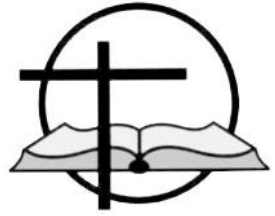


July 2021



Lottie and Eddie Robertson of Yuendumu with Mal Good at Casuarina Church

Keith Jeans

A gentle, caring and faithful man of God, Keith Jeans went to be with his Lord and Saviour on 25 May 2021. Keith and his wife, Shirley, have been living in retirement in Bairnsdale and later Melbourne for many years .

Some from Casuarina Baptist Church and BUNT will recall Keith and Shirley Jeans during their time in the Territory in the 1980s and early 90s. Keith served the Casuarina church as a deacon and elder while also taking on responsibility for church maintenance.



Keith held several positions in the Baptist Union of NT at various times, President, Vice President and Treasurer, and was valued for his wise and stable leadership. For a number of years, Keith and Shirley also served at Elim Christian Center, in Poland, alongside Ken and Giselle Herweynen, in a ministry partly supported by Casuarina Baptist Church. **Isaiah 63:7** is a Bible verse that is special to Shirley and aptly reflects the life of her husband, Keith.

Baptist Union of the Northern Territory New Email Addresses

BUNT President, Rev. Mal Good, president@ntbaptist.org.au

BUNT Administrator, Priscilla Howard, admin@ntbaptist.org.au

President's Message



The Seasons Sneak Up On Me

Every year the wet season is followed by the dry. OK, some wet seasons are wetter than others and some dry seasons are shorter than others. Nonetheless the change of seasons always seem to sneak up on me. I don't see them coming because each season enters slowly and gradually, and they leave us in the same way that they came, unannounced, and without fanfare. But there are clues – 'look at all the dragonflies' as the dry approaches. And no doubt some of you are more attuned to the seasons than I. You may notice all sorts of things and say, 'Mal, how could you not see that coming?'

See! The winter is past; the rains are over and gone. Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come, the cooing of doves is heard in our land. The fig tree forms its early fruit; the blossoming vines spread their fragrance. Arise, come, my darling; my beautiful one, come with me. (Song of Solomon 2:11-13 ^{NIV})

Solomon was a lot more tuned into nature's sights and sounds than I, and herein lies a problem. If we can miss nature's sights and sounds, we may also be in danger of missing a new season which the LORD has in store for us.

And not only that, but we may also be in danger of missing the whispering voice, 'Arise, come, my darling; my beautiful one, come with me'.

The Apostle Paul didn't want us to miss it either; let's listen in to his prayer from the heart.

I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge-- that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. (Ephesians 3:16-19)

May this be our lived reality because this love changes everything!

***Rev. Mal Good
BUNT President***

BUNT President's Update

Let me share with you some of the things that have taken place over the last few months.

Visit to the Indigenous Churches

Firstly, back in April, I along with Viv Grice (from Global Interaction), travelled out to visit the Baptist churches at Lajamanu, Kalkarindji / Daguragu and then on to the Katherine Warlpiri Baptist Church. I always love meeting up with my brothers and sister in the LORD, and I trust that they too are blessed as we seek to cheer each other on in our faith in Jesus. The week before this, several representatives from Global Interaction (based in Melbourne) traveled up to the southern indigenous churches. Again, meeting with church leaders and building bridges is so important. I can also now report that **Danny and Beth Hunt, from New Hope Baptist Church** in Melbourne, have been accepted as Global Interaction candidates to join the team in Central Australia, and will be working alongside church leaders and the Andersons. The details of where they will be based and what this will look like are yet to be worked out.

Katherine Baptist Church

For the last seven years **Ernie Mitchell** has served as pastor of Katherine Baptist Church, and in more recent time Ernie's wife, Alice, has undertaken an administrative role in the church. Well, this season is now coming to an end, as they have made the decision to retire and relocate to be near the grandchildren. I wish to thank them both for their service to the LORD in Katherine, and on behalf of the family of Baptist churches in the Territory, I wish every blessing as they transition into this new season. Please be in prayer for Katherine Baptist Church as they seek to explore what this next season will look like for them.

