

Newsletter of the Baptist Family of Churches in the Northern Territory

Türkiye and Syria Earthquakes

BAPTIST WORLD AID RESPONDS

The first earthquake struck Gaziantep in Türkiye on February 6 at 4:17am, followed 12 hours later by a second earthquake further north. Both earthquakes created over 1,200 aftershocks that damaged or destroyed over 20,000 buildings and destroyed entire sections of cities while people slept.

The latest government reports have confirmed that over 45,000 people have died, but with rescue operations still underway, the World Health Organisation warned this number could rise as rescuers continue to sift through the rubble.

Many of those who have been impacted by the earthquakes are also families who fled civil war in Syria, including millions of displaced people living in overcrowded conditions, and north-west Syria, where 4.1 million people are in makeshift camps, already dependent on humanitarian assistance.

Medical facilities are overwhelmed with reports of hospitals forced to triage people according to who will and won't survive.

BWA APPEAL

Baptist World Aid is working with Christian Partners in Türkiye and Syria, including Baptist organisations, to assist those impacted by the earthquakes. The full extent of damage is still not known, and our Partners are assessing what people urgently need. By donating today, you can help them provide emergency relief, such as:

• Safe drinking water for people to prevent dehydration

• Items to help people stay warm, such as blankets and clothes

• Emergency shelter to protect those who have lost their homes

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE CRISIS IN TURKEY AND SYRIA

For the people whose lives are impacted, for those who are grieving, for Churches who are assisting and for International Workers and Aid agencies.

DONATIONS TO <u>THE BWA APPEAL</u> Can be made by Secure Phone Call 1300 789 991



From the President

S ince Christmas it has been all 'go' for the BUNT Board with meeting after meeting. Director of Ministries, Mike Mills has submitted his report around how we have been progressing with the Amalgamation process (see p 18). We have welcomed Davin Blundell from Nhulunbuy to the Board and really appreciate his presence.

In regard to the proposed **Amalgamation,** it is very important that the churches have delegates at the Assembly on the 24th of March. This is when we will be putting forward a motion that will give absolute certainty to amalgamate BUNT with BCSA so that all the necessary processes can be started. Delegates can appoint proxies for the meeting, however church ministers are not able to do so and must be present in person. We will make sure that we zoom the meeting.

The Food for Life program is currently going through some changes in how it is structured as the bus will most likely be retired. It means that we will need to adapt as to how we receive and store goods at some of the hubs. This is a prayer point for everyone as we want the ministry to continue to bless the community and give support to those in need.



We have also been working on the new **Child Protection Policy** for BUNT churches, which is due to be adopted very shortly. Some greater requirements are being placed on the churches around child protection so this will be an important roll out in the Territory. Carl Collins from Child Protection Solutions has been working hard to make sure this has happened. Thanks to him and his team.

Also a big welcome to **Mat and Shannon Anderson** to the Top End region, after serving in the Central Desert region for ABM over the last few years.

Please continue to pray for one another and love one another as you serve the Master.

(Gal 5:13 NLT) For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love.

Neil Wright

Outreach at Cornerstone with Coffee and Music







Mark Thurber

Café News

There have been some changes to the Corner Café over the last few months. Isaac and Vanessa Broad have handed the reigns over to Mark Thurber. Mark has faithfully served in the café for almost a year; during which time his heart for the café, its team and the people it reaches has grown. As Mark takes this incredible leap of faith, we ask that you would cover him and his family in prayer.

We would like to say a massive thank you to Isaac and Vanessa for their hard work and commitment to the Corner Café over the last 2 years.

Mark Thurber writes: 'God has started to reveal the depth of impact this business as a ministry has on the local community. I've witnessed a real change in the hearts and attitudes of our customers. and our team. To some it seems they've encountered an unexplainable ripple effect in their life, and to others God is clear in revealing Himself. In both instances, I see God is changing the lives of His children forever. Watching transformation take place, hearing testimonies and being a part of God's work is motivating me in this new season. Pray for this space. Watch God in this space.'

