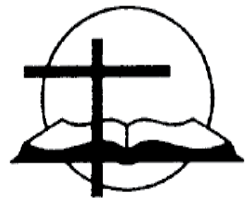


March 2017

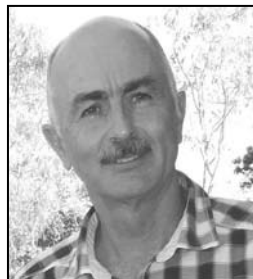


**BELONGING
PEOPLE**



Volunteers at Casuarina Church's Christmas Lunch

President's Message



Recently the global political stage has been shaken with huge changes: first Brexit, then Trump's election. Most will be aware of the wide variety of opinions being aired, some forcefully. Like it or not, those events will have a level of impact on this nation. We're in a new era, which means change. We all have a duty to pray for, and honour, our leaders.

Some thrive on change. For the majority it's never easy. Start exercising after years of 'couching' and our bodies protest at the sudden change. The world is changing, the onslaught against the Church and Biblical principles has escalated to a new level, becoming more brazen and aggressive. For example: the LGBTQ agenda aims to force Pastors into officiating at LGBTQ weddings and to remove the right of Christian Schools to only employ Christians. Their assault is committed and well organised. The challenge for the wider church is: 'This is happening on our watch. Why is it happening on our watch? What are we doing about it? How effective are we being? Who is responsible on our watch? What spiritual inheritance will our watch leave to our children, to the nation?'

Old level's use old wine. Each new level needs new wine. But remember what Jesus said about old wineskins and new wine not mixing? 2000 years and a huge cultural divide later, maybe the term 'mindskin' might help our understanding. Whenever God is pouring out 'new wine' some of our 'mindskins' tend to rip, we reject the new thing He is doing, spilling the new wine out on the ground. New wine is only poured out when God is equipping and preparing His people with His plans and strategies for victory at a new level. If we don't want it spilled out on the ground we need our 'mindskins' to be flexible, renewed, open to receiving what He is doing in the here and now, right where it's needed. On our watch.

Bruce Clow

Celebrating at CrossRoads

Sunday 13 November was, to the day, the 10th anniversary of Pastors Bruce and Sue arriving in Palmerston to begin pastoring what was then known as Palmerston Baptist Church. The weekend was one incredibly special and honouring celebration - those who organised the whole event did an amazing job of it, even managing to keep the detail very much 'under wraps'. While Bruce and Sue knew 'something' was being planned, they had no knowledge of what might take place and were completely 'blindsided' by the length to which the whole Church had gone to honour and celebrate the 10th Anniversary. Several former members specially travelled from interstate to be part of the celebrations. It was a real privilege to also have Pastor Paul Downie with us for the weekend, and to bring the message in the Sunday morning service.



*Bruce and Sue Clow,
Pastors at CrossRoads,
cut the cake celebrating
their 10 years of service
at the Church*

The Flying Bibles



Several years ago, Stan, who lives in Hobart and is a member of Gideons International, had a dream about giving a Bible to an Aboriginal man. A while later, while visiting Elcho Island, he met an Aboriginal man, David Maya, who Stan immediately recognised as being the man he saw in his dream. As the two men met, David surprised Stan when he said: 'I saw you in my dream, I had a dream about a white fella giving me a Bible and you're that man'. Then, to David's surprise, Stan said '... and you're the man I saw in my dream and I was giving you a Bible!'

Just recently, Stan had a 'spare' pallet of Bibles which he believed should be sent to Elcho Island – but Elcho is a long way from Tasmania. Uncertain how to tackle it, Stan contacted a fellow Gideon, Nick Beissel, a member of CrossRoads. Prior to calling Nick, Stan had no idea that Nick is a pilot and owns an aeroplane. Nick, who has a strong heart for missions, immediately offered to distribute Bibles to communities in Arnhem Land. With that news, Stan was moved to tears. However, transporting an 800kg pallet of Bibles from Tasmania to Darwin can be expensive. Another member of CrossRoads, employed by a freight company, heard the story and promised to ask his manager if the company might be able to assist. A short time later, one pallet of Bibles was trucked up to Darwin, completely free of charge.

