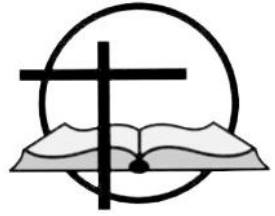


March 2020



BELONGING PEOPLE



Kalkaringi Church Farewell Bill and Pauline Morrison

Belonging People
Newsletter of the
Baptist Union of the NT
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**LOOKING
AHEAD**

The 2020 NT Baptist Assembly

will be held at **CrossRoads Christian Church** later this year, at a date still to be set. Churches will receive more details when they become available.



President's Message

Mal Sercombe

When I was a child, just 10 years old, I moved from England to an Aboriginal community near Kalgoorlie in WA. My first Australian summer was spent in Esperance on the south coast of WA. Almost everyone from the community was there. One day all the boys were playing with play spears and one hit my right eye. After a couple of days in the Esperance hospital, I was flown to Perth where I spent another two months in hospital. For the first month, I had to lay still in bed with sandbags around my body and my head to keep me from moving. Both eyes were bandaged even though only my right eye had been injured – not just injured but blinded.

I remember the day I began to see again from my right eye. You can't blindfold a boy and expect him not to peek. One morning, I lifted the bandages and with my right eye, I could see a small sliver of light. The bathroom door at the other end of the ward was slightly open and the light was coming through the bathroom window. It was exciting. I could see again!

This is 2020 and a lot of people are talking about vision. The 2020 Australian of the Year, eye surgeon Dr James Muecke, wittily began his acceptance speech as follows:

"What a tremendous honour to be named Australian of the Year for 2020. Such an auspicious year for eyesight."

The Bible also talks a lot about vision – from a spiritual perspective. The Apostle Paul says:

The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. 2Cor 4:4

That takes us to our mission – to pull back the bandages and help people see the light of the gospel. It may just be a glimmer of light to begin with; an awakening; a revelation. But our prayer is that people everywhere may be able to testify that:

"God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ." 2Cor 4:6

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Darwin Baptist Church Starts 2020 With Prayer



“Our prayers may be awkward. Our attempts may be feeble. But since the power of prayer is in the One who hears it and not in the one who says it, our prayers do make a difference.” Max Lucado

This year, with Australia Day falling on a Sunday, Darwin Baptist Church combined its normal 10am and 5pm services to provide an opportunity for the church to meet together to pray for our nation.

To prepare for this significant event, we studied the book of Joel to understand God’s message of salvation and hope in the midst of judgement.

Individuals and households were also given a devotion book, themed “The Light”, to use each day in the preceding week, and then invited to fast for 24 hours before the service to seek revival in their hearts, our city and our nation

On Australia Day, our joint service looked a little different than usual. We began with a time of worship in the auditorium before people moved off to stations to pray. There was a station with memorial stones to remember and thank God for his goodness and a station for repentance/confession.

There was a prayer station for the Australian and Territory government, business and economy, another for natural disasters, and another for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander issues.

We also prayed for the health of our communities (crime, suicide rates, health); for opportunities to impact generations (making God known); and for outreach and community connections (mission field).

Each station contained great resources to encourage young people to pray and to provide opportunities for families to pray together. The church then broke its fast with a shared lunch and a time of fellowship.



President's Message continued from p 3

I like some words in this song we sing;
*God I look to you,
I won't be overwhelmed,
Give me vision, to see things as you do.*
I want to view the world around me through His eyes. I want His vision ... not mine. I want people to see His light; to be enlightened with the truth and power of the gospel.

I pray for people to be lifted out of spiritual darkness and into his marvellous light. If we are to have a collective 2020 vision, could that be it?

Blessings

Mal Sercombe

WALKING TOGETHER IN THE OUTBACK

Since 1946, Global Interaction has had a presence among the Gurindji and Warlpiri people in the NT, particularly in the communities of Kalkaringi, Lajamanu, Ali Curung, Yuendumu and Willowra. The team is committed to walking alongside people, sharing faith, discipling believers and empowering leaders.



After ten years of faithful service, Bill and Pauline Morrison will be concluding as cross-cultural workers in mid 2020. We give thanks to the Lord for all He has done through their ministry and for all who have supported them.

Mat and Shannon Anderson are now in their second year of service in Central Australia and Viv Grice is stepping into the role of Team Leader.

(From Global Interaction Guide 2020)

PRAYING FOR LAJAMANU



The people of Lajamanu are in a time of Sorry as they mourn the passing of the oldest son of Pastor Jerry Jangala. The church folk are supporting Jerry and his family through this time.