Possible Amalgamation

The Assembly was made aware, some time ago, of the Board's exploration of a possible amalgamation of the Baptist Union of the Northern Territory with the Baptist Churches of South Australia. This has been something that has been raised from time to time over a number of years; however in more recent times, the participation in the National Redress Scheme and increased compliance in other areas has expedited this further.

I wish to provide an update as to where we are at in this process. On the 27th March this year the Board set time aside to pray and wrestle with the implications, benefits, and losses associated with such an amalgamation.

This was an open and honest conversation where different views were aired, including legitimate concerns but also perceived benefits.

This time concluded with an unanimous decision to officially write to the Board of the Baptist Churches of South Australia to express our desire to have them explore this further with us. This letter was duly sent, and we have received a response in which the Board

of BCSA has expressed a desire to explore further what this could look like. Please pray for us in this process and we will keep you informed of any developments as they arise.

The Big Picture

As I close, I would like to remind you that your church is one of 12 Baptist churches in the Northern Territory, and one of one about a 1000 Baptist Churches in Australia, and one of around 169,000 Baptist Churches worldwide. That is one big family! Thanks for being part of it.

Blessings,

Rev. Mal Good
President

Pastor of Katherine Baptist, Ernie and wife, Alice Mitchell



ART AND FAITH AT NUNGALINYA

At the beginning of 2021, as the Covid threat lessened, Nungalinya College in Darwin, welcomed back large numbers of students to the College. They also launched their newest course: **'Art and Faith'**!

'It is very much an answer to prayer; students have been dreaming of a space and course where they can express their faith through their traditional artistic knowledge, whilst also growing in the practical skills of working in the art industry. Almost all remote communities are connected to a local art centre, and so employment outcomes are also very strong. The NT government got on board with the vision and the first art course at Nungalinya since the early 2000s could begin!'

The course is led by trainers, Sal Moes and Kerry McCarthy, herself a local Indigenous artist.

In May the second Art and Faith Course for this year was held. Four people from Yuendumu Baptist came to take part. Church Leaders, **Eddie and Lottie Roberston with Lorraine and Lavinia** were eager to learn about using their art and loved the course. They and other students created some amazing pieces of art using the Psalms as their lens to depict God's Creation

A real highlight of the month was the Chapel service led by the **'Art and Faith'** class. Lottie opened the service with prayer and the students showcased their art works and shared through word, song and dance their growth in trusting our great God.



Lottie and Eddie at work and worship during the course.





At Casuarina Baptist Church

Lorraine, Lavinia, Lottie and Eddie also came to worship at Casuarina Baptist Church while they were living and studying nearby at Nungalinga. It was good to share with them over several weeks and to learn that Lavinia had been baptised at Yuendumu at Easter.



KATHERINE MEN'S BREAKFAST

Around 22 men from the Katherine churches recently gathered for a Men's Breakfast at McLagan's farm ahead of **Pastor Ernie Mitchell's** departure. They shared many memories of Ernie's ministry over the last 7 years. Some of the highlights were remembering motorbike riding as a group together, mentoring musicians especially young people and encouraging youth groups. The men appreciated that Ernie is approachable and his preaching is from Scripture. Ernie will be missed.

FREEDOM TO FLOURISH

TOGETHER NT WOMEN'S CONFERENCE



The popular Christian Women's conference was back this year after a 'Covid break' in 2020. Cornerstone Christian Church at Howard Springs proved the ideal venue for the conference held on Friday evening and all day Saturday on 28th and 29th May. Women from a number of churches in the Top End attended with a group coming from Katherine and staying overnight. The new team of Emma and Ashlee, with a tribe of volunteers and months of prayer and planning and with Almighty God, produced a marvellous conference with around 160 women

attending and also a bunch of men (musicians and support team). The Music Team was ably led by Dein Cantrill.

The welcoming environment of Cornerstone Church with its trendy new café, large auditorium and outside seating and lawns, was the perfect setting, with some events – like the candle-lit Prayer Time on the first evening, held outside on the lawns on a beautiful Dry Season Evening. Workshops on Saturday, some held outside, gave women the opportunity to engage in different faith-building discussions.