Nick loaded his aeroplane and began a 'milk run', delivering Bibles to Elcho, Milingimbi, Ramingining, Gove, Mapuru, Maningrida, Goulburn and Croker Islands, a two day round trip. Just the day after arriving home from his trip, Nick received a call from a Gove based Mission Aviation Fellowship pilot who had been out flying when Nick landed to deliver Bibles. The MAF pilot was so excited, telling Nick that just one day earlier, MAF staff had been praying about the need for Bibles in the communities. Apparently there is quite a revival going on amongst the local people with groups of up to 70 asking the MAF missionaries to teach them the Word.



*Nick Beissel with a box of Bibles
in front of his plane*

The missionaries 'out bush' didn't know where to get the number of Bibles required, how they would be paid for, or even how they could transport that quantity of Bibles to Gove. Then, only one day later, an aeroplane load of Bibles was distributed around the communities. All up, around 1300 Bibles have now been delivered across Arnhem Land. In Nick's words: **'It has been awesome to be part of The Lord's big picture!'**

***Pastor Bruce Clow
CrossRoads Christian Church***

Two Special Young People

During a Wednesday Bible Study at Katherine Warlpiri Baptist Church John Baynes shared from God's Word about the healing of the lame man (Acts 3: 1-10). One lady there that night was Lorraine Robbo who has been attending the Bible Study for many years. Those present were told about Lorraine's grandson **Kieron Lawson** who was born in April 2004 unable to walk. The doctor told Lorraine at that time that that her grandson would never walk.

Lorraine and her young grandson, Kieron, continued to attend Bible Study at Warlpiri Baptist Church. Meanwhile faithful Christians from the Lajamanu Church and Katherine Warlpiri Church prayed earnestly for Kieron who also had speech difficulties.

Three years later in 2007 Kieron was able to walk. This happened during a Wednesday Bible Study. More recently, Kieron Lawson who is now 12 years old, told those gathered for Bible Study that Jesus healed him. To God be the glory, great things He has done!



Kieron Lawson

PLEASE PRAY:

- ~ **For John and Carmen Baynes in their ministry and for protection as they travel**
- ~ **For the Katherine Warlpiri Church**
- ~ **For the Knuckey Lagoon Fellowship**
- ~ **For the people meeting at Pigeon Hole**
- ~ **For all Indigenous Church Leaders**

at Katherine Warlpiri Baptist Church



Rhianna Rockman

Rhianna Rockman is one of the young girls that Carmen has taught for many years at the Katherine Warlpiri Sunday School. Rhianna, now a teenager, is attending Youth group every Friday in Katherine town and enjoying Bible study, crafts, and sports there.

Rhianna had the opportunity recently to attend church in town regularly with her Youth Group but she has chosen to continue attending KWBC where she helps her mother, Sharon Rockman, every Sunday with her Sunday School class. Rhianna is also inviting other children from the community to come to KWBC and enjoy the fellowship.

Praise God for Rhianna's witness and her commitment to the Church in which she has grown up.

Warlpiri Christmas Fellowship

On two occasions, Christmas Day and New Year's Eve, 2016, the Katherine Warlpiri Baptist Church held their regular worship service and then prepared a mid- afternoon lunch at Geyulkgan Ngurra (formerly Warlpiri Camp Community) to which they invited the people living in the community. Adrian Cook shared from God's Word about the birth of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Residents from the community and others from the long grass were invited. Over 70 people came to share a blessed time of prayer and fellowship with a satisfying meal for everyone.

CORNERSTONE CHURCH

As I write this we are hopefully only a week away from voting to take out a loan to build our church. It is a very exciting prospect and a long time coming. I would like to thank God and the people of Cornerstone for their faithful giving and patience as we worked toward this day.



Artist's impression of the new Church building

We all know church is about people not a building, but this facility will open up opportunities for growth and ministry which will last well beyond our lifetime. I am so excited to think that after I have gone from this earth (providing Christ hasn't returned) that there will be people not yet born who will be brought into the Kingdom through Cornerstone and the ministries that are birthed there. Everything we do for God has a lasting and increasing impact.

I love that while we see things in such a temporal and present way, faith looks beyond to places never visited, adventures yet to be written and destinies only dreamed about. What a glorious God we serve. To think that he could look into the darkness that surrounded the earth and create light from the sound of his voice!! This is the same God who breathed life into us and continues to fill us with his Spirit as we worship him. **May his Name be glorified forever.**



This year we have also welcomed aboard some new team members. **Matthew Kernick** (left) is giving a day a week to his new role as Director of Worship Ministries. We are praying that he will grow in his calling over this year. We also have **Lisa Ban** who has decided to help in the area of events in the church. I have given her the title of 'Fun Facilitator'.

