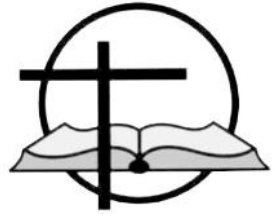


November 2020



BELONGING PEOPLE



Mat Anderson with Jerry and Arana Rice of Ali Curung



Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

- Galatians 6:10 -

13 –15 November 2020

Our prayers are powerful. They are heard by God and align our heart with His. There are millions of people yet to hear the message of Jesus in a way that makes sense to them.



Global Interaction invites you to join with believers across Australia for a weekend of intentional prayer for the least-reached. Whether you pray with your small group, church community, family or by yourself, pray that doors will be opened for the least-reached to hear and accept the Good News.



From the New President

Awkward Elbows

I don't know about you but I'm longing for a new day. COVID-19 has been an unwelcome intrusion into our lives, and whilst the Northern Territory has been a relatively safe place, we too have been affected, to some degrees. It has changed the way we live. It's been just over six months since this virus changed our lives. Tapping elbows is so awkward. So yes, I long for the day when I don't have to think about, or feel guilty, shaking someone's hand. It used to be natural, something that you just did without a second thought. Oh, for a new day!

Yes, our world has changed and even after six months there is still so much that is uncertain.

In these times it is good to remind each other that - ***Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Hebrews 13:8***

As one old hymn says, 'all may change but Jesus never, glory to His name'

So yes, a new day is coming, but whilst we are in these uncertain times it is good to remind ourselves of what is certain and true.

I encourage you to continually place your trust in Jesus. He is our rock, that sure place where we can rest secure in his care.

The LORD makes firm the steps of the one who delights in him; though he may stumble, he will not fall, for the LORD upholds him with his hand. Psalm 37:23-24^{NIV}

Rev. Mal Good

A Very Different BUNT Assembly

The annual Baptist Assembly in some southern states was, for the first time in their history, unable to meet physically.

Here in the NT, the Baptist Family was blessed to be able to gather physically at CrossRoads Christian Church, although for a much scaled down Assembly held on Saturday 19th September.

Delegates and friends heard reports from Baptist Care NT CEO, Peter Pilt and retiring BUNT President, Mal Sercombe, and the new BUNT Board was acknowledged.

A time of Worship and Praise was led by Cornerstone's young vibrant Music Team. Fellowship was enjoyed over a tasty Barbecue Meal and ice cream dessert. Thanks to Cornerstone for hosting a very different Assembly this year.

Special Thanks to Mal Sercombe for serving the NT Baptist Family as president for the past two years and for guiding BUNT through some challenging times.

The new BUNT Board voted on by the Assembly Delegates, and including the casual vacancy of Treasurer, which was subsequently filled by the Board, are as follows: -

President: Mal Good (Casuarina)
Vice President: Neil Wright (Cornerstone)
Treasurer: Rosa Malpartida (CrossRoads)
Secretary: Vacant
Immediate Past President: Mal Sercombe (Darwin)

Committee Members:
Ernie Mitchell (Katherine)
Toni Rehrmann (Darwin)
Lincoln Agnew (Darwin)

Director of Ministries (continuing): Mike Mills

This leaves the following two positions available, a Secretary and a Committee Member. If you are a suitably gifted person or if there are suitably gifted people in your orbit (who are current members of a member church) we would love to explore the opportunity for their gifts to be used on the BUNT Board, to the benefit of God's Kingdom here in the NT.



*CrossRoads Worship Team leading Praise
at this year's BUNT Assembly*

Baptist Care NT

Baptist Care NT CEO, **Peter Pilt**, gave the report of his first year in the role and told of the many challenges facing Foodbank and Food For Life in this most unusual year.