Lynette Tasman, a leader in the Lajamanu Church, has asked for prayer for the family and community. May Wapirra (God) surround them with his love and comfort at this time.

Saying Farewell is Never Easy



Bill and Pauline Morrison were farewelled by the communities and Baptist churches of Kalkaringi and Lajamanu in December 2019.

They have faithfully served the Lord and loved the people of these communities for ten years and it was an emotional time for all as good-byes were said.

Following the morning service on Sunday 1st December at Lajamanu, there was a time of sharing and prayer together. Later that week, the Kalkaringi Church held a barbecue and singalong to say goodbye to Bill and Pauline.

The Morrisons will officially complete their time with Global Interaction on 1st July 2020 and until then are visiting churches in Victoria and Tasmania.

"Saying Farewell is never easy. Thankyou to all our friends in the NT for your love and friendship."

Bill and Pauline will be missed, not only by the communities they served, but by their many friends in Baptist Churches around the NT.

**Photo: Farewell gifts from
Kalkaringi Church
Front cover : Kalkaringi Church
Farwell Gathering**

CrossRoads Committed to Mission



CrossRoads Missions, led by Doug and Janelle Cantrill, have had a busy time. During July 2019 they led a team from CrossRoads ministering in several communities across Arnhem Land, travelling around 2500km in three weeks. During November, another CrossRoads team ministered in Timor-Leste for 16 days and in January another team ministered in Cambodia for three weeks.

It's exciting to see the response from the Arnhem Land communities who, in their words, 'we don't need any more evangelism; what we really need is people who can teach discipleship, training to raise up the next generation of leaders, all the older ones are starting to pass on.'

On all three trips, the team spent time teaching and training, equipping, running seminars, presenting dramas, testimonies and studies aimed at equipping pastors and leaders.

On these trips the focus and heart is for the whole body of Christ, the Kingdom of God, and is not focussed on one denomination or group of people. The vision is to make disciples of all nations. Especially exciting is seeing others realise that the Christian life, directed, empowered and equipped by the Holy Spirit, is an exciting life.

In March 2019 Doug and Janelle founded 'Spotfire Ministries' in association with CrossRoads Church.



Visiting a Desert Community

Under the Spotfire banner, they led a 20 day trip into several Central Desert communities including Yuendumu, Elliot, Lajamanu and Kalkaringi. In all four situations (Arnhem Land, Central Desert, Timor-Leste, Cambodia) it is exciting to see the on-going relationships developing with the wider Christian community and several individual churches.

This has led to requests for further visits to bring follow-up teaching, training and equipping, especially aimed at developing pastors and leaders.

Doug and Janelle, are grateful the Lord has given them different groups of people who have the same vision for specific countries and Aboriginal communities.

And CrossRoads is grateful for the enthusiasm with which Doug and Janelle lead the ministry in what, at times, can be both trying and difficult. The spiritual opposition frequently goes to new levels, not to mention the very practical difficulties of working across serious distances in difficult country. We encourage every Christian to go on at least one short-term, out-of-the-comfort-zone, missions trip.

Pastor Bruce Clow

Cambodia: Youth Pastors and Leadership Training



New Beginnings for the Anderson Family in 2020

Mat and Shannon, and their family of four young children, have returned to Yuendumu after being based in Alice Springs during 2019.

Their house, badly damaged while they were away, has now been well repaired— ‘an absolute blessing’, allowing them to return at the end of January. Praise God!

2019 was a challenging year for the family and they have left Alice Springs, where they had many support networks, with mixed emotions. They know that Yuendumu is where they are meant to be and that God is both with them and goes before them.



For Prayer

- *Thankfulness that God has enabled Mat and Shannon to return to the community*
- *That as the family processes the challenges of the past year, they will know God’s peace and presence*
- *For the children, **Beth, Peter, Caleb and Samuel**, for good health and settling into the community*
- *For Mat and Shannon to be building long-term, authentic relationships within the community*



Cornerstone Looks to the Harvest

A very positive start to the New Year has been made by Cornerstone Kids and Youth. Food for life has seen an increase in the number of clients with around 15 people visiting on Tuesday.

This year we are focussing on the Harvest where we want to see a revival in Darwin with people becoming believers in Christ. We continue to champion the Combined Church prayer meetings on the 1st Monday of the month. Our prayer is that the Spirit of prayer comes upon our churches.