The hope is that through some organised social events we will build lasting memories for ourselves and the kids at Cornerstone; memories that evoke

fondness of the church family here and also allow us social spaces to invite our not yet saved friends to. **We are really looking forward to the year ahead.**

Pastor Neil Wright

Calling for Applications for 2017 - Lloyd and Win Kent Memorial Scholarship

The Baptist Union of the Northern Territory (BUNT) established the Lloyd and Win Kent Memorial Scholarship Fund in 2014 as an ongoing tribute to Rev Dr Lloyd Kent and his wife Win Kent for their work in the Northern Territory.

An initial grant of \$5,000 was contributed by BUNT, which is topped up at the end of each financial year. Donations are also invited from BUNT churches and individuals.

For more information on the Lloyd & Win Kent Scholarship log onto the BUNT Website: <http://www.ntbaptist.org.au/bunt-resources/>

Conversation with Josh

JOSH LEHMANN was one of two recipients of the **Lloyd and Win Kent Memorial Scholarship** in 2016. Josh has a background in the hospitality industry and attends Darwin Baptist Church. From January 2016 Josh studied with YWAM in Norway and went with a YWAM Team on Mission in Europe for five and a half months, followed by an adventure holiday for a further 2.5 months.



WHY YWAM?

I felt I was coming to the end of this part of my working life (in hospitality). I wanted to walk more closely with God and felt a need to be challenged in my Christian life. Life is a journey and this was to be part of that journey. I believe God was in this. I talked to someone I knew who been with YWAM and found out about their base in Norway. I applied and was accepted. I had previously visited Norway on a family holiday and wanted to experience more of the culture and people.

WHAT WAS INVOLVED IN THE TRAINING COURSE?

First came the Lecture Phase or **Disciple Training School** for 3 months. This was in Stavanger, Norway. Next was the **Outreach Phase** for 2.5 months. There were eight in my Outreach team from many different nations...an Afghani, Chinese, Australian, American, Canadian, Danish, Norwegian.

My Outreach Team worked in Greece, France, Paris, Germany and Iceland undertaking personal evangelism but we were also involved in many practical areas.



WHAT STANDS OUT FOR YOU?

We were in Greece for 3 weeks when the huge refugee influx from the Middle East arrived and while we were there the borders were closed. There were over 2,000 newly arrived desperate refugees, many sleeping rough and all needing food and shelter.

We worked with several Christian organisations including Helping Hands and Samaritans Purse distributing food, unloading trucks containing backpacks of hygiene supplies for refugees in camps around Greece.

In Paris we did street evangelism one on one. Then on to South East Germany where we helped in a village, preparing for a YWAM Conference. Again we worked with refugees there and it was a joy to see two Iranian believers baptised.



WHAT WAS THE HIGHLIGHT FOR YOU?

Iceland! We were there for a whole month and I especially loved my time there.

In Iceland we did street evangelism and worked alongside a local church where we spent time praying with alcoholics and drug users. During my time in Iceland we had a YWAM Teaching and Debriefing week when all the original Disciple Training School met together from the various countries they had been for outreach. Hitchhiking in Iceland was a definite part of the highlight.

HOW HAS THIS EXPERIENCE CHANGED YOU?

I was challenged to come out of my comfort zone, to come out of myself and I became more confident in talking with new people. These things take a while. There was also Growing and Healing in my personal life.

I have also met new people who have become life time friends.

WHERE IS GOD LEADING YOU NOW?

I believe He is leading me into further study in my career and I am prepared to follow where God guides.

WHAT IS YOUR MESSAGE TO OTHER YOUNG PEOPLE?

Go for it ! God can do amazing things. He has done it in me. You will be stretched! I definitely recommend YWAM; the training equips you to live for Jesus in your place or prepares you for full time Christian work.



Serving God by Serving Kids' Breakfast

BREAKFAST will become a part of the daily school routine for significantly more students throughout the Northern Territory this year, with 22 schools now part of Foodbank NT's School Breakfast Program.

Delivery of items such as cereal, milk, bread and fruit to the 22 urban, rural and remote schools began at the end of January in an effort to combat the significantly high number of children who attend school each day without eating breakfast.