At a time during the Covid-19 spike when the demand for food in remote schools, and communities and in Food for Life saw a dramatic increase and the Foodbank warehouse pallets were emptying fast, God answered prayers through the provision of much extra food, finances, volunteers and the use of a vehicle. This year has also seen generous support from the NT Government, Baptist Care Australia and many business corporations as well as individuals.

Phoebe Van Bentum was thanked for her incredible contribution as Board Chair and presented with flowers as she retired from this position.

Baptist Care Board Members are Neil Wright, Brett Midena, Melissa Hawkes and Lauren Tattersall.



IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS with KATHERINE BAPTIST



Pastor Ernie and Music Team leading worship

The Church folk at Katherine Baptist have had a change of venue for their Sunday service. During this year's great Dry Season they have been gathering under the shade of a large tree at McLagan's Farm (formerly Morrow's). Here they have also been able to utilise a stage structure previously used for Katherine Christian Conventions.

Alice Mitchell, wife of Pastor Ernie, reports "It has been refreshing to get away from the physical aspects of meeting in a building (setting up data projector, microphones, speakers etc.).

. This has led to a more relaxed service with a greater focus on praise and worship and the Pastor's message. Family groups and friends gather and bring their own chairs or sit on the ground".

This has been ideal during the Dry Season but with the onset of the coming Wet Season, the church family will be looking for a little more shelter.

KBC are also involved in leading an inter-denominational Church service at Mataranka on a 3-monthly basis. This is a blessing to the community around Mataranka and an opportunity to share the gospel and encourage Christian people living in remote settings. The leading of services is shared on a regular basis with the Katherine Anglican and Salvation Army Churches.

Monthly, separate Ladies and Men's Breakfasts continue to be held at McLagan's Farm with a guest speaker as well as a bountiful breakfast. A regular favourite on the Church calendar, these informal breakfasts present an opportunity to invite friends from outside the church and also to fellowship with people from different denominations



Sharing the Gospel at Mataranka



Used with Permission

Ali Curung Church serving their community

Arana and Jerry Rice, Church Leaders at Ali Curung were in Darwin in September for Bible Training at Nungalinga College and it was good to catch up with them at Casuarina Church.

Arana was very happy to meet up again with long time friends, Jan and John Whitbourn and also Mat Anderson who is a near neighbour at Yuendumu. (See front cover)



Arana with Pastor John Whitbourn

The Ali Curung Church is active on many fronts with something happening each day:

- Bible Studies for men and women
- Eldership planning meetings
- Women's Prayer group
- Community meal each Saturday

Singalongs are very popular and Sunday morning services have a rotation of seven different people preaching.

There are plans to start Sunday School soon as well as an afternoon kid's program.

Out in the community a few of the church people regularly put together boxes of food for widows. These are delivered by wheelbarrow and sometimes by car.

An 'Elijah Pantry' provides food to anyone who needs it with a request that they put food back when they can.

Small loans up to \$100 are made available for households who have run out of food, power or fuel. Families repay the loan from their next pay.

Church renovations are ongoing following damage in recent years and the place is looking good.

PRAYER & PRAISE

THE PRAYER OF THE RIGHTEOUS IS POWERFUL AND EFFECTIVE
~ JAMES 5:16 ~

Please Pray

Arana has asked us to Pray for one thing:

Praise God for the faithful members of **For Wapirra's Peace to cover the communities of Ali Curung, Willowra and Tea Tree.**

Praise God for Kardiya couple, Murray and Deb Aldridge, who live and work at Ali Curung. They are a wonderful support for the Church and for the community programs that the church runs.

Will you pray with the Christians of Ali Curung ?

Andrea Adams



Well Done, Good and Faithful Servants

The last few months has seen the passing from our midst of two much loved women, both committed Servants of the Lord, in their churches and in our NT Baptist Family. long illness. Both these women were still in the prime of their lives but God the Father, saw that their work on earth was completed and called them home to Himself.

