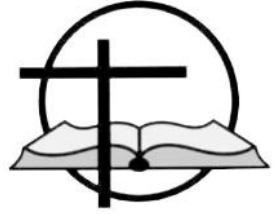


November 2018



BELONGING PEOPLE



Elwyn Jurrah and family with Mal Sercombe and Bruce Clow.



Mal & Ellen Sercombe

From the New President

We were able to begin with a “Thank You” because two of the issues we raised last year have progressed through parliament. This year we were able to continue the conversations with a view to encouraging our political leaders to

- make laws and policies that will better help people who experience domestic violence; and
- to help us as a nation be a better global neighbour.

As I write this, I am fresh out of the first BUNT Assembly Board Meeting since our 49th Annual Assembly almost three weeks ago. There are several new people on the Board and some who have been around a while. We would value your prayers as we settle into our roles, build relationships with each other and together seek to serve our family of churches in the NT.

Bruce Clow and I were able to represent BUNT at the Converge Gathering in Canberra. We joined with about 40 Baptist leaders from around the country and between us had 58 appointments with federal politicians and/or their advisors.

We returned from Canberra via Alice Springs and that gave us the opportunity to meet with leaders from Alice Springs Baptist Church. I was personally pleased to meet with Elwyn Jurra and some of his family. Elwyn and I speak often on the phone and it was great to have a face-to-face chat.

Photo front cover

As you read through this issue of Belonging People, thank God for those who are part of our family of churches; pray for the leaders of churches. Why not pick up the phone and call someone from one of the other churches to encourage and bless them?

Mal Sercombe

Two excellent reports were prepared for the Converge Gathering:

“No Room; A report on domestic violence services in Australia”, prepared for Australian Baptist Ministries by A Just Cause and Baptist Care Australia; and “The Global Neighbour Index” prepared by Baptist World Aid Australia.



If you would like copy of these

Mal Sercombe, Marcia Balzer (CEO Baptist Care Australia), and Bruce Clow with NT Senator Malarndirri McCarthy

reports, please email admin@dbc.org.au





The Anderson Family Commissioned for Service

It has been a joy and a privilege for those at Alice Springs Baptist Church to journey with Mat and Shannon Anderson over the last eight years, culminating in their recent commissioning service to serve with Global Interaction in Central Australian Indigenous communities.

Mat spent most of his childhood in Alice Springs, whilst Shannon was in her 20s when she came from the USA to take up a short-term ministry role with the church.

She quickly realised a love for ministry with indigenous women through supporting a women's Bible study group, further cemented by her joining an eight-day Outback Xposure trip in 2010 visiting Willowra, Yuendumu and Ali Curung with Norm and Karen Roberts (then Global Interaction workers, now retired). With Mat also a participant on the same trip, the team spent many hours working together building fences around the Willowra church, sharing in Bible study, and travelling long distances. Following a courtship that involved much international travel for both Mat and Shannon, they married and initially settled in Alice Springs where Beth was born.



As God called them to work with indigenous ministries, in preparation they moved to Sydney where Mat completed his Bachelor of Theology at Sydney Missionary and Bible College. During their time in Sydney they grew their family with the addition of Peter, Caleb and Samuel, and began to explore opportunities for indigenous ministries, resulting in a specific call to work with Global Interaction as part of the Outback Australia team, alongside Bill and Pauline Morrison in Lajamanu/ Kalkaringi.

Mat and Shannon are thankful for the support of Bill and Pauline and are excited to begin this new chapter in their lives. They are looking forward to working alongside the church in Yuendumu and seeing how God shapes their ministry there, and further afield into Willowra and Ali Curung over time. Their first term will be focused on learning the Warlpiri language and culture as well as building relationships with the local people, and they are very grateful for the prayer and financial support of many people across the NT.

For more Global Interaction News turn to pages 6, 7 & 17.



For us in Alice Springs, it was a delight to welcome them home briefly, before sending them out to support and encourage the churches and believers in Outback Australia. As a church, we commit to encouraging, praying for and financially supporting Mat and Shannon in their ministry through Global Interaction, and we invite other NT churches to join us in this partnership.