Mainly Music

We have officially kicked off Mainly Music for 2023. Every Thursday, Parents and Guardians bring their young ones to join together for a 30 minute music session, followed by some morning tea and play time. This is a great opportunity for everyone to join together in fellowship. We continue to see this ministry area grow and flourish. The team are blessed to be able to form some solid connections and be able to bless those attending. Thank you to Sarah and the team for their ongoing commitment to serving those in our community through this ministry.

Nicole Marsh



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/

Serving in the Outback

M at and Shannon Anderson with their four children, Beth, Peter, Caleb and Samuel, have served in Outback Australia since 2018.

Baptist Mission

They have recently moved from Yuendumu into a new season in 2023 serving in Kalkarindji and Lajamanu, eight hours north of Yuendumu and five hours west of Katherine. They are settling into the refurbished Mission House at Kalkaringi after a time of travel and Home Assignment.

The Church at Kalkarindji has started up weekly activities—Bible Studies and Prayer Group. A church meeting was held recently to discuss upcoming events and projects and some of the ladies have been preparing the Sunday School room ready for a new year.

FLOOD EMERGENCY!

Since the March issue of Belonging People was printed, the communities of Kalkarindji, Dagaragu and Pigeon Hole have been inundated by flood waters from the Victoria River. Thankfully, all residents are now safe after some dramatic rescues. Most of the residents, including the Anderson Family, have been accommodated at Howard Springs just outside of Darwin.

PLEASE PRAY for the Anderson Family, our Indigenous Church members and all those who have been dislocated from their homes, that they will know God's peace, healing and hope. PRAY also for the Outback Team and the Darwin Churches as they seek to help and support all those affected.



Anderson family



Danny and Beth Hunt serve in a part time leadership role mainly in the southern communities of of Yuendumu, Ali Curung, Willowra and Murray Downs, a few hours north of Alice Springs. They seek to learn from and support the local indigenous leaders.

During January and February, Danny and Beth have been speaking with churches in Victoria and will be returning to the Territory in early March.

Danny writes "Getting alongside **present** and **emerging leaders** in the various NT communities is a big focus. This continues almost daily over the phone when we are not there."

Both Yuendumu and Willowra leaders have kept in touch by phone and will no doubt be looking forward to seeing Beth and Danny again.

PRAYER POINTS

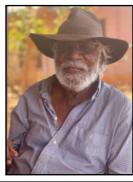
KEEP PRAYING for more workers – especially for more **full-time** people to join the Outback team in Yuendumu and surrounding communities.



Lynette Tasman, is one of the key Church leaders at Lajamanu. After some very difficult times the church is in good shape and has started to grow. "We are doing good" says Lynette. More community people are coming together for Bible Studies and church as well as ceremonies and there is a real feeling that Wapirra (God) is moving in the hearts of his people. People from both the Baptist church and the AOG church at Lajamanu are sharing and meeting together.

'KEEP US IN PRAYER' says Lynette.
Give Thanks for new people coming to
_____ Church for Prayer and Bible Study.

PRAISE God for the ongoing relationship building as they walk alongside their Warlpiri brothers and sisters.



Pray for the Church and Community leaders at Lajamanu.

Pray for respected Elder and Pastor, **Jerry Jangala Patrick** to remain well and strong.

'Carol-oke' at DBC Food For Life

Darwin Baptist Church, like Casuarina Baptist Church and Cornerstone Christian Fellowship in Howard Springs runs a weekly Food For Life (FFL) program. As we began planning for our end of year event, the question was asked, 'How do we bring a Christian Christmas message to our FFL community to celebrate our year together and bring some hope by sharing something of the Christmas Story?'

Each Friday morning throughout the year a team of about six people host our FFL space providing Foodbank groceries to approximately 30 customers and family members. The curried egg sandwiches are legendary, the cakes and slices are well worth the visit, all washed down with tea and barista coffee.