Both are deeply mourned by their families, friends and the church communities they served. In September, **Napaljarri**, a Church Leader from Lajamanu, went unexpectedly o be with the Lord. Then in October, **Liz Douglas**, wife of Pastor Warren of DBC ,was called home after a

See pages 10-11

'She Chose Joy'

Liz Douglas

With heavy hearts, Darwin Baptist Church said goodbye to our friend, pastoral-care coordinator and cherished sister-in-Christ, Liz Douglas last month. The service was attended by more than 300 family members and friends and was a beautiful celebration of her life, which she spent loving and living with the joy of the Lord.



"She chose joy as she knew her hope was in Christ and her future in heaven," her daughter Ashlea expressed at her celebration service. "My mum chose to praise God in all things, even right up to the end she was praising God, saying 'God is good'."

Liz had many amazing qualities, but it was her warmth, sense of humour, gift of hospitality and wonderful ability to listen to others that we, as a church, will miss the most.

As we continue to mourn her loss, we gratefully remember her desire to walk in step with God's bigger kingdom plans and her wish to see others experience the hope, joy and peace that only comes through living with Jesus.

"I am so thankful to God for the 35 years I got to share with Liz," said Warren, her husband. "She was a beautiful gift, a great treasure in my life.

She was such a great support and friend, and I learnt so much from her; how to be generous and hospitable, how to care and love and listen to others... Liz loved seeking God in prayer and praising Him and I know what she would want most for each one of you is that you would know Jesus too, the one who gave her hope and peace and joy, even in the midst of her suffering and pain and who promises eternal life with God in the future."

"Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."
(2 Cor 4:16-18)

Kate Woods

Ngapaljarri



We would like to pass on our respect and condolences to Ngapaljarri's family, friends and to the church at Lajamanu.

As a young woman, Ngapaljarri worked at the Mission house for Ivan and Verl Jordan. They mentored her, disciplined and loved her. She has always had a special place in her heart for the Jordan family.

There was always a big smile when Ngapaljarri came to visit, always staying for a ngalija (cup of tea) and a chat. There were often many laughs when she shared stories of the past and sometimes she would proudly bring out the photo of herself in her Girls Brigade uniform fondly reminiscing of past activities.

Ngapanardi and Ngapaljarri worked together in the church in a strong leadership capacity for many years leading youth group, women's Bible Studies, mediation within the community, visitation and prayer. She was also very creative writing songs, cooking, sewing and of late, painting. Ngapaljarri was also a woman of conviction and would stand her ground if she believed strongly in something. Her passion was worship.

Her love for Wapirra shone through in the times she led worship at church, sing alongs and other events. When leading worship she would often begin the service with her favourite Bible passage, Psalm 100, taking the church into an attitude of praise, joy and worship.

Her love for her family, children, grand children and great grandchildren was evident in her life. We stand with them as they grieve for their loved one. She is, and will be, greatly missed by her church family who have all been encouraged in their Spiritual walk by her example, love, creative spirit and love of Wapirra.

"Shout for joy to the Lord, everyone on earth.

Worship the Lord with gladness.

Come to Him with songs of joy.

Know that the Lord is good."

Psalm 100vs 1-2

Pauline Morrison

(Photo used with permission)

Building for God's Glory at Casuarina Church



The building of the Casuarina Baptist Church has been a long time in the making.

In 1974, Cyclone Tracy left the relatively new buildings at the time, in ruins. The adjoining manse was rebuilt and is now owned by Scripture Union, having undergone impressive renovations recently. In keeping with our desire for the property to be maximised for the Kingdom, soon after the sale to Scripture Union, church land was made available for the studio of 97 Seven, the Christian Radio Station.

After the cyclone, rubble was cleared and the current blockwork building which is now the hall was constructed.

In 1987 the construction of the current Worship Centre commenced, using sub-contractors and voluntary labour. Progress was at the rate funds permitted and it was first used (as a shell) several years later. In 1996, using funds from the sale to Scripture Union, the offices were constructed, the walls were lined, the ceiling installed and the concrete floor carpeted.