***Sue Tucker
Alice Springs Baptist***

Visiting our Bush Churches

Rev Ken Clendinning was asked by Australian Baptist Ministries to visit the six indigenous churches of our Baptist Family of churches in the NT to assess the current situation of those churches and make some recommendations about their future needs. This task was also strongly supported by our Baptist Union of the NT and Global Interaction.

Ken asked me to travel with him, to provide introductions to people in the churches, and practical support with travel.

Bill and Pauline Morrison, GIA church support workers in the Centre, gave us heaps of support as we travelled together to Kalkaringi, Lajamanu and Yuendumu. Ken and I also visited Willowra, Ali Curung and the Katherine Warlpiri church.

It was most enlightening to chat to so many of the leaders in the churches, hearing their stories and their dreams for the future. A big plus for me was to meet up with lots of friends on each community, renewing friendships and catching up on family news.

Ken's report, under God's good hand, will provide a pathway into the future for our indigenous churches in the NT.

John Whitbourn



John with Jeannie Presley



Community Happenings at Kalkaringi and Lajamanu



***Bill and Pauline Morrison, Support
Workers with Global Interaction***

There was a little knock on the door at Kalkaringi. Rexallius was standing there calling “Ngapakado. Ngapakado”. He was learning the word avocado and the skin name Ngapangka. In his mind he joined them resulting in calling me Ngapakado. Oh yes, so cute! That was five years ago and today the name has stuck. It is a nickname that has become endearing and funny with both his Gurindji and Warlpiri family.

“Where is the old Mulliga, the old man? Recently one of the church ladies in Kalkaringi was looking for Bill and this was how she referred to him. “Ngalija, Ngalija Ngapangka!” can be heard yelled out as the ladies come around to our back door at Lajamanu. On goes the kettle for a pot of tea and usually a long chat. Sitting amongst the clothing in the op shop a dear old lady asked, “Can you pray

with me. I am going to hospital and are very fearful?”

“Bill can you help me? I have had a dream and don’t know what it means” Both men sit outside under the shade of a large tree and spend time talking together.

“We want you to come to the hospital with us to sit in with the doctor. We don’t understand what he is saying”.

A new season for the Outback Team

- Bill and Pauline are grateful for prayer over the past three years as they have travelled and supported the five Global Interaction Indigenous NT churches.
- Praise God the Anderson’s have reached their target support level and are now at Yuendumu.

Please Pray:

- Pauline is scheduled to have knee replacement surgery on 19th November. Please pray for healing and a time of good rest.
- Pray for the Lajamanu Church. Two leaders have recently lost significant family members in death and the community is grieving.

Katherine School Chaplain Britt

Britt Hedrick is Scripture Union NT's Chaplain working at MacFarlane Primary School in Katherine. Britt and her husband Nathan (along with their Kelpie Frankie) moved to the Northern Territory in 2016 when Nathan was posted to RAAF Base Tindal, just south of the town.

Brittany started volunteering at MacFarlane early on in 2017 after connecting with the school through one of her church congregation members. The school had a positive relationship with Scripture Union NT from their previous chaplain who had recently left. They partnered together and set things in motion to access the government funding for school chaplaincy –two days a week. As a testimony to God's goodness Britt was able to jump straight into the role and very quickly fell in love with the children, seeing the precious love that God has for each one of them.

Chaplaincy is a presence ministry where simply being there, speaking love, and carrying the Holy Spirit when you interact with those who need you are the main goals. In a primary school it looks incredibly different every day and can involve art, craft and games to build relationships and provide opportunity to connect with children, hearing what is going on in their world and trusting God to minister to their needs.



Britt has been abundantly blessed with more opportunities within the school and was offered a paid position for an additional day to continue her supportive role throughout the school week. Then Britt was offered a position to support an individual student 1:1 in the classroom who was struggling to remain at school, expanding her time in the school to 5 days a week where although she fulfils different roles is able to bring God's peace and joy to the school every day of the week.

School Chaplains fulfil a vital role in our schools. Please pray for Britt and all our NT chaplains as they seek to show the love of Jesus to students.