According to a recent ABS report, more than one in five school-aged children in the Northern Territory skip breakfast.

Foodbank NT's School Breakfast Coordinator, Jennifer Alivia, says in the three years Foodbank has been operating its breakfast program, school teachers have reported a decrease in behavioural problems as well as better social interaction and relationships among students and teachers.

school
breakfast
program

Foodbank's aim this year is to increase the number of schools included in its program from 22 to 35, and so is looking for people interested in sponsoring a school.

"It costs \$4000 to feed one school for one year," said Mrs Alivia. "We are looking for local businesses, community groups or even individuals who would like to sponsor the breakfast program in one school for year, a semester or just a term."

For information, people can visit www.foodbanknt.org.au or contact Foodbank on (08) 8947 3669.

Kate Woods



Youth Gap-Year Internship at Darwin Baptist

Taking a ‘gap year’ to pursue personal interests has become a popular option among young people today. But while many spend the year working or holidaying, Darwin Baptist Church has been offering its youth the chance to walk a path less travelled.

DBC’s ‘Youth Gap-Year Internship’ has been running for the past two years to give young people with a passion to live out their faith in a more meaningful and fulfilling way, the opportunity to “go deeper”. Last year three girls and three boys took up the offer to work alongside JR DelRosario, one of the DBC pastors. Each committed sixteen hours a week to the program – eight hours to personal growth (mentoring sessions, Bible studies and discussion times) and eight hours to service. JR said many changes occurred in his interns as the year progressed. “Firstly their growth in God deepened. The interns had a greater trust and dependence on God by the end of the year,” he said. “Secondly they were showing greater confidence in reading the Bible and applying it to their lives and thirdly they were showing maturity in serving and in their ‘doing’ for God.”

One of the challenges set by JR was to join the Friday night Water Witnessing team on Mitchell Street. “At first [the interns] were very apprehensive and nervous, but as the night wore on God gave us some great opportunities to share the Gospel. It wasn’t something they all particularly loved, but was a great challenge.”

JR said a couple of nights after the team’s Water Witnessing experience, one of the interns bumped into a guy he ‘sort of’ knew from footy down at the waterfront. “This friend was really struggling and seeking, and incredibly [the intern] was able to chat with him for hours and share the Gospel until very late in the evening! It was as though his experience on the waterfront was preparing him for it.”

Kate Woods

Prayer and Praise from Bill and Pauline Morrison

1. Wisdom to be able to use time effectively in each community.
2. Praise God for the Andersons to join us.
3. For health and protection as we continue to travel the circuit.
4. For continued growth among the leaders of each church
5. For the Spirit of Peace to come upon each community.
6. Praise God for the team of partners and friends who are travelling this journey with us.



News from Nhulunbuy

Nhulunbuy is quite transient. We have had four families leave town at the end of last year. Volunteers are a bit light on but everyone is now back from being out of town for school holidays so church attendance is picking up. There are a few new Christian families in town visiting churches to find a “home” and we have a couple of new families at NBC. Some significant things are happening in church and community where I believe God is moving, bringing a holy standard and closer unity amongst Christians and inter-church. Nhulunbuy Church is looking forward to a visit from BUNT President, Bruce Clow in March.

Davin Blundell

GREAT NEWS!



***Matt and Shannon Anderson
with Peter and Elizabeth***

There will be much rejoicing around the NT Baptist Family at the news that Global Interaction has appointed candidates for the southern communities of Yuendumu, Willowra and Ali Curung. Matt and Shannon Anderson and their two little ones, Elizabeth and Peter, are excited to be preparing to move into the role of Support Workers in the southern communities. Currently they are completing the last six months of Bible College in Sydney and then will commence the process of raising their support to join the Morrisons on the Outback Team.

Please pray for Matt and Shannon as they complete Bible College, then start to raise support and to prepare as a family for work in the communities.

Bill and Pauline Morrison will be continuing to oversee the five communities throughout 2017 and 2018, until Matt and Shannon are on the field. The Morrisons say, “Our many thanks go to so many of you who have been praying for Global Interaction during this time, as they have been considering candidates for this role. “



Community Christmas Day Lunch at Casuarina

Christmas can be a very lonely time of year if people have no one that they can share the day with. Casuarina Baptist Church held its third Community Christmas Day lunch in the Blue Hall with nearly 80 people enjoying the occasion.