All this provides the setting for our community friends to stay and chat in a safe place. Many people are regulars and some don't buy food, coming only for the company. One man donates \$10 every week with his comment of "Mal, give this to help somebody who needs it". For some, they say it is their church. The challenging times of price rises in our shops means we help those who are not well off, but our prayers are also about feeding and restoring the soul. Every week people share stories of joy and pain often resulting in prayer being asked for.

And so **'Carol-oke'** was the name of our last December meeting, where we gave out 35 Christmas hampers, all sponsored by our church members. We sang together some well-known carols, a couple of brave souls sang solos, all held together by our 'Carol-oke' leader's fun banter, Christmas jokes and fun facts. Pastor Toni was able to give a short message to those who ordinarily would not take part in a Christian gathering over the Christmas period.

The carols are timeless and the story of baby Jesus is enduring and lifechanging. We are grateful we have this small community of people from different backgrounds who give up their time each week to demonstrate and reflect the love of Christ.

Mal Galbraith DBC FFL Team Leader









The Power of Prayer at Katherine Baptist Church

Prayer has become such a priority here at Katherine Baptist Church. We now hold two regular weekly prayer meetings where we come together corporately before our great and powerful God. The laying on of hands by the Pastor and the Elders and the anointing with oil has become so necessary in our worship services as many that are sick desire prayer.

As a Church, we have been working our
way through the Book of Ephesians.step into the familiar local hospital
where I was once a midwife but now am
one of the volunteer chaplains. I usually
visit with another volunteer chaplain
Holy Spirit to reveal to us the knowledge
of who Jesus Christ is.step into the familiar local hospital
where I was once a midwife but now am
one of the volunteer chaplains. I usually
visit with another volunteer chaplain
(also once a midwife) from a different
church. As we go, we are dependent on

Ephesians 1:18-19 continues with the need to pray that the eyes of our hearts may be enlightened so that we may know what is first: the hope of His calling, then: what is the wealth of His glorious inheritance in the saints, and finally: what is the immeasurable greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the mighty working of His strength.

Individuals in our Church are seeing first hand that prayer changes things. Cynthia writes: "It changes my heart each time I step into the familiar local hospital where I was once a midwife but now am one of the volunteer chaplains. I usually visit with another volunteer chaplain (also once a midwife) from a different church. As we go, we are dependent on the Holy Spirit as we ask God to equip us for the task, to be able to speak words of encouragement to staff and patients. .



Jim Matheson—faithful in prayer

We have many examples of answers to prayer. A 7-week-old baby who was needing oxygen to be able to breath properly began stretching, reaching and grasping my colleague's finger having stopped crying while looking deeply into her face as we prayed for God to touch and to heal. While praying for healing for another person whose leg was quite inflamed with cellulitis, we both witnessed the redness fading as we prayed.

Yet another example was when we had the privilege to pray with a Christian family whose mum was in palliative care. The Bible was wide-opened at the foot of the bed with scriptures highlighted and being declared. To pray with others in palliative care 'The Lord's Prayer' has been such a beautiful experience. Then there are people who say that they are "right" when asked if there is anything we can do for them even though they may be really sick. It is with these people we initiate conversation in a topic of interest to develop a rapport, especially if they are in hospital for any length of time.

This may give us an opportunity at a later time to pray with them. In our debrief after hospital visiting, we pray for them to be open to the gospel.



The greatest joy that we experience (also knowing there is great joy in heaven over one sinner who repents Luke 15:7) is when we have been able to recently lead a lady to Jesus, both saying with her the sinner's prayer as she gave her life to the Lord. Her daughter, a Christian, was sitting alongside her mum and tears were rolling down her face."

Do you believe in Jesus? We pray here at KBC that the eyes of your heart will be opened to the knowledge of who Jesus is and what he has accomplished and then, that you will respond accordingly.