Katherine Baptist Women

CONGRATULATIONS ALICE

Alice Mitchell of Katherine Baptist Church was recently awarded a Doctor of Philosophy in Public Health through Charles Darwin University. This wonderful achievement followed 4 years of study, research and thesis writing. Alice is married to Ernie, the Pastor of Katherine Baptist Church.

Alice was working as a midwife at RDH when she felt the call of God to commence study in the field of Rheumatic Heart Disease which afflicts many people especially in NT Aboriginal communities as well as overseas. Alice's research and work have taken her as far afield as Timor Leste as well as Maningrida where she works with a team headed up by Dr Josh Francis,



a Christian Paediatrician attending Casuarina Baptist Church. We ask God's blessing on Alice and all the medical team in their work to eradicate this disease.

SATURDAY BREAKFAST IN KATHERINE

In Katherine Women's Monthly Breakfast meetings have become a regular and popular event in the calendar. This is an interdenominational effort which sees the Katherine churches working together. A hearty breakfast is served at the Barrel and Cruse Bistro, a local restaurant whose owner is a Katherine Baptist member. A Men's Breakfast, run along similar lines, is also held once a month at the same venue.

The Saturday breakfasts provide an opportunity for Christian women to fellowship together and invite their friends for a meal, friendly company and to hear local Christian speakers from different churches – young women who are relatively new to Katherine, such as a school chaplain, and older women who are long term Katherine residents. All have interesting stories to tell. This popular monthly event is a great opportunity for Christian witness and encouragement in the town of Katherine.

2018 BUNT ASSEMBLY and ..

Friday 31 August was a night to be remembered when the NT Baptist Family representing many different churches, gathered together for the 49th NT Baptist Assembly. The venue was the newly completed building of Cornerstone Christian Church at Howard Springs and there was much excitement for those who were seeing it for the first time.

Greeting visitors and delegates at the front door were Pastor Neil Wright and his wife, Joanne. Members of Cornerstone Church folk were wonderful hosts showing guests around the new church building and hosting a delicious barbecue where there was lively conversation and fellowship.

Cornerstone Church had decided to hold the Opening and Dedication of the new church building to coincide with the BUNT Assembly and there was rejoicing



Paul & Anne Downie

to see this dream come to fruition after 11 years. All praise to God for making this new church building a reality.

Special Guest Speaker at Assembly was Rev. Paul Downie accompanied by his wife, Anne. This pastoral couple are known and loved by many of those who were present as they have ministered in previous years at both Cornerstone and CrossRoads Churches

Assembly continued into a full day on Saturday where Paul Downie took up the theme of dreams, quoting **Proverbs 29:18** *"Where there is no vision the people perish. (KJV)*



Neil & Joanne Wright

DEDICATION of CORNERSTONE CHURCH



“God is the instigator of dreams”, Paul told the gathering. “Never give up on your dreams.”

“What’s your dream?” asked Paul before recounting the gospel stories of two people who each had a dream to be healed and who reached out to Jesus—the blind man, Bartimaeus, and the woman who touched the hem of Jesus robe. Joseph’s journey in the Old Testament also started with a dream.

Above & Right: Exterior and interior views of the new Cornerstone Christian Church Building

The Cornerstone church folk, guests and delegates were excited and privileged to be part of the dedication service and to give praise and thanks to Almighty God for this new building.



SPECIAL RECOGNITION



John & Jan Whitbourn

During Assembly, Immediate Past President, Bruce Clow acknowledged the 47 years of faithful ministry in the Territory by Rev. John and Jan Whitbourn, supporting Aboriginal churches and urban Darwin churches as well as John's commitment to BUNT.

Bruce thanked John for laying the foundations of the Baptist church at Palmerston, now CrossRoads, where John had previously been Pastor. **John was honoured as an 'elder statesman of our NT Baptist movement'**. He currently serves as Associate Pastor at Casuarina Baptist Church.



New BUNT President, Mal Sercombe, paid tribute to the late **Rev. John Baynes** who died in June this year. John and his wife Carmen worked tirelessly for 18 years with Aboriginal people in Katherine and Darwin helping to grow and maintain the Katherine Warlpiri Church, also assisting those in the justice system and making regular hospital visits. John and Carmen were also instrumental in establishing the Knuckey Lagoon Aboriginal Fellowship in outer Darwin.

