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And we've done so by walking
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and insight along the way.
Our mission is to enable
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Glen Thornley, NT Relationship Manager, Baptist Financial Services



On the Front Cover:

The Outback Team enjoying fellowship together at Lajamanu during Easter. Pictured are, L-R Beth Hunt, Peter Anderson, Beth Anderson, Vivian Grice, Mark Holt, Mat and Shannon Anderson with Caleb and Samuel

President's Message

From the Heart

Ver the last couple of years, we have become accustomed to barriers going up. From the city and suburbs of Darwin out to Nhulunbuy, down to Katherine and out to the central desert communities, we have all been affected. Churches too, have been required to close their physical doors, whilst at the same time seeking to keep their hearts open.

This led my mind to be drawn to the conversation between Jesus and the Samaritan woman (John 4). In reflecting on this, I have become even more grateful that our faith in Jesus and our worship of the triune God is not confined to the limitations of a building or even of a mountain.

"Believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.... true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth." (John 4:21, 23 NIV)

Travelling between communities or interstate was illegal and international travel was out of the question as people were kept out to protect life within.

But Jesus is all about breaking down barriers to invite people in. Yes, there is a new

Yes, there is a ne and living way.

And so, Jesus talks to the Samaritan woman at the well, breaking down two barriers in one - gender and culture.

As I write this, I am aware that Pentecost Sunday is just a few days away. The outpouring of the Spirit brought a breaking down of the language barrier.

"...Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language?" (Acts 2:7-8 NIV)

I know what it is like to be misunderstood, and also to misunderstand others. But Pentecost points to a community of faith when all people from every culture on earth will be fully understood.

"We hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" (Acts 2:11)

With the sensitivity of Jesus, may we seek also to break down the barriers of gender and culture. May there be a new empowerment of Good News sharing in people's native language, from the heart.

Rev. Mal Good

'Together - Jintangka' with the Outback Team



at and Shannon Anderson, Support Workers with Baptist Mission Australia at Yuendumu, share this heart warming account of time spent at Lajamanu and Kalkarindji over Easter. Readers, be encouraged and please encourage the Team with your Prayers and Messages! (Editor)

orking together and worshipping together are two of the blessings of our life. We are so thankful that over Easter we were able to gather with our team and with believers from many central Australian communities and celebrate the good news that because of Jesus' life, death and resurrection we can be reunited with our Creator God! Is there any better news? We were so blessed by our team time, planning, praying, learning and laughing together. The kids loved having four extra "grandparents" around! We loved it.

(See photo on Front Cover)

The Andersons -

Mum and Dad (Mat and Shannon) with Beth, Peter and twins, Caleb and Samuel

Easter at Lajamanu

We also really enjoyed being in Lajamanu for three weeks around Easter. It was lovely to reconnect with Jerry and Annette, MK and Lynnette.

Mat (Anderson) and Mark Holt were able to spend quite a bit of time with Jerry who is one of the gentlemen of the outback. An amazing man of faith and a strong Warlpiri man, we have so much to learn sitting down with him and he in his humble gracious way tells us he is always learning too. Mat and I also had the blessing of cups of tea with Annette and Lynette, two ladies who have a faithfully served for many years, walking through the good and the bad with their church family and standing with Jesus all the way. So encouraging to see the work of God in his people.



Kalkarindji

After Easter we headed over to Kalkarindji which is only about 2 hours away from Lajamanu. We were warmly welcomed and blessed to be able to fellowship again with the believers here and invited to Bible study groups and sharing nights. The kids have been able to join in at the local school in combination with their home schooling.

Overall, we have loved being in Kalkarindji and have felt really warmly received. People speak of the warm relationship they had with Bill and Pauline Morrison in their time here, and they miss them. We've been out fishing a couple times, but we were told it's not really the time for it because it's too cold for the Barramundi, though to us desert crew it feels pretty warm for May!

We are headed back to Yuendumuwith full hearts thankful for all that God has been doing building our faith and his church.