Christina Young

Kalkarindji Mission House Work Party

Between the 7th and 10th of November 2022 – a small band of people from Darwin and Katherine formed a work party to visit Kalkarindji and complete some work on the Mission House before Mat and Shannon Anderson move to Kalkarindji in early 2023. The team consisted of Kevin and Christina Young (Katherine Baptist), Neal, Jo, Jesse and Maddy Watson (Darwin Baptist), Ox Roberts (Darwin Baptist) and John Stennett (Casuarina Baptist). It was a very enjoyable 4 days and it was great to doing something together to benefit Mat and Shannon and their family.

Just some of the jobs completed are as follows:

- Front deck & back landing floor sanded, stained, handrails painted.
- Toilet flooring retiled.
- Some minor plumbing repairs replacing taps & shower head
- New kitchen cupboard installed & space created for new dishwasher
- Carpentry work in bedrooms new cupboards, install pelmets.
- Some wardrobe doors repaired so much glue!
- Lots of cleaning air conditioners, cupboards, windows and yard.
- A path was discovered that went from the front gate to the house and all the way to the back of the house!

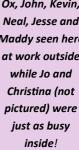
The trip was much more than just a lot of work (which it was) and a lot of driving (which it was) – it was a great opportunity to feel part of the Mission Work in the Northern Territory. Kalkarindji is a special place and it was good to visit. There was a whole lot of talk during the work and each evening. The driving also meant plenty of time to talk.

The following was received from Mat and Shannon after the work was done: Thank you all so much for your amazing efforts! That all looks incredible and it will make such a big difference having all of those things now in order when we move in. You have all blessed us so much. With thankful hearts, The Anderson Family

It was great the Anderson family could see some photos and see their new home getting ready for them. The Good News – there is still more that could be done on the house and I'm sure the Anderson family would love to have visitors come and do even more work on the house and also share in what they are doing at Kalkarindji.

John Stennett













Sharing God's Goodness at Casuarina

God is good all the time!

At Casuarina Baptist we have been blessed with many occasions to praise and thank him for his goodness. Our wide-ranging ethnic church family brings us many new insights into their lives and often traumatic past history and we are blessed in the sharing of that.

Karen New Year

What a joy it was as many gathered on 28 January to celebrate the Karen New Year. The Minister for Multicultural Affairs, the Hon Ngaree Ah Kit (in centre of photo), gave an encouraging welcoming message as a person belonging to our oldest culture to our Karen folk. She then joined us as we filled the hall for a delightful Karen meal. A big thankyou to our Karen sisters and brothers.

Baptism

Early this year the Church Family rejoiced to witness the baptism of one of our young people, Zoe Francis at the morning service. Zoe gave a moving testimony of how the Lord has been speaking to her. She was baptised by her dad, Dr Joshua Francis. Our prayer is for Zoe to continue to flourish as she walks with Jesus.

KidzBiz Christmas Play

Looking back to December, our KidzBiz (Sunday School) presented a well rehearsed and beautiful Nativity play with song, memorised lines and Scripture verses. The congregation was blessed indeed by this and heartfelt thanks go to the teachers and helpers who taught, encouraged and led the young children in this production.

Internship Graduation

Also last year, Priscilla Howard, received accreditation for her Internship with Baptist Churches of SA. Her Learning Covenant was 'Cultural Inclusion in Worship' and Priscilla has wonderfully demonstrated this to the benefit and blessing of our diverse ethnic community at CBC. Priscilla was awarded her Certificate of Completion in Adelaide by Elliot Keane and Mary Ackers, who co-ran the course.

Andrea Adams



The Karen New Year is joyfully celebrated



Priscilla receives her Internship Certificate

> Zoe is baptised by her Dad, Joshua



May Mission Month 2023: Alongsiders

A longsiders with Jesus, walking faithfully with Him. Alongsiders in our communities, reaching out as God's hands and feet. Alongsiders in the world, praying for and going to those who have not heard about Jesus' salvation gift. Alongsiders with Baptist Mission Australia Intercultural Teams, supporting those responding to God's call to live in places where Jesus is least known.

Baptist Mission

Australia



Being an Alongsider means listening, showing hospitality, bringing peace and humbly sharing the good news of Jesus. It means praying and seeking the Spirit's leading