In February this year, consideration was being given to staging the construction of the much-needed verandahs which were envisaged in the original design. In March, the unexpected opportunity arose to apply for a Northern Territory Government grant. Grants were being made to not-for-profit organisations to support the building industry.

Casuarina Baptist Church was successful in receiving a grant which, along with a contribution from church funds and the generosity of the builder (C & R Constructions) and its sub-contractors, allowed, not only the three verandahs to be constructed, but also the foyer and creche to be renovated. The bulk of the work was done very efficiently and effectively in five weeks mid-year.

Now all entrances to the two buildings are linked by three extensive verandahs, giving protection from the sun and rain. The improved physical and visual amenity is dramatic and welcoming

This amenity is appreciated, not only by us, but by other users of the property which include three other churches, Food for Life, Women's Craft and several community organisations.

Our heart desire is for the extensive property to be used for the Glory of God.

Along with Scripture Union and 97 Seven, our heart desire is for the extensive property to be used for the Glory of God.

John Gronow



A 'Blast From the Past' at Darwin Baptist Church

During October, Darwin Baptist Church has had the privilege of welcoming Neil Ryan back to the Top End.

Neil, who was a pastor at DBC in the late 80s and early 90s, ministered as a locum for four weeks while Pastor Mal and his wife, Ellen, took a well-earned holiday.

Though many things have changed over the past 30 years – including the introduction of air-conditioning at the church – Neil says Darwin is still a very welcoming place.

"I am very happy to be back here. You might leave a place, but it never really leaves your heart... I am really glad I can be here to help where I can, take the load where I can and encourage where I can."

During his time with DBC, Neil led a series titled, "Encounters with God".

"At the heart of what I believe God has called me to do, is to help people rediscover how God finds people.

"Encounters – whether that be like Nicodemus' encounter or Zacchaeus' encounter or the man-born-blind's encounter – are transformative and in an age when Christianity is being given over to secularism, encounters with the heart of God are what we need."

DBC would like to say a big thank you to Neil for sharing God's word and his time with us. It has been wonderful to see his smiling face around the church and its ministries once again.

Kate Woods



*Neil and Lyn
Ryan*

BAPTISMS AT YUENDUMU



The Church at Yuendumu was blessed in May to have a baptism service for two men who are new believers. They have been considering this step for a while and were able to complete a Bible study with some of the church leaders and Mat. The church was packed with family members from the area.

It was a joy to watch these two brothers join in fellowship through baptism

There was also a baby dedication service with many families bringing little ones. It was an exciting day and we were glad to be witness to it.

Please pray for these men as they embark on this journey of life under Christ's Lordship, it isn't an easy road.

Mat and Shannon Anderson

Cornerstone Church Connecting with Community



Homegrown Cornerstone

This was a novel and successful event which attracted a large audience. A dinner was held at the Church followed by a concert featuring songs written by the Music Team.

An amazing \$5,000 was raised for music equipment. But, as Pastor Neil says, this was an important event in helping the Church Family to connect with others.

Men's Shed

Cornerstone Church is considering using the large shed on their property to host a Men's Shed in the Rural area.

Recently a meeting was held for those interested in starting up a Men's Shed. Watch this space!



Could this be the next NT Men's Shed ?

Cornerstone Hosts First Rural SUPA Kids Day

In conjunction with Scripture Union NT and with help from four other rural churches, Cornerstone Church hosted the very first 'Rural SUPA Kids Day' on Saturday, 5th September. It was a roaring success.

40 kids from the rural area attended with 17 leaders from several different churches in the rural area.

The day included sports and outdoor games, learning about Jesus from the Bible through drama, song and dance and why Jesus is 'the Boss of Everything'. Food, fun with friends and finishing the day with some chilled games and crafts made it a great event which they hope to repeat next year.