Mat & Shannon Anderson



Pastor Jerry Jangala and Peter Anderson inspect a waterhole at Lajamanu

For Prayer and Praise

- Praise God for the wonderful time connecting as a team face to face.
- Praise God for the amazing Easter gatherings we got to be part of in April
- Pray for Yuendumu which has experienced some tensions and conflict in recent weeks.
- Pray for Community Leaders as they seek to help their community through this time.
- Continue to lift up the congregations at Ali Curung, Willowra,
 Yuendumu, Lajamanu and Kalkarindji

Easter Baptisms at Lajamanu

Danny and Beth Hunt of the Outback Team share the events of Easter Sunday at Lajamanu:

"After our Easter Sunday morning worship time we headed out a short distance into the bush to a large dam. We were glad for the shade on a hot morning. Children played and swam. Four young adults from two different communities were brought forward to be baptised by those from a community other than their own. We all gathered around the edge and sang with the help of a guitar as they waded in deeper.

People embraced having witnessed a significant choice by young followers of Jesus."

Indigenous leaders and the Outback Team are planning the next Bush Camp at Chilla Wells from July 8-11.

Please pray that the seeds sown here will bear good fruit in coming days.







Communion and Prayer after the Baptisms

Out and About at Ali Curung



Sunday Church Service

Ife here in Ali Curung is beautiful.
The Elders, Jerry, Arana, Valerie,
Daphne, Murray and Deb, are doing a
great job leading, teaching and
worshipping.

We have something happening at the Church everyday: the Op Shop, Women's Bible study, Singalong, Prayer groups, Kids action in worship and Community Feed.

We also continue with the Elijah Pantry, Widow boxes and helping families with food and power. We have begun a Girl's Discipleship group and are about to begin Sunday School.

We are in the process of building an Op Shop and hopefully, soon, we will put together a kitchen and a Sunday school room. Helpers are always welcome, as are visitors.

Deb Aldridge



Girl's Discipleship Group enjoy some baking

What's Happening at Cornerstone Christian Church?

ornerstone is a place of community and fellowship. With Sunday services and regular connect groups, we are blessed to meet frequently and grow deeper in our understanding of the Word and discuss how we can apply this in our lives. We value connection with one another and see the importance it has in growing together as the body of Christ.

The Corner Café continues to provide an opportunity for people within our community to come and gather in a safe and welcoming environment. Our team of staff and volunteers do an incredible job in this space. Come and try one of our Gluten Free donuts; you won't regret it!

Creche and Kids Church

Our Creche and Kids Church have been working through a study on the Armour of God. The Kids Church love to worship together before splitting into their age groups for study sessions.

Each week, children have reflected in their journals about a piece of armour and learnt memory verses. They have also spent time this Semester painting money boxes and collecting money for their Sponsor Child.

> Below : Kids get into the action at Kids Church Top p 9 : FDS Youth





FDS Youth:

(Fellowship, Devotion and Service)

FDS Youth have recently completed the Youth Alpha study. This was a great opportunity for young people to develop an understanding of what it means to be a follower of Christ. At the end of this study, seven youth members made the commitment to follow Christ and were water baptised. A dinner celebration was held with their friends and families to celebrate this important decision.

Food for Life:

Food for Life continues to be a ministry of growth. With numbers reaching over 20 customers some weeks. It has become a safe place for many in our community to meet and grab their weekly supplies. For many customers, the opportunity to gather with friends in fellowship has been an encouraging time to share and support one another. We thank Andrew Kernick and the Food for Life team

for their hard work and investment in loving and supporting this group.

Nicole Marsh



Keep Crossing the Street!

Lisa Cornish SA/NT State Leader







Sometimes this is a hard thing to do. How do we move from the place we are comfortable into the place we need to be to share the gospel? How do we cross that street?

We do it by watching an expert, learning from them then walking with them.

Jesus crossed many streets. He came from heaven to earth to live among us. He spoke with sinners, healed lepers, taught women and men equally. He invited those he met into an everlasting relationship with God. He helped the lost cross the street to salvation.