This year the conference was blessed with two outstanding Territory speakers, **Red Fulton** (Gove) and **Troy Davis** (Zion Church, Darwin), who both shared God's message, in challenging and humorous ways, on the theme of Freedom to Flourish. John chapter 15 was one of the main passages used, with Jesus' words, **"I am the vine, you are the branches."**

Armchair Testimonies were moving and heart warming sessions, where four women from our local churches spoke of God's faithfulness amidst some of the most difficult and sad times in their lives. **Alison Kernick, Claire Rodgers, Sue Clow and Oluranti Ologunde** opened their hearts and lives to listeners and told of how Abiding in Christ brought them His Peace and Strength to go on.



This year, the Conference attendees were asked to support the work of Scripture Union in the NT, in their work of sharing the Good News of Jesus with children and young people around the Territory. The gathering heard from **SUNT Director, Ox Roberts**, about some of their exciting programs.

Toni Rehrmann, whose vision started the NT Together Conferences in 2013, was thanked and honoured for her inspirational leadership. Toni has been mentoring a new, young, enthusiastic team to take over the reins of "Together NT". **Please pray for them.**



Our Outback Team Giving Thanks

Giving Thanks

Mat and Shannon Anderson are thankful for all who have been praying for them to get some home help for their family. They are excited that Melissa from Thornleigh Community Baptist Church has arrived in Yuendumu to provide that help. Please pray for Melissa as she settles in to her new cross-cultural life on community. "We are so thankful for this much needed help to our family."

With more good news and thankfulness, Mat and Shannon are 'totally thrilled' that they will soon have team mates joining the Outback work. "We are so thankful to God for his provision!"



Team Visit

Global Interaction sent a group from Victoria to visit the Anderson Family and also visit the Southern Communities and view the support work.

"It was a blessing to have them here with us, and the visits and the conversations they were able to have along the way, will be bearing fruit for a long time. The team arrived on Easter Saturday and then travelled to Willowra and Ali Curung on the Tuesday. They travelled late on Wednesday to Alice Springs and the group had some debriefing time on Thursday. It was a whirlwind tour for everyone but a great opportunity to connect and learn!"

- ***Praise God for new workers in this field***
- ***Praise God for the blessing of Easter and the gatherings***
- ***Pray for God's help as the Anderson family navigate challenges together***
- ***Thank God as Mat and Shannon celebrate ten years of marriage***



Easter at Yuendumu

The Yapa churches have been meeting together to celebrate Easter for many years. The communities take it in turns to host each other and this year the gathering was at Yuendumu. This means a lot of time thinking about how the church wants to celebrate and what they may need. Mat describes one meeting where people spent the whole time making sure that every one felt ok with the others. There were some apologies and forgiveness, some encouragements and lots of conversations. Mat realised people were making sure relationships were ready for the work that lay ahead. This was the first step. Relationships are more important than tasks.

The Easter Purlapa (Corroboree) was performed on Saturday night. Boys and girls played the parts of Bible characters and acted out the story while it was being read from the Bible and sung in the traditional Warlpiri style.

On Easter Sunday there was a large gathering at church. Mat and Shannon tell of the mighty blessings as six baptisms and several baby dedications were celebrated together with the large group who came from Lajamanu and Willowra to share Easter with Yuendumu.

Boys and girls get ready for the Easter Purlapa





SCRIPTURE UNION NORTHERN TERRITORY

Scripture Union NT continues their valuable partnership with local churches providing wonderful opportunities for young people to come to know Jesus as Lord and Saviour and build relationships, as well as having a heap of fun.

Easter Camp

SU's first Easter Camp for youth in the greater Darwin region since 2015 was held this year. 52 youth (from 11 different churches) and 19 leaders embarked on an adventure at Riyala Campsite at Noonamah over the Easter long weekend. Luke Midena (a previous Easter Camper) gave awesome talks on how Jesus is the Light.

Kids Games

This year celebrates 10 years of Darwin **KidsGames, and will be held in Darwin, Katherine and Alice Springs.** This year will be the 3rd time that KidsGames has run in Katherine, in partnership with five local churches.

Yangbala Camp

Planning is currently underway for **Yangbala Kemp (July) and Bush Camp (October).** These camps are aimed at Indigenous children and youth from the Central Arnhem communities. Please pray for **Rachel Borneman** as she liaises with key leaders from the communities, as they plan and prepare for these important programs.

Katherine Christian Convention

For 50 years, SU has assisted KCC by running a **Children's Program** during the main adult teaching sessions. This helps parents attending the convention. KCC is held on the long weekend in May, and 30-40 kids attended each of the 4 sessions over the weekend. A highlight was the performance of the memory verse on the Sunday night in both English and Kriol (with actions).

Religious Instruction in Schools

David Pohlmann is School Ministry Coordinator for SU. 15 volunteer RI teachers, as well as two SU staff Members, teach in 10 Darwin primary schools. This only covers 1/3 of the 30 primary schools. As Jesus said, "The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few." Matt9:37. If you can assist, email david.pohlmann@su.org.au

The 2nd Rural SUPA Kids Day

was held on Saturday, May 15th at Cornerstone Christian Fellowship in Howard Springs. The event is run in partnership between four rural churches and Scripture Union. Almost 40 kids attended the day, learning about the "Lost" parables in Luke.



Katherine Christian
Convention Kid's Program
"3 Kings Under One God"
The kids looked at the lives
of Saul, David and Jesus, the
one true King.

All photos used with
permission of SUNT.



Birth of a Bush Church

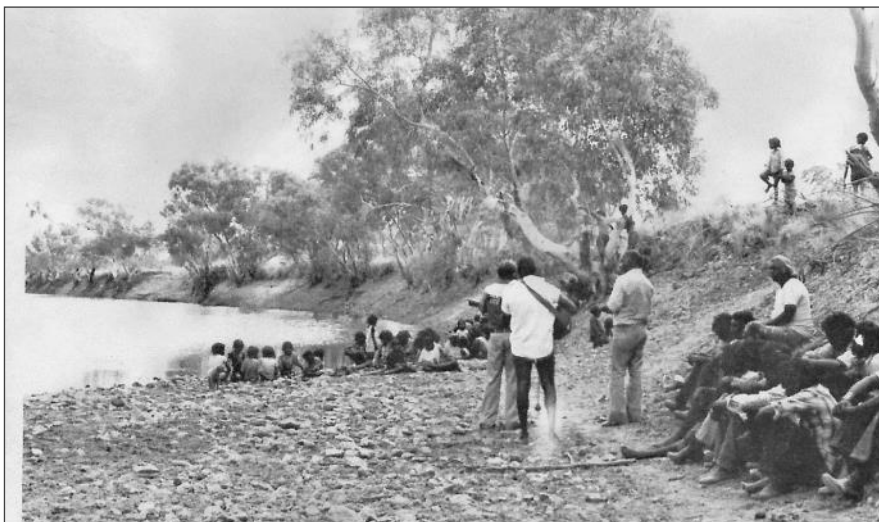


Murray Downs cattle station lies about 30 km east of Ali Curung. Alyawarra people have been living there for many years. Members of the Ali Curung church faithfully made regular trips to Murray Downs to share their faith, yet after 25 years there were no believers. Communication was a huge problem, as very few Alyawarra spoke English, and none of the Ali Curung people spoke much Alyawarra.

But God had the answer! In 1980, an Alyawarra man named Donald Kamarra, who had been living in Tennant Creek, approached the missionary at Ali Curung and with broken English shared that he wanted to give his life to Jesus.

His wife was a Christian, and she had been witnessing to him for some time. Donald wanted the Lord to come into his life and make him a new man, and so powerful was the change the Lord made in Donald that he had a strong desire to go to Murray Downs and share his testimony. "They are all my family, my language group, and I want them to know."

Donald visited a number of times, and each time the response was amazing! Through his preaching many people responded and gave their lives to Jesus. Next came the baptisms: 18 in the first group, followed by others. The believers met together each night for some months, with the Ali Curung church folk continuing to visit and encourage the new believers.



Baptismal service, Murray Downs station 1980

After some teaching on the nature of the Church, the Murray Downs group chose some leaders, and was constituted as a church, joining the Baptist Family of Churches in the NT in 1981.

After some years, numbers in the church began to decrease as people started returning to their homelands.

A few faithful folk still live there, and meet whenever they can.



Rev. John Whitbourn

ED: John and Jan Whitbourn were the missionaries at Ali Curung at this time.

Easter Dawn Service at Nhulunbuy

He is Risen!

The combined churches of Nhulunbuy celebrated Resurrection Sunday with a sunrise Easter service at the Gove Surf Club. There was a good turn out of at least 60 people.

Davin Blundell, leader at Nhulunbuy Baptist Church, reports 'The weather and sunrise were great.'

Following the early morning service, the gathering enjoyed a breakfast



of bacon and egg sandwiches and sausages with tea and coffee.



TRANSITION TRAINING

REMOTE INDIGENOUS MINISTRIES
13 - 16 JULY 2021 | DARWIN

VENUE: NUNGALINYA COLLEGE

- **Christian Spirituality in Aboriginal Australian Context**
- **Health, Cultural Safety and Chaplains**
- **Learning Aboriginal Language**

Contact Details:

**Rachel Borneman, T-TRIM Coordinator,
E-mail: nt@missionsinterlink.org.au
Mob: 0412 998 594 (please text first)**

Making Connections at Cornerstone

Cornerstone Christian Fellowship has been doing a series of studies during May, called Organic Evangelism presented by Isaac Broad. The main thrust is to promote an everyday lifestyle that leads to sharing the gospel with those already in our sphere.

Cornerstone Kids have been looking at MK5, which is a video series tied to the *Purpose Driven Life* by Rick Warren. At the end of the series there will be a film night at the church when they can invite friends .

The Corner Café has been running well and there have been some good connections with community made.

One great story is of a family visiting the café while the rural SUPA (Scripture Union Primary Age) day was being held at the church.

Kids at the Rural SUPA

Their child saw what was happening at SUPA club, and wanted to stay for it. The parents agreed, and that child wanted to ask Jesus into their life after lunch.

NT Women's Together Conference was held at the church in May and it was good to be able to host them, although next year they might outgrow the building.

Pastor Neil Wright

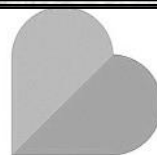


BELONGING PEOPLE

This issue of Belonging People, as well as past issues, can be found on the BUNT website. www.ntbaptist.org.au/belonging-people/

Staying in business during a Pandemic

Meredith Wright



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

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit Deborah's community in rural Kenya, the stakes were already high. Deborah's thriving business saw its sales plummet and she was at risk of returning to a very precarious livelihood: subsistence farming in an area prone to drought and known for its low crop yields.

At Baptist World Aid Australia, we're grateful for the support of DFAT's Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP). Partnership with ANCP has helped communities like Deborah's weather the COVID pandemic in inspiring ways.

The pandemic continues to have devastating effects on poor communities around our world but with the support of Baptist World Aid Australia's Christian partner in Kenya, Deborah's community is now flourishing.

As a mother of three children, Deborah has always worked hard but it has been a struggle to make a living. Then, Deborah joined a self-help group supported by Baptist World Aid's Christian partner.



These groups meet to receive training in savings and loan management, microfinance literacy, agricultural and business skills as well as good hygiene practices.

The program helped Deborah access a low interest loan to open a shop, purchase stock items and begin trading. 'Within the first month [of trading] I started repaying the loan without challenges' Deborah said.

Business was going well until COVID hit. Shutdowns led to a drastic drop in income. Repaying loans was difficult and meetings had to be suspended. For communities like Deborah's, the return to a precarious life of poverty seemed likely.

Fortunately, in August, the group resumed meeting. Baptist World Aid's partner provided training in soap making and Deborah immediately saw the opportunity.

The demand for soap was high, as it has been everywhere, and required little capital to kickstart the new business. Deborah has been able to sell to individuals in her community as well as the local hospital, schools, and local government offices.

Deborah has a vision to increase her production and attain the certification needed to sell her soap to major outlets.

She is thankful to have been able to support her family through a challenging time and help protect her community. Deborah is, 'praying [for] God to reward abundantly all people who have helped me grow my business to where it is now.'

COVID continues to devastate countries throughout the world. Please give if you can to <https://baptistworldaid.org.au/appeals/south-asia-covid-emergency-appeal/>

Meredith Wright is a writer on the communication team at Baptist World Aid Australia in Sydney.



Deborah sells soap to a customer

Anmatyerr Mini Bible Dedication

God's word has been translated into the Anmatyerr language!

Anmatyerr people live in Central Australia, the population of around 1000 are spread among ten or so communities. **David and Ming Fang Strickland** (from Wycliffe/SIL) have been involved in this project for 18 years.

In 2021 they celebrated the newly published Anmatyerr Mini-Bible at four different locations spaced out over four different months. These launch events were held as part of communion services at Ti Tree, Alice Springs Lutheran Church, Laramba and Mt. Allan.

For each event there were visitors from churches in Alice Springs, even one from interstate! They came with lots of food and goodies to share with our Anmatyerr brothers and sisters. Many wonderful conversations happened!

Ming Fang prepared a banner with photos illustrating the story of the 18 years ministry. This was hung in the various locations and attracted a lot of interest among the Indigenous folk, especially when their relatives were pictured!



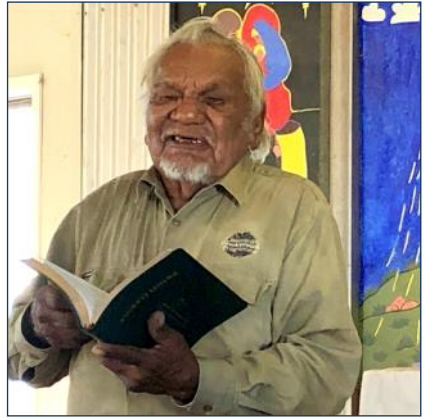
Cutting the celebration cake

David and Ming Fang Strickland

For each celebration, we ordered a cake iced with an image of the Mini Bible. The cakes were a great success with the people. Despite bringing them some 2-3 hours, sometimes over bumpy dirt roads, they all made it to the destinations intact!

During these dedications we received some very positive feedback. The most exciting thing was that several asked us to visit and teach them God's word.

At a recent Bible study in Ti Tree one lady said that hearing God's words in her own language just made her feel so happy, even the happiest time in her life! She thanked God, for her father and uncles who helped with the translation. Now she can hear God's words so clearly. This will be our future plan—to do more Bible translation and Bible studies with Anmatyerr people!



Lutheran Pastor Ronnie encourages the congregation to read the Bible in their own language. He has been waiting 18 years for this Bible.

Ming Fang and David Strickland are translators with AUSIL/Wycliffe and members at Alice Springs Baptist Church.

Please seek permission before copying any photos.



Laramba kids receive 'God's Story for the Outback' pack from the Bible Society

Foodbank NT Donation Drive

Foodbank NT continues to answer calls from distressed Territorians every day, from across all centres and remote communities looking for food relief for themselves and their families.



As Foodbank NT moves into the dry season many of our fellow Territorians, hit hard by the pandemic last year, are still finding themselves in dire straits. Many Australians still don't know how they will cope, as the additional government support is withdrawn.

Every year at this time, Foodbank NT sees regular movements of urban drift into the Northern Territory's major towns from remote communities. The dry conditions give greater ability for this movement as families migrate for the annual school holiday season to reconnect with family and friends in major centres.

This movement into regional centres puts major pressure on food relief resources and Foodbank NT struggles every year to meet this extra demand.

These people are the ones who need food the most, but have nowhere to turn to except to the charities that are supported by Foodbank NT.

As the cost is so high to bring food from south and then distribute it to regional and remote centres, we are desperately in need of support from the local community to supply funds to meet increased demand. Foodbank NT is committed to ensure all of our communities have access to food. Families will continue to need our support through the whole year.

Your gift by way of a donation to Foodbank will help feed vulnerable Territorians. Please donate online today at www.foodbanknt.org.au and help ensure that Foodbank NT is able to support our fellow Territorians tomorrow.

Super Service Sunday with Darwin Baptist Kids

Each term the children in the Darwin Baptist Church Kids Church program take part in a Super Service Sunday. Similar to a working bee, the Sunday is designed to help the children use their gifts and talents to reach out and serve God and our church community in practical ways.

The children can volunteer to welcome people to church, work on the sound desk or read the bible. They can also choose to work in the garden, prepare morning tea or supper, or complete administration duties such as shredding or packing welcome bags.

This term, our children also organised a car wash. While we were only able to wash a small number of cars in the designated time, the activity proved very successful and the children had fun.



"I like Super Service Sunday because we get to do the jobs we don't normally get a chance to do, such as food prep. It is also a lot of fun because you can do them with your friends." Lara (13 years).

"My favourite thing is to help in the garden because I like to spread the mulch." Joey (4 years).

"I like to make the fairy bread because I get to eat it after." Naomi (4 years).

"Looking after the little kids and working in creche is my favourite thing to do on Super Service Sundays. Sometimes I read the bible in church, but I don't enjoy it as much as creche." Amy (11 years).

It is such a joy to see the children working with all their hearts, as though working for the Lord and not for men (Colossians 3:23).



Today's world is dominated by masks. Masks create a shield to what is underneath and protect from outside forces. Invisibility can result and unmasking can occur at different levels.

As we get to know the intercultural workers supported by our churches, we learn much about their faith journey, their issues and their passions. This has occurred with Baptist Churches SA/NT supporting three new workers, who are focusing on contexts in SE Asia and the Silk Road, respectively, involved with community development management and TESOL. Whilst personal connection is vital, it is especially difficult with the workers God has called to security conscious situations, as public exposure is limited.

Intercultural workers need to form deeper connections through learning language and culture, as with **David and Susie Haydon** making progress with learning Ciwayo in Malawi; and **Rob and Deb Griffith** learning about the Khmer end of wet season festival (Bon Om Touk) that involves boat racing, releasing prayer floats and the full moon remembrance of a story of a pre-incarnation of Buddha. I saw the importance of connection recently through participating in **Mission Interlink's T-TRIM workshop, 'Living in Two Worlds'**, in Darwin, for those engaging with first nation peoples.

Thank you to everybody who provided opportunity and hospitality during my visit to the Northern Territory in April, which proved valuable in discovering more about the context there.

If interested in the people or training programs, don't hesitate to contact me at the BCSA office, 8357 1755 or dturnbull@globalinteraction.org.au.

Dr. David Turnbull

CrossRoads Christian Church

Most will agree that foundations are important in both lives and churches, physically and spiritually, which is the whole point of Jesus' parable of the house built on either sand or rock.

At a members meeting on Sunday 11 April, CrossRoads membership voted almost unanimously to adopt a new, leader-led model, constitution. For me (Bruce) this has been a journey of about five years from the time I first realised the direction in which we were being led and the need to restructure. At the time, I thought it was to happen reasonably quickly but I came to see that was not the case. God's idea of 're-structure' was much bigger than mine, hence the five year process. Now in place it will, no doubt, take a little time to get everything happening the way we've agreed, but that's all part of the challenge of 'building on rock'.

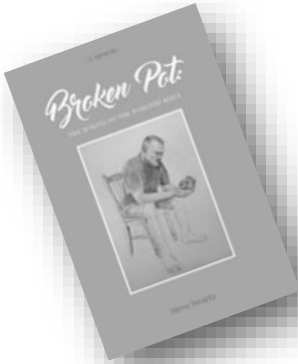
On a different note, on the first Saturday of each month during the dry we have a small team taking the **Baptist Care NT BBQ to Sanctuary Lakes** and giving away sausages and onions on bread. A couple of our 'born evangelists' walk around the area doing what evangelists do while others ordinarily chat to passers-by. Often the question of 'why are you doing this?' comes up, providing a real opportunity for conversation. ...*the fields are white unto harvest...*

A couple of weeks back, while out walking, I was stopped by a distraught lady on a mobility scooter – she had lost her phone, 'Have you found it – it's my lifeline?'. After trying the number a couple of times with no joy, she gladly accepted my offer of prayer. Four days later we had a timely 'crossing of paths' at the supermarket; while grasping my hand firmly with both hers, she enthusiastically told me her errant phone had been handed in to the Supermarket desk '...14 minutes after you prayed...'. She then went on, asking if I would come and meet her friends at an art class during the week.

For very good reason, that was to be my first art class since 1969. Having been at the class for less than 10 minutes, an older man asked if I could sit with him, he had a question: 'What happens when I die?' What an awesome opportunity to share the message of Christ.

Pastor Bruce Clow





BROKEN POT

The Making of the Warlpiri Bible by Steve Swartz

BOOK REVIEW

What is it like for a young man from small-town Ohio to answer the call of God into mission work? What family, church and educational influences shaped this man into what he became?

That's half of this story... the second half unfolds slowly for the couple – from the very earliest years of their missionary service among the Warlpiri. Together, from the early 80s until the present day, Steve and Bev Swartz have survived his mental health frailties manifesting as suicidal depression and bipolar disorder. Even now, it's one day at a time.

In **Broken Pot**, this powerful memoir informs, educates, entertains and challenges the readers to not give up on what God has started. Moreover, it is sincerely hoped that fellow-sufferers of the Black Dog and other forms of mental illness will come to realise that God has not abandoned them; that He can still use *cracked pots* to accomplish His purposes and that there is help for them even in the darkness.

Steve Swartz and his wife Bev came to Australia in 1977 as members of Wycliffe Bible Translators. They lived and worked among the Warlpiri people at the remote community of Lajamanu, Northern Territory from 1978-1986. They and their three children moved to Alice Springs in 1989 where Steve and his wife now live in semi-retirement.



'The author deals honourably and honestly with a rocky personal and professional journey, detailing his battle with mental illness. He combines wit, humour, and insights in the midst of his gut-wrenching pain for himself and his family. All combines to make for a tremendous read.'

**Available at Koorong Books
(02) 9857 4477
<https://www.koorong.co>**



FAILURE TO MAINTAIN YOUR PROPERTY

Over the past few years, we have seen an escalation in more severe weather patterns. Flood, hail, and storm damage claims are increasing each year with damage to both internal and external property. This can be in the form of trees falling on properties, damage to shade sails, damage to ceilings, walls, carpets and furniture.

One of the challenges with our churches can be ongoing and regular checks and maintenance on the church property. Many churches rely on volunteers to help out when they can. We are increasingly finding insurance claims sent through to us stem from a lack of property maintenance rather than an insured peril.

It is important to note that, like a standard home and contents policy, cover cannot be provided where lack of maintenance is found or wear and tear has occurred over time.

Due to this oversight in attending to property maintenance, claims are on the increase and the Insurer is requesting that more time is invested into each claim to ascertain any maintenance issues.

This may be in the form of Assessors being sent out to look at a particular church property

In the event of a water damage claim, we will require photos of your roof and gutters as well as a report from a qualified contractor to advise the cause. If the cause is due to poor maintenance, we may be obliged to deny the claim.

Once damage has occurred through a weather peril, it can be far more expensive for the church, than the cost of regular, ongoing maintenance.

Glen Thornley – State Manager SA & NT
–Ph: 0412 055 832 – Email:
glen.thornley@baptistinsurance.com.au



ED: It was a pleasure for some of us to meet Glen when he visited Darwin churches recently.

*Save
the
Date*

**The 52nd Assembly of the
Baptist Union of the NT**

Date: Friday 17th - Saturday 18th September 2021

Venue: Darwin Baptist Church

More information will be sent to churches later.



Belonging People
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