A minute of condolence was moved and the Assembly extended their deep sympathy to John's wife, Carmen, and to the family in the USA.



***Just a few of the smiling faces
seen at the 49th BUNT Assembly***



**NEW
BUNT
ASSEMBLY
BOARD**

A new BUNT Board was elected at the Assembly Business Meeting.

President: Mal Sercombe – Darwin Baptist

Vice President: Mal Good – Casuarina Baps

Secretary: Josh Ingrams – Darwin Baptist

Treasurer: Marilyn Wilson – Cornerstone

Committee Members:

Ernie Mitchell – Katherine Baptist

Neil Wright – Cornerstone CC

Douglas Cantrill – CrossRoads CC

Matt Kernick – Cornerstone CC

Immediate Past President: Bruce Clow – CrossRoads Christian Church

Director of Ministries: Mike Mills - Baptist Churches SA



Bruce Clow prays for new BUNT President, Mal Sercombe and his wife, Ellen.



Assembly Farewells Vivian Carson

After serving faithfully and conscientiously as BUNT Secretary and Treasurer for seven years, Vivian Carson was thanked and farewelled at the BUNT Assembly Dinner on Saturday.

Viv and her husband, John, have left the Territory after many years to retire to Alstonville, Northern NSW.

As well as running their own business, Smarttask, they have served in many areas of Christian life in Darwin. Viv and John have been active members at Casuarina Baptist Church and John has also served on the NT Baptist Care Board, as well as being involved with Darwin Christian Radio 97.7. NT Baptist friends will miss them greatly and pray the Lord will keep and bless them in their retirement.

Studying God's Word at Nungalingya College



Attending Foundational Bible Studies at Nungalingya College in Darwin during September were **Eddie Robertson from Yuendumu, Valerie Nelson, Jennifer Nelson and Jessie Simpson, all from Ali Curung.**

These leaders from the Yapa churches at Yuendumu and Ali Curung were welcome visitors at Casuarina Baptist during their time in Darwin and the church family were blessed by their presence.

Belonging People
Newsletter of the NT Baptist Union
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Mainly Music at Darwin Baptist

In light of our vision at Darwin Baptist Church (*for every person in the greater Darwin area to hear the good news of Jesus; see it in action; have an opportunity to respond and become faithful Christ followers*) the Mainly Music program has stepped out in new ways to reach families this term.

Mainly Music, as its name suggests, is a fun music group for parents/caregivers and young children. We meet each Wednesday for a 30-minute music session, morning tea and a play. The morning tea time is especially important as it gives parents an opportunity to sit, chat and connect with one another.

This term we ran a special Father's Day Saturday afternoon session. The session was followed by a BBQ sausage sizzle and all the dads were invited to come and join us. As well as allowing our children to show dads what they get up to every Wednesday morning, the afternoon gave us an opportunity to develop deeper relationships with our families.

We have also continued visiting Pearl Nursing Home during the school holidays, and are working with several organisations to have older people in respite visit the church during the term to watch the Mainly Music children dance, sing and play.

Our prayer has always been that this program would become a ministry through which we can show God's love in action.

Kate Woods



Marrara Students Get Behind Foodbank NT

Marrara Christian College students have given amazing support to Foodbank NT. During September over 120 kilos of food was donated through a food drive that was coordinated by Year 12 students.

Special mention must go to the Transition Class for a fantastic effort collecting the most food. Year Two students also visited Foodbank NT to learn how things work as they had been busily fundraising for Foodbank NT by collecting 10c containers.

At a school Assembly in September, **Foodbank NT CEO, Paul Avery** was presented with a cheque for \$176.40 and in turn presented the school with a certificate and a box of 1000 chocolates in appreciation.

In other news Foodbank's mobile pantry now operates each Tuesday morning at Cornerstone Christian Church in Howard Springs which makes a total of six locations Foodbank now serves in the Darwin and rural area.

Around 600 people a month access the **Food 4 Life** services and that number is expected to grow.