The Anderson Family Take A Break

In June the bio-restrictions we had been living under since March were lifted, meaning that people were able to freely travel around the Northern Territory. We were glad to be able to visit our family in Alice Springs and take a little holiday. We stayed in Central Australia but we were able to have a break and get away from phone and internet reception, which made it a really peaceful time. The kids loved visiting with other children who live at the accommodation and the horses and dogs that make their home there too. It was lovely to step outside in the cold evenings and hear nothing but wind and the horses nickering to each other.

We may live remotely but the sounds of our evenings are more like an urban setting. Cars, dogs people, music.

Yuendumu is often noisy in the evenings. So the total quiet of a remote place like that was relaxing.

In September the Anderson Family were able to visit Darwin and see different sights as well as connect with some of the Top End Churches. Mat was a welcome visitor to the BUNT Assembly.

Mat and Shannon Anderson, with their four children, live at Yuendumu and are at present, Global Interactions only NT workers. Please pray for them.



Peter and Beth enjoy a welcome holiday

Lajamanu Ladies Learn from Channels of Hope Program

In late October a group of six Christian ladies went by the Bodhi Bus to Ross River near Alice Springs. They were attending an important workshop, held over several days, run by World Vision. Lajamanu Church Leader, Lynette Tasman, was one of them and has told about the Channels of Hope Program which helps address the urgent concerns among church members and leaders about domestic violence.

This follows an earlier visit in April by Channels of Hope Advisor, Grant Paulson, to Lajamanu where both men and women participated and where Pastor and respected community elder, Jerry Jangala affirmed the program which provides congregation members with training, helping them to unpack and discuss important issues.

Lynette (*see photo*) explained how over four days at Ross River, along with women from other communities, they studied Genesis 1-2 and looked at God's creation plan for man and woman to live together peacefully. It was a fruitful time of sharing and learning and they returned to Lajamanu tired but glad they had been part of the workshop.

Please Pray for

- Lajamanu people who are grieving the loss of loved ones
- For the funerals that are planned for December
- Hector Patterson, in Royal Darwin Hospital, for treatment of burns. Pray for healing. Hector is a Church Leader and Musician and is very much missed.
- Leaders and members of the Lajamanu Church as they move forward with Wapirra following the passing of their much loved friend and church leader.



*(The **Bodhi Bus** is a not for profit passenger bus service to more than 50 remote communities enabling people to travel safely and economically.)*

DESPITE COVID-19, GOD'S MISSION CONTINUES



The COVID-19 impact is yet to pass, with ripples continuing to affect community participation, relationships, and resourcing. Uncertainty and anxiety levels remain.

What does this mean for a globally focused organization, with mission not exempt? Travel is difficult at present and will remain so well into 2021. Many intercultural workers are finding themselves unable to depart Australia or finding difficulty in finalizing dates for returning to Australia. Despite COVID -19, God continues with the harvest work associated with the mandate given to God's people. So, how have some of our SA/NT family responded? Here are several comments.

From the Khmer team, despite COVID-19, God is still near to the Khmer people, to us, and God is faithful, good, and active

There are three pieces of evidence to illustrate these statements.

First, the miracle of God enabling Rob and Deb Griffith to return to Cambodia on 25 July is evidence. So many factors made this possible, including reaching 100% support, provision of clearance to leave Australia and visa approval to remain in Cambodia. Second, keeping the team and the Khmer people healthy in a region barely affected by COVID-19. Third, several healthy spiritual conversations are occurring.

Can I encourage you to continue to pray for the teams? The **Just Prayer** event (13-15 November) provides an opportunity to focus on the least reached people groups.

<https://www.globalinteraction.org.au/support/pray/just-prayer> or ring the State Office on (08) 8357 1755.

Photo: Rob and Deb farewelled by family and friends as they return to Cambodia

Dr. David Turnbull

Scripture Union Partners with our Baptist Churches



Scripture Union has had an active presence in the NT for over fifty years and has a great track record of working with young people in schools, camps and holiday programs.

