and have already raised \$700 towards my target! People are really supportive and interested in what I'm doing.

"I'd really like to encourage other Baptist World Aid supporters to come and join me and give this Nepal trip a bit of a crack. It will be a trip we will never forget – and we'll raise money for a great cause at the same time!" Dan concludes.

If you would like to join Dan as part of the Trek4Change team heading to Nepal in September, please go to inspiredadventures.com.au/trek4change or call Baptist World Aid on 1300 789 991.





Bridges to Peace in Cambodia

Mmeet Sri. She is a mother of six children and the wife of a village elder. She took part in one of the 'Peace Builders' programs in Cambodia - funded by Baptist World Aid and run by a Christian partner in the field. Cambodia is a nation that has gone through terrible conflict and there is still a lot of trauma within communities. Peace Bridges helps people to deal with some of these issues. It is a program that is having quiet but profound impact on families in the region.

Sri says, "Before training I often take violence as a wife in the family. I also used violence and didn't listen or care. I didn't listen to my kids. After Peace Builders training I give rights to the family, before making decisions I consult with them and see the importance of kids rights. Kids are educated I can listen to reason and avoid violence. I thank teachers and Peace Builders that we can have knowledge of non-violence."



CACET Child Protection Training

"Making Children and the Church Safe"

Darwin Baptist Church May 9, 2015 All Day

This Course is for all NT Baptist Church Leaders and everyone involved in Children's Ministries in BUNT Churches in the Northern Territory.



BUNT Assembly - Darwin Baptist Church

June 13, 2015 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

For Delegates from all NT Baptist Churches

2015 Territory Women's Conference

Double Tree by Hilton Esplanade Darwin

June 20, 2015 9:00 am - 4:30 pm For all women

*For further details contact the Secretary, Vivian Carson,
on 0422 201 191 or at bunttres@gmail.com*