The Community lunch was a good opportunity for people to share time with old and new friends and to hear a short message about the birth of Jesus and the meaning of the presents that He received as a child. The meal was very good. The children received presents and some took great delight in tearing around the hall with their new toys.

Darwin is such a place that any group of people can mean many different countries of origin. One table had as many as 7 countries of origin and we are sure they would have all had different Christmas traditions to share.

It was good to share Christmas lunch together, play games and get to know new people especially for those people who had nowhere to go. There were many volunteers from different churches around Darwin who generously gave their time to decorate the hall and set up the tables on Christmas Eve and attend on Christmas day, to take photos of the event and mingle with the our guests to make them feel welcome and appreciated and assist with cleaning at the end of the day.



A big thank you to all those who helped to make this community event a success especially Troy (pictured left) and other volunteers from the Defence Base Services who organised, cooked and served the Christmas Day Lunch.

Without all of these people, who gave up their time and their Christmas Day to assist, Casuarina Baptist Church would not have been able to hold this event and make it the success it was.

John Stennett



*Volunteers and
guests enjoy
Christmas
Lunch*

AROUND THE OUTBACK CHURCHES

with Support Workers, Bill and Pauline Morrison

2016 CHRISTMAS AT KALKARINGI



On a hot, sticky Christmas morning we all met together for an amazing celebration of the birth of Jesus. The nativity story was acted out by the adults with Leah and Danny as Joseph and Mary and their little grandson as baby Jesus. He fitted nice and snugly into the wooden manger. The children were mesmerised and enjoyed hearing and seeing the story of the birth of Jesus. Danny finished the service challenging us all to keep our eyes on Jesus and to care for those around us.



Baby Dedication at Yuendumu

ALI-CURUNG BIRTHDAY

We brought in the New Year at Ali-Curung with birthday cake and a family celebration for church leader, **Mark Brown**, who turned 82. The women at Ali Curung continue their Bible Study. Please pray for the church leaders as they continue to encourage the church.

WILLOWRA continues to meet together. We are really impressed with the way they just get on and do it.

YUENDUMU leaders are starting to stand up and take on leadership in a new way. It is great to see them grow and develop in their roles.



KALKARINGI is still operating well. The leaders are meeting regularly and planning for the Easter celebration in April. The wet has really set in, with Kalkaringi receiving nearly 21 inches (518mm). The average rainfall to end of February is just over 300mm. One problem they face is the flooded rivers cutting them off from outside. As I write, the traffic cannot get through from Katherine. Wattie Creek, between Kalkaringi and Daguragu is also flooded, preventing the Daguragu folk from getting to the shop to get food.

LAJAMANU continues to plod along. It is encouraging that some people are returning to church. Jangala and Lynette Tasman continue to lead well.



*Lajamanu Leaders:
Annette, Robyn and Lynette*

NEW PASTOR FOR CASUARINA

Casuarina Church is delighted to announce the appointment of **Pastor Mal Good** as lead pastor. He will commence on 2 April 2017, after travelling by road with his wife Chris, from their home in Katanning WA.



Mal has pastored the Katanning (WA) Baptist Church for the last ten years, and we believe he will be a great match for our church for the days ahead. They can discard those warm clothes now!

Katherine Churches' Christmas Witness

Carols by Candlelight 2016 was held in Katherine near the Visitor's Centre on 17th of December with eight churches from around the town participating. The event was hosted by Heritage Community Church.



During the program, Paul, a missionary with Heritage Community Church told the Christmas story of the birth of Jesus Christ. Children sang Christmas carols, watched skits, and there was community singing for everyone. Over 1,000 people attended this popular event including visitors from other states. It was a great time of fellowship, making new acquaintances and praying for everyone. What a great witness to the people of Katherine of the real meaning of Christmas!

ASIA PACIFIC BAPTIST CONGRESS 2017 **'Never Ending Good News'**

Yogyakarta, Indonesia will host the biggest multi-nation gathering of Baptists of the Asia Pacific region in September 2017.

This year's congress, from 25-27 September, is themed to Acts 1:8 - 'Never ending Good News.' The congress has been conducted once every five years since the first one was hosted by Hong Kong in 1973.

Bonny Resu, General Secretary of APBF has said that the Asia Pacific Baptist Congress aims to strengthen the unity among Baptists in Asia Pacific, as one body with one vision: to reach Asia Pacific for Jesus Christ with the never ending Good News! **"Asia Pacific is the largest region in, both spatial and demographic terms. Over 4 billion peoples of Asia are waiting for the great salvation revealed only in Christ Jesus. Let us celebrate together, our unity in Christ."** Resu said.