We are really hoping that we can continue to build a community that leads people to belonging and then believing.

The Cornerstone café is very close to completion and will be operating shortly, starting with Saturday mornings, when we plan to open to the public. Later, the café will be used for Food for Life and for training workshops.

We are starting to gear up for a church field trip to the Philippines in 2021 to visit children sponsored by some of our church members through Compassion.

Pastor Neil Wright

Casuarina Baptist Sharing Love at Christmas



Casuarina Baptist held its annual Christmas Day lunch again with over 100 guests attending. The hall was filled to capacity, the food delicious and the companionship of others really appreciated.

The day was a real team effort and we were so thankful to all who gave of their time and resources. The hams were donated from the Hon. Lauren Moss, the sweets were a combined effort of the Darwin Baptist and CBC ladies. All this together with a fantastic team of volunteers from the community and CBC pulled together to make the day a great success.

Many of our guests were facing the prospect of Christmas on their own, and it was a privilege to share God's love with them in a practical way.

Thankyou to all involved.

Chris Good



Following God's Call

Andrew and Noeline Thompson

Andrew Thompson, from Casuarina Baptist Church, has been a recipient of the Win and Lloyd Kent Scholarship Fund which helped with his studies at Worldview College in Tasmania. Last year he married Noeline.



Our journey so far.....

Noeline and I are both currently studying at Worldview College in Launceston Tasmania and these studies will conclude in July this year. The Lord brought Noeline from WA and myself from the NT to meet at Worldview, fall in love, get engaged and marry, all happening at Worldview within 18 months.

We recently travelled to Darwin from our current home in Tasmania. It was so wonderful to spend time with the Casuarina Baptist Church, while we undertook a training module with the mission agency WEC International (Worldwide Evangelism for Christ). The Lord has Noeline and myself working with people in addiction and those marginalized in society.

We are both following the Lord's call to share the Gospel with those who have lost hope in their lives. We both feel the Lord is directing our journey towards BETEL, which is a ministry under the banner of WEC International. BETEL has ministries in 100 cities, in 24 nations including Australia.

So the journey for us both, so far, is a true blessing from the Lord and a testament to His greatness. Please pray for the Lord to give both of us clear direction and confirmation that we are following his will. God bless.

Andrew and Noeline Thompson.

Children, Care and Cambodia

Alison Stennett



In 2018 I was a recipient of the Lloyd and Win Kent scholarship which contributed towards my Youth with a Mission (YWAM) Discipleship Training School (DTS) fees.

The stream I chose for my DTS was Cover to Cover - reading the whole Bible in 12 weeks. During the lecture phase we had a week on Identity. God challenged my identity and gave me three key words - **Children, Care and Cambodia.**

I had a dream of going to Cambodia since 2007 and I suppressed this dream to pursue other interests.

While on DTS I had a conversation with two guys in the kitchen while doing dishes. The first guy asked me what my plans were after DTS. I replied, "What am I going to do with a three-year degree of Trauma and Healing and a heart for Cambodia?".

The second guy piped up and said “My Mum’s organisation works in Cambodia’. I connected with this organisation ‘**Traffick Jam**’, based in Canada and I am currently doing a School of Freedom with them. The school has online lectures from October (2019) to May (2020) and a two and a half week trip to Cambodia in May.

The lectures are about trauma, trafficking and Cambodia. During the trip to Cambodia we will be working with anti-trafficking organisations and training the support workers.



Once the course leaders found out my degree was in Trauma and Healing they asked if I could help teach the trauma units and help prepare workshop modules for working with the Non-government organisations (NGO’s) in May when we visit Cambodia.

Currently I am working as a disability support worker in supported living homes, looking after fifteen clients across three homes. This work relates to ‘**care**’ which was one of the key words God gave me while on DTS.

The word ‘**children**’ currently relates to teaching Scripture in a local primary school. Last year I taught years 1 and 2 and really enjoyed seeing these children grow throughout the year. I am excited to meet my class for this year.

Future plans include more training in mission work and just waiting to see where God leads me next.

Alison Stennett

The Win and Lloyd Kent Scholarship is currently under review by the BUNT Board and more information will be available at a later date.

2020 A YEAR OF ACTION



As a new decade commences, the need for gospel workers remains urgent to work amongst least reached people groups. Baptist churches have a role in supporting overseas mission. Teams need regenerating to ensure the work flourishes. The SA/NT office continues to address this need through depending on God.