Even though May Mission Month has come to an end for this year the opportunity to show people the love of Jesus continues. As you move about your community, workplace, school or with your families be encouraged to think about those around you, pray for them, help them and look for opportunities to engage in simple ways to cross the street, like Jesus did. to meet people and share with them how much Jesus loves them.

with my family. One of the first things we saw was the crazy, traffic. We didn't see any rules about how people drove or where people parked. We were nervous and cautious about crossing the roads, we didn't know how to do it safely until we watched the local people crossing the street. When they wanted to cross the road they boldly stepped out into traffic. We were amazed to see cars slow down, stop or make way for the people to cross. We quickly joined them, crossing the street with the experts. Eventually, we grew brave enough to cross by ourselves.

few years ago I travelled to Rome

Baptist Mission Australia's theme for May Mission Month this year was "Crossing the Street." We encouraged people to think about how they could cross streets in their communities workplaces to talk to or show people about Jesus.



WOMEN TOGETHER NT Food for Body and Soul

↑ endy Francis has been described as a 'Treasure' and she brought many true treasures from God's Word to the women gathered in Darwin for 'Dinner at Dusk' on 28th May to hear her message.

Wendy's passion is to speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15) and this was evident as she spoke to NT women about their bodies.

Some of her message follows:

"Today's world is overwhelmingly bodyfocused. We can be too fat, too thin, too whatever. If we try to live up to any of these expectations, it's depressing and exhausting!

Jesus wants to free us from worldly standards, and it starts with Romans 12:1-2 which instructs us to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice to God as an act of worship. Not just when we are singing in church, but when we are sweeping the kitchen floor, driving in traffic, choosing what to wear, or what to watch, ALL THE TIME."

"We may not always feel like our bodies are beautiful, or even useful. But as a child of God our bodies are the Andrea Adams temple of the Holy Spirit."



Wendy Francis

"God bought you for a price So use your bodies for God's glory (1Corinthians 6:20). When we purposefully hand over our bodies to God, we will see how He can display His awesome and radiant glory through us."

Wendy is the Queensland and NT Director of the Australian Christian Lobby. She is an advocate for the wellbeing of children and has published four books. Wendy children's and husband live in Brisbane and they have family at Casuarina Baptist so are regular visitors to the NT.

Thankyou to the Together NT Team this who brought renewing and refreshing event to Darwin women.

OUR RESILIENT KAREN COMMUNITY

Celebrating Refugee Week at Casuarina Baptist Church

n Saturday, 18th June a buffet meal fundraiser to support Karen Refugees on the Thai-Burma border was wonderfully presented by the NT Karen Community.

Guests, including politicians and many Karen supporters from the Darwin community, came together to enjoy an evening of Karen culture, dancing, music and delicious Karen food.

Many of the Karen community have been in fellowship with Casuarina Baptist since their arrival in Australia and the church strongly supports them and their efforts to bring endangered family members to Australia.

Each Sunday a Karen service is held at midday at the church with Karen folk also attending the regular morning service and Kidz Biz.

All funds raised from the event will go towards assisting refugees on the Thai-Burma border with their basic needs - medical care, food, water and resettlement needs.

Through spoken word, video clips, cultural expressions and the warm generosity of our Karen hosts, their remarkable resilience was obvious and we give God the glory for their inspiring presence amongst us.

Saw Wah Eh Htoo Ba Saing is the chairman of the NT Karen Community and his welcome to all included these words:

To mark the Refugee Week of 2022, we would like to bring attention to the ongoing tragic events in Burma (Myanmar). Since the senseless military coup, one and a half years ago, on the 1st February 2021, the Burmese military have burned down hundreds of villages and killed and imprisoned thousands of civilians, who just simply want democracy and human rights, and self-determination.....

Hundreds of thousands of refugees flee to neighbouring countries, particularly to Thailand, with little or no assistance such as legal rights and basic needs of food and shelter.......

We Karen are one of the indigenous people of Burma and we've been fighting for decades to get our freedom and human rights and we've been persecuted by the Burmese military for our race and religion.

With generous support from the people of Australia. some of us are blessed to be resettled here in a free society but millions of people back in our home land are still suffering so today's event is to remember them and support them, and do whatever small thing that we can do. Thank You So Much for being a part of this.