"Indonesia was chosen due to its ideal location in Asia, its visa on arrival facility for many countries and relatively easy visa application regime. Yogyakarta also is a safe place, full of culture, handicrafts, natural beauty and very friendly, peaceful and welcoming people. There are many recreational attractions for families at Yogyakarta."



More information on the event can be found on APBF's official website:
www.apbf.info/congress2017

Finding Safety Through the Storm

by *Samara Linehan*



In the early hours of October 4, 2016, Hurricane Matthew made landfall on Haiti. Imagine living through that terror. Howling 230kmph winds screaming through your neighbourhood, destroying everything in their path.

This is Laurita's story.

"We had never had a storm that big before. The whole house started to shake...I was very afraid as all the debris was flying around...As a mother, I was very much afraid for my children... they were screaming and crying. I held them as tight as I could, covered them with my own body while lying flat on the ground. I thought that I am not strong enough... the fear of losing them kept me going on."

Laurita and her seven children live in the remote, coastal town of Tiburon, where Hurricane Matthew first made landfall... in one of the poorest areas. *"Our life has always been hard even before Matthew. Earning enough to live..."* But since Hurricane Matthew decimated her town, the fight to survive has become even harder.



"Thankyou very much... you came to help us in Tiburon and saw our needs."

Thankfully, Laurita and her children made it through Hurricane Matthew. *"I fled with my children to a nearby neighbour, whose house was more protected." But the roof of their own home was claimed by the hurricane. And with no roof to protect their belongings... they lost everything. "All my kitchen stuff, all my clothes and the little money I had... were all gone..." "We all knew that without any help from outside we will be lost... we thought 'we will die'."*

When Hurricane Matthew hit Tiburon, Baptist World Aid Australia responded immediately... thanks to the support of Australians like you, who faithfully give to the Disaster Action Fund. Because of their generosity, the community of Tiburon received urgently needed emergency relief – like food for hungry families and water and hygiene kits to keep them safe from the spread of deadly diseases like cholera. Laurita even received a shelter kit and basic tools like saws, pliers and a crowbar. Now she can give her family a safe home again!

"We are really, really happy with this assistance... It has been a relief."

If you would like to give the gift of safety to mums like Laurita and her children, or find out how your support can save lives before, during and after disaster, go to: baptistworldaid.org.au/disaster-action.

Belonging People

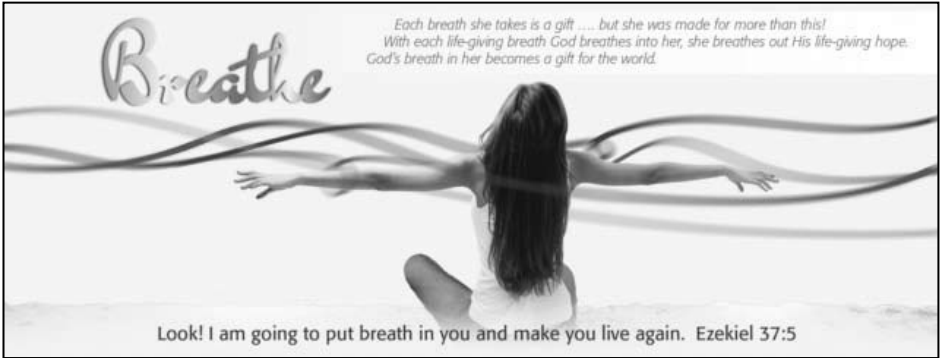
**Newsletter of the NT Baptist Family
of Churches**

Editor: Andrea Adams

GPO Box 4460, Darwin, NT 0801

Together

26 & 27 May 2017 Territory Womens Conference



Women in Leadership

FRIDAY 26 MAY

At C3 Church 62 Patterson Street | Malak | COST \$20

(Includes scrumptious supper)

***Doors open at 6:30pm for a 7pm start | Evening concludes
at 9:30pm.***

TOGETHER Territory Women's Conference

Saturday 27 MAY

C3 Church Darwin 62 Patterson Street | Malak

9 am | Morning Tea | 9:30am | Conference commences

COST \$80 (also includes Lunch and Afternoon Tea)

Register at www.togethernt.com.au