This year has seen Scripture Union expand their ministry to further corners of the NT thanks to God's wonderful provision and the visionary leadership of Ox Roberts, SUNT Director.

Partnering with NT Baptist Churches as well as other denominations, SUNT has been able to bring God's Word and hope to children and youth in Darwin's Rural Area, Katherine and Alice Springs.

The very first **Alice Springs Kids Games** program ran in the October School holidays with SUNT excited to be partnering with 5 churches, including Alice Springs Baptist Church, to run this event. A team of seven leaders from

Darwin helped to plant this new program, among them some teenage leaders who fund-raised to pay for their own travel expenses.

Scripture Union NT's first **SUPA camp** in 5 years was held at Riyala Campsite on Sept 11-13. A great time was had, with over 40 campers and 20 leaders being involved.

With lots of activities and games, amazing food singing and music, arts, craft, cards games, a movie, Bible talks and small groups, the kids learnt more of how Jesus loves us no matter who we are, or what we've done, through the stories of the Samaritan woman at the well; Zacchaeus; and Mary and Martha.

SUNT is grateful to all the volunteers young and old, who give up their time to help and they look forward to running SUPA Camp again in 2021.



PLEASE PRAY that the young people who come to the SU programs will grow closer to Jesus.

Pray that the seeds planted will continue to grow in each young person's life.

Pray for New Workers to the Outback



Global Interaction has been seeking to share Christ with remote indigenous communities across SA and the NT since the 1950's. Currently, there are six communities in which Global Interaction ministers, alongside existing indigenous Baptist fellowships.

*At present, the **only on-field workers** are Mat and Shannon Anderson, (with their four children) based at Yuendumu, three hours north-west of Alice Springs. Other communities to the north (such as Kalkarindji) are up to 700 kms distant, predominantly by unsealed roads.*

A crying need expressed by believers in these fellowships is for leadership development and evangelism, so that these remote faith communities can reach out to their own people, in their own distinctive, culturally

appropriate ways, and partner with other Baptist churches across SA and NT in reaching all Australians.

This training work is difficult, virtually impossible, on a consistent, regular basis, with Mat and Shannon being the only workers.

The Global Interaction Outback Team is praying that the Lord will raise up new, additional workers for this part of the harvest. Would you pray with us as we ask that God would stir the hearts and minds of individuals to hear a call to outback Australia, and our own first nations peoples?

**Vivian Grice
Outback Team Leader**



Missions Interlink Northern Territory

Missions in the NT have been working together to produce an exciting new training package for Christians working with Indigenous Australians! Coming Soon! E-mail Rachel to register your interest and for more details.

Pray for missions in the NT

E-mail Rachel for quarterly prayer points.

You are welcome to join us on 13th November from 10:30am at Nungalinya College (in person or via zoom). RSVP to Rachel.

Contact details

Rachel Borneman (MI NT Ministry coordinator)

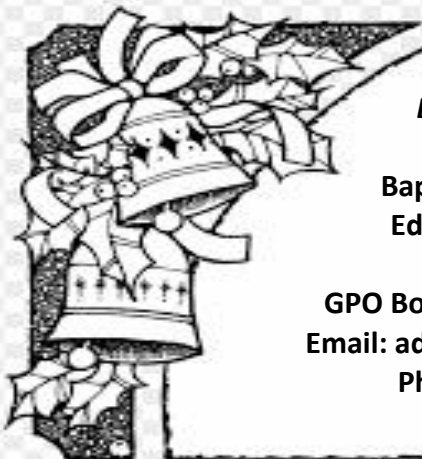
nt@missionsinterlink.org.au



She will bear a Son;
and you shall call His name
Jesus,
for He will save His people
from their sins.
Matthew 1:21



CHRISTIAN TODAY



Belonging People,
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