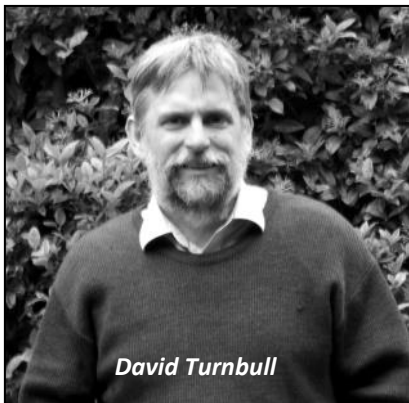
Foodbank NT is an outreach of BaptistCare NT



Comings and Goings at Global Interaction



New State Director



David Turnbull

God has provided a new State Director for SA/NT with David Turnbull who commenced on 30 July.

David's passion is to "connect with God's heart and purposes, and respond to God's invitation to partner in pioneer contexts. Global Interaction's vision for the least reached people groups provides a place-crafting context for God to work."

David writes, "I am really encouraged to see so many Baptist Churches supporting global mission endeavours. I am looking forward to building on this foundation in South Australia and Northern Territory for Global Interaction's vision amongst the least reached people groups. I long to see God's communities educated and participating in God's mission through prayer, financial support, recruitment and member care."

David is available to share with churches and groups that would like to be part of Global Interaction's vision. Through email: dturnbull@globalinteraction.org.au.

The Hutchinson Family Reach Cambodia

After five years of dedicated and valued service to Global Interaction, Luke and Rachel Hutchinson were commissioned on Sunday 9 September at their home church, Glen Osmond Baptist, SA. With their children, Isaac, Tahlia and Michaela,



they arrived in Cambodia on 5 October to begin their language and culture commitment and provide leadership to the team in Siam Reap. Financial pledges are still required as we seek God for 100% support for this family.

Help Hope Break Through

by Samara Linehan

“The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.” – Isaiah 9:2.

Imagine growing up without love of any kind. Imagine how hopeless you would feel... how dark your world would be.

When Yan was just a little girl, this was the reality of her life in rural Cambodia.

“I did not have my own parents, I did not know where I am from,” says Yan. “I lived with some people, they beat me. They did not love me like their own children.”

For many years Yan lived in misery, searching for the beginnings of hope. Then, one day, the other children she lived with threw her in the middle of a nearby lake to see if she could swim.

“After I swallowed some water, they picked me back out. They tortured me,” Yan remembers.



It was a horrible day. It *is* a horrible memory... but in the midst of all that darkness, Yan caught her first glimpse of hope.

It was later on and near the lake that a kind woman found her.

“When she saw me, she talked to me,” says Yan.

“She found out that I had been taken from somewhere and that no one wanted to feed me.”

Like Yan, this woman was Cambodian... and, also like Yan, she was searching for a family to love.

“She did not have a child, so, she adopted me and raised me,” Yan explains.

Yan’s new mother loved her very much, but she was also poor... and growing up in rural Cambodia is not easy when you are surrounded by poverty.

Many years later, now a mother herself, Yan is desperate for her three children to have childhoods that are full of the hope she struggled to find herself... and thanks to your generosity, her children are brimming with hope for the future!

With your support, our Christian partner in the field began work in Yan's community. With their help, she and her husband learned to raise chickens and pigs to sell... they even started a small business basket weaving!

"Life has become much better. We are not very upset like we were before," Yan says happily. "We have money to buy food, to eat, and to support the children."

This Christmas, you have the opportunity to help hope break into the lives of families living in poverty... right across our broken world. Your generous gift to the Be Hope Christmas Appeal means new livelihoods for mums like Yan and food and education for their precious children. Jesus calls us to be the light in this dark world. Help the light of hope break through.



**BAPTIST
WORLD AID
AUSTRALIA**
Be Love. End poverty.

**Be generous and give to
Be Hope Christmas Appeal today.
Go to:
baptistworldaid.org.au/be-hope**



**BAPTIST WORLD AID
BIG HEARTED GIFT CARDS**
Available at your Church or visit

<https://baptistworldaid.org.au/faith-in-action/big-hearted-gifts/>

Help transform lives and end poverty



**BAPTIST
WORLD AID
AUSTRALIA**
Be Love. End poverty.

Baptisms and Breakfast at Casuarina



Warry is baptised by Pastor Mal

There was a real buzz in the air at Casuarina Baptist Church on Sunday 28 September when four of the church family were baptised by immersion. Prior to the baptisms, during the worship service, each of the four shared their testimony with the congregation. This was a great encouragement to the gathering as they told of the various challenges they had faced before arriving at the place where they wanted to acknowledge Jesus as Lord of their Life through baptism.