A new Executive Director for Global Interaction National, Pastor Scott Pilgrim, commences this month.

David and Susie Haydon are working towards a June 2020 departure. A call to prayer campaign entitled '**Mobilise for Malawi in March**' will occur (information at globalinteraction.org.au/davidsusie).

The State Office welcomed home **Rob and Deb Griffiths from Cambodia** on home assignment after their first term of learning Khmer, building relationships in the village, understanding Buddhism and exploring ways to participate in the local community, especially in regards to the local school, midwifery and agriculture. They plan to be in Darwin in May.

The State Office looks forward to engaging with you throughout 2020, especially through the State Director's visit to Darwin from 21 to 25 May (information to follow). May you have a rich and rewarding year as God works through you.

David Turnbull State Director SA/NT

Deb and Rob Griffiths



CELEBRATING OUR BAPTIST FAMILY



JOAN CHAPPELL

100 YEARS

Celebrations were in order when **Joan Chappell**, from Casuarina Baptist Church, turned 100 years of age on 2nd February 2020. Joan was born in the UK in 1920 and has had plenty of years to experience a life packed with adventure and adversity. Joining the Womens Royal Naval Service (WRNS) in the second World War, Joan saw active service overseas.

‘Loving, Giving and Forgiving’ is how Joan has been described, a truly resilient lady. We thank God for Joan, her life and love.

BEN DAVIES HONOURED

Congratulations to Senior Constable **Ben Davies** of the NT Police Force and the Alice Springs Baptist Church.

It was a very special day on 1 August 2019 when Ben, with his proud family looking on, received not one but three awards - the 15 year National Medal, the National Police Medal and the 10 Year NT Police service medal.

Thankyou Ben for serving the NT community and your Lord with vigour and humility.





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

Give Your Voice this March

Be part of something special in the lead up to Easter...

Baptist World Aid's Give My Voice Challenge starts this month, Monday 2 March!

But even if you've missed the official start date, it's not too late to join Christians around Australia... and make your silence count!

The idea is to sacrifice your own voice and intentionally set aside time to realign your heart with God's. Israel took 40 years. Jesus modelled 40 days. You're encouraged to set aside 40 hours.

Challenge yourself to 40 hours of silence over 40 days and ask your friends and family to sponsor your sacrifice!

As an added bonus, your challenge will also include daily actions to help with

your efforts and help you realign your heart with God's in the lead up to Easter. But best of all, taking part in this united action to bless precious families living in poverty, could not be easier!

Download (or update!) your FREE End Poverty mobile app.

It's available from Google Play for android users and The App Store for iPhone users.

Complete your in-app sign up. Register for the Give My Voice Challenge through your End Poverty App.

Start the Challenge. See page 19





Foodbank NT Welcomes New CEO

Foodbank NT has welcomed their new CEO of Baptist Care NT and Foodbank NT, **Mr Pete Pilt**, to the Territory. Hailing from the Gold Coast, Peter commenced his new role in January and has hit the ground running. During his first two months he has been out working with the food rescue team, driving trucks and vans, meeting Foodbank affiliates and getting to know the volunteers.

Peter also travelled to Katherine with Foodbank's schools program volunteer, Carol Quill, to deliver the first schools order to **Food Ladder Katherine**, a new monthly service to the town.

Foodbank looks forward to an exciting year ahead as Peter leads the team to eliminate hunger and food insecurity in the NT.



CEO, Peter Pilt

P 18 continued....

Download your FREE End Poverty mobile app today and complete your in-app registration for the Give My Voice Challenge... and make your silence count!



TOGETHER Territory Women’s Conference is an annual event that brings women together from across the NT, across all denominations and across generations, to be encouraged and empowered to go out and have an impact for God’s Kingdom wherever He has placed us!

At TOGETHER 2020 we will be reflecting on how we can *flourish* as God’s women as we live out of relationship with Him.

Day 1: Friday May 29, 2020 (7pm-9pm)

Day 2: Saturday 30, 2020 (9am – 4pm)

Venue: Cornerstone Christian Church,
85 Whitewood Road, Howard Springs



Keynote speakers: Sidhara Udagama (Perth, WA)
Red Fulton (Arnhem Land, NT)

If you are a woman (16 years and over) why not gather the women around you and come as a group. We would love to see you there!

Registrations open online from March 16 at www.togethernt.com.au.

Toni Rehrmann (on behalf of the TogetherNT team) info@togethernt.org.au