Andrea Adams









Camping with CrossRoads

ast Dry we held our first Church Camp. Once or twice over the years camps had been suggested but it seemed the time wasn't right but, when it was suggested back then, it immediately 'resonated'. Out to Riyala from mid morning Saturday for one night only and we all thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. many ways it was probably something of a test case to see how it went. As a result of the outcome and everyone seemed keen, it was back to Rivala for two nights on the first weekend of June this year with Joshua and Helen Avia, Senior Pastors at a large Baptist Church, Hosanna, in Forest Lake Brisbane, as our Guest Speakers. Our theme for the weekend, which seems to be flowing on in the life of the Church, session and we immediately knew was 'Supernatural Church'.

Most had arrived and settled at camp in time for dinner Friday evening. Others could only attend for one day or chose to commute. After dinner Joshua led us through our first



we were in for a great weekend. had total five preaching/ teaching/ministry sessions during which Joshua took us to new depths of understanding, application and fresh revelation on some familiar passages of scripture.

Most of us were like sponges, soaking up all Joshua was sharing, which then flowed on to conversations across meal times, in the kitchen, while washing dishes, feeding kids, casual chats and so on.

For many this was their closest experience to attending multi-session 'Christian conference' across a weekend based on one common theme and it brought a realisation of just how valuable and beneficial conferences can be. It was made even more special by almost the whole church enjoying each other's company for the weekend, maybe a little out of the familiar comfort zone but bringing amazing new level of community.

heard several At the time we comments/observations along the lines of 'something's changing' or 'something significant is happening' and all in a quietly excited and positive context. It wasn't till a couple of days after camp that we realised the first Sunday in June was Pentecost Sunday; the anniversary of seriously significant and exciting change: the 'Birth-date' of the Church.

For Pastors Joshua and Helen, thankyou for giving up five days to spend with us, ministering in such a powerful way. We had a great weekend and are looking forward to camp next year.

Pastor Bruce Clow

BELONGING PEOPLE ONLINE

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

Darwin Baptist Youth Go Camping



The dry season has rolled around once again, which means the camping season is here!

At Darwin Baptist Church, the first organised camp of the season is always Youth Camp. Held over the May Day weekend, our youth group heads to Ebenezer Waters, a private property in the Douglas Daly Region, to enjoy a fun but challenging weekend.

This year a total of 60 youth signed up for the camp, which was focused around the theme, *The Call*.

The lives of Bible characters who were called by God while they were still young (for example Samuel, Jeremiah, Mary and Timothy) were studied.

"We explored how they responded to God and we learnt from their example. We... understood that God has plenty to say to us, if we listen willingly to his voice," said Steven Miles, DBC's youth group worker.

Guest speaker, Mal Sercombe, gave the youth group opportunities to respond to Jesus by stepping over the line (in this case, a tug-o-war rope) after one of his sessions. More than one third of the campers responded. One of these responders was a young, volunteer helper, who then chose to be baptised at the swimming hole. Another camper was baptised at church in the following weeks.

Since camp, the Youth Group has been participating in a follow-on series called *Pass it On*, working through the next steps of answering Jesus' call and how to share the good news of Jesus life, death and resurrection.

Darwin Baptist Church will host a youth event for more than 100 students at the end of June. This event will give our youth group the opportunity to *Pass it On* and share stories of God's goodness with their peers.

We are praying the Youth who attended the camp will continue to grow in their discipleship journey of getting to know Jesus and following Him with their whole lives. We would love for you to join us in this request.

Kate Woods





Real Story, Real Impact!

he last two years in Australia have been like nothing we have seen since the Great Depression prior to World War 2. COVID, followed by extreme weather events and now the rising cost of living with the price of fuel and other impacts leading to the high cost and availability of and food is now reaching a crisis point for a growing number of families right across the country.

Food security is now one of the main drivers affecting disadvantaged families in Australia. We ask you to spare a thought for those like Kristie that continue to struggle, just to put food on the table for their children.

During the lockdown last year, Kristie, a Territory single mother of young children, needed to buy food for her family. The additional challenges for her as with others, including restricted opening times at the supermarkets and

shortages of many essential items that she required for her young children, made it even more difficult to provide cost effective meals. Long lines combined with quickly emptying shelves was too much to bear. Desperation, doubt and a sense of inadequacy with not being able to provide for her family nearly pushed her to breaking point!

Not giving up, Kristie turned to social media and continued searching for food and affordable supplies for her family.

Fortunately, she came across a Facebook post making a comment on how

Foodbank NT was supporting Northern

Territory families in need during the crisis.

With no hesitation and a little bit of googling, Kristie made her way to the Foodbank NT Food Hub in Berrimah, and was very amazed at the support, kindness, and range of supplies that were available to her and her family.



With no details required to establish or question her need, just a concession card, Kristie was able to shop and found everything that she needed all in one place and at a fraction of the retail price!

I recall Kristie commenting after she shopped at Foodbank, she looked into her kitchen cupboard and it made her "feel rich". In that moment I realised the difference Foodbank NT can have in someone's life!

Foodbank NT is the leading food relief agency in the Top End of the NT, handling enough food to make over 45,000 meals every month that make their way to Top End families in need!

We can only do this with the kindness of our supporters including corporate donors and sponsors, government funding and the generous support of donors in the community!

Please help us to help more people in need like Kristie. For every dollar you donate, we can put meals on two plates!

Your gift will help us feed vulnerable Territorians, so we ask you, our supporters, to help us provide more meals to where they are needed. Please donate now at www.foodbanknt.org.au and help ensure that Foodbank NT is able to support our fellow Territorians today and tomorrow.

Hon. Peter Chandler Executive Officer Foodbank NT



Margaret Holm ~A Life Well-Lived~

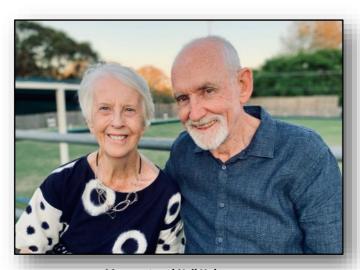
here will be some Territorians who remember Margaret Holm.

Margaret married Neil in 1968 and, under the auspices of the then Baptist Home Mission, came to Lajamanu (previously Hooker Creek) to work as a teacher and accompany the mission staff, Bill and Valdene Parish (and later Graham and Iris Paulson).

At the request of the Education Department, they moved to Gunbalanya (then Oenpelli), where Margaret taught pre-school. Later moves included Batchelor (where Margaret assisted in Aboriginal teacher education) and Virginia.

At Virginia, she taught Sunday School and led the youth group in "The Church in the Shed". Neil Wright, now Pastor of Cornerstone Church, was part of the Sunday School class. Margaret also taught English at Taminmin High School.

Working in Aboriginal communities and worshipping in "The Church in the Shed" were powerful influences on Margaret's life. Her Aboriginal experience planted and nurtured a justice seed. "The Church in the Shed" was the richest and most enduring experience of the Body of Christ. That church drew Christians from diverse backgrounds: high and low Anglicans, Baptists, Pentecostals, Salvation Army, Uniting Church, and people of different ethnicity.



Margaret and Neil Holm

More than any other church, "The Shed" gave Margaret a profound understanding of the value of unity in diversity expressed in Galatians 3:28 (You are all one in Christ Jesus) and Romans 12:4-5 (In this way we are like the various parts of a human body. Each part gets its meaning from the body as a whole, not the other way around).

Through the differences Margaret, along with all who worshipped there, learned how to love in a more profound, more fulfilling way that built on the gifts of God that each member brought to the table. In recent years, she prayed often that Cornerstone Church might embody the spirit of "The Church in the Shed".

In 1987, Margaret and Neil moved to Brisbane to work with Australian and international students at International House, a University of Queensland residential college. Former students often commented how Margaret taught them how to write. Some who hold senior university positions today told Margaret that the principles they learned from her they now pass on to their students. Perhaps more important than her skill in teaching writing, Margaret was instrumental in transmitting the basic principles of the "body of Christ" into a secular setting like a university college.

She did so by inspiring International House with an alternative imagination. In this vision, students and staff valued diversity, related openly with each other, encouraged and gave opportunities to exercise leadership and their different gifts, worked for the common good, and valued working for justice for creation and humanity. Although she did not overtly proselytise, many students recognised that Jesus inspired her life and work.

When Margaret moved to Kings Cross in Sydney in 2000, her passion for justice came to the fore. She worked for justice for the homeless, mentally ill, prisoners, and recently released prisoners. In retirement in Brisbane from 2010, Margaret volunteered in courts, in programs assisting the needy, and in refugee and Aboriginal initiatives. She developed a passion for writing to politicians about a wide range of justice issues. She continued to teach special religious instruction in state schools that she had begun in Sydney.

Margaret died peacefully in August 2022 from a rare form of cancer.

Neil Holm

Those in the NT Baptist Family who knew and loved Margaret extend their sincere sympathy to Neil and family.

BAPTIST WORLD AID AUSTRALIA Be love. End poverty.

KENYA SPOTLIGHT

A Farmer Named Judy:

Community Workshops Bring Harvests of Hope

There was a time when Judy and her husband Musyoka weren't sure they'd have enough food to last more than a few months. Working the 1.5 acres of land they inherited in the Kitui county of Kenya, Judy and Musyoka struggled to expand their crops, especially with rainfall so erratic.

The changing climate conditions also meant they had to battle an already arid landscape. So Judy's twice-yearly harvests produced as little as 90kgs of maize, 45 kilograms of beans and 20 kilograms of green gram, not nearly enough for their family of six. Judy had to rely on the kindness of neighbours to make ends meet.

Musyoka began work as a street merchant and Judy took on casual work at a neighbour's farm to supplement their income, when she could find it. When she did, it often meant her children lacked the care she wanted to give them. 'This was a harsh time for our family,' she said. 'We had to skip meals to make sure we survived the dry spells, and my children's immune system went down because they lacked vegetables and fruits.'

The children often became ill and missed school, especially when Judy had to prioritise spending money on medications instead of school fees. 'My life and my family was in great despair,' she said. 'I cried alone praying to God to help my family. I can now say thank you, God, for answering my prayer.'



Judy and her children

Planting Hope

That answer came when Judy was invited to a community workshop in 2018 in her village.

There, she met Baptist World Aid's Christian Partners who ran what they called an Integrated Livelihood Improvement Project (ILIP), which emphasises integrated agricultural strategies and other farming options to improve a family's livelihood. Judy joined a group of young mothers where they identified their capacities and vulnerabilities, and then applied to the community-based program. (Baptist World Aid's best practice means Partners listen and assess a vulnerable community first so they know how best to address their needs.)

Judy was thrilled to be accepted into the collaborative group and began training in governance, tree planting, child protection, soil fertility management, village savings and animal production. She learnt new techniques and began to plant seeds for her crops and for management. Within three years, she harvested eight bags of maize and 2.5 bags of green grams, despite the belowaverage rains Kenya received.

Surplus Crops

When she sold some of the surplus crops, she cleared school fee balances and put the rest into a loaning kit to earn interest. Our Christian Partners also trained her to diversify her income sources so Judy began raising chickens and goats—she saved so much from the sale of produce and eggs that she's even been able to purchase solar panels for her house.

'Now we have enough food to eat with my family,' she said. 'Our children can study at night now with the lights and their school performance has really improved.'

Because of the generosity of Baptist World Aid's supporters, Judy saw her crop yields grow 700 percent! Today, Judy's crops produce 720kgs of maize and 225kgs of mung beans.

'I feel very happy because of the support of our Partners,' she said. 'God has answered my prayers and our Partners' interventions have changed our lives.'

Jo Kadlecek Senior Editor Baptist World Aid

I will bless the LORD who guides me; even at night my heart instructs me.

I know the LORD is always with me. I will not be shaken, for he is right

beside me.— Psalm 16:7

Baptist Family Gathering

Date: Friday 16th - Saturday 17th September 2022

Venue: Cornerstone Christian Church

Join together with Baptists from across the Territory for a weekend of fellowship, food, and a great line-up of speakers.

Keynote speakers: Brian Harris and Jon BergmanOther speakers from Baptist Mission Australia, Crossover, and
Baptist World Aid

Soule Bate

More information will be sent to churches later.

Belonging People
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