With the church family surrounding them, sisters, Trudy and Gabriella Francis were baptised by their father, Dr. Josh Francis. Pastor Mal Good baptised Brett Midena and Warry. Each person testified to their faith in Jesus by word and baptism and the whole church rejoiced!

BREAKFAST

Also held during September, was a wonderful Saturday morning breakfast catered for by the women. Around 30 people enjoyed a cooked breakfast and warm fellowship together in a relaxed atmosphere. The efforts of Annette Kent and Chris Good (pictured below) in organising this were much appreciated.





Casuarina folk enjoy breakfast and fellowship

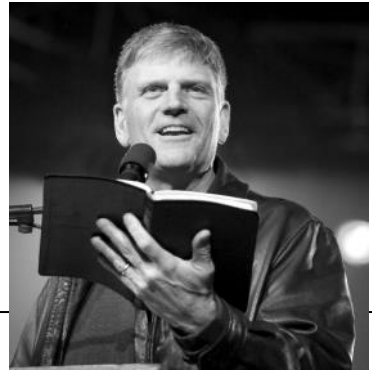
WITH THE LORD

***In recent months two Christian Yapa men have passed away.
We pay tribute to them and thank Wapirra (God) for their lives and
their witness.***

Japanangka was a senior Warlpiri Man from the Western Desert and also an elder of Yuendumu community where he had been part of the Baptist Church for many years. He was well experienced in interpreting and translating and had travelled widely. He was also recognised as a mentor to young people in the community.

Japangardi, a Christian Warlpiri man, was from Lajamanu but living in Darwin for health reasons. He passed away suddenly and is greatly missed by family in Lajamanu and Darwin. Along with his brother, Japangardi was a key leader at the Knuckey Lagoon Fellowship where his death has had a big impact. He also helped with driving people to church.

Please remember the families, churches and communities who have lost their loved ones and pray that Wapirra will bring comfort to those who mourn. May the kingdom work of these two Christian men be picked up and continued by other believers.



Son of Billy, evangelist Franklin Graham, will tour Australia in February next year. The tour marks the 60th anniversary of Billy Graham's 1959 tour that had a major impact on Australia, described as "a great revival" by commentators.

A total of 150,000 Australians became Christians in the 1959 crusade.

Next year Franklin Graham will cross the country, preaching in Perth, Darwin and Adelaide and across to Melbourne, Brisbane and Sydney.

"We will share the same life-changing message of hope my father preached in Australia 60 years ago," said Franklin Graham, president of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association .

200 Attend Prayer Rally at Casuarina Baptist Church

On Wednesday the 17 October the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association held a dinner for pastors and ministry leaders across the Top End. We had almost 70 key leaders there to share a meal, pray, and focus on the Gospel. Afterwards we had a city-wide prayer rally with 200 people in attendance.

It was an incredibly encouraging time of fellowship and unity as we asked God to move in this city. Thanks to everyone who participated to make it such a great night. The next event is the Christian Life and Witness Course training happening across 15 churches in November.

Churches and individual Christians are invited to:

- ***Pray for spiritual renewal in Australia***
- ***Attend a Christian Life & Witness session***
- ***Invite at least one non-Church friend to the event***
- ***Attend the event***

Hugh Lumb

Darwin Tour Associate/Graham Tour 2019

For details visit grahamtour.com.au

YOU'RE INVITED

Bring your friends and join us as we pray for our community
and Australia—and enjoy a message of hope from Franklin
Graham and live music, including Crowder.

FREE ADMISSION

Wednesday 13 February 2019

DARWIN

7.30 PM Darwin Convention Centre

"Make known with boldness the mystery of the Gospel."

Ephesians 6:19

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2018 BUNT ASSEMBLY

at Cornerstone Christian Church, Howard Springs

Guests and delegates from several Baptist churches enjoy fellowship as they wait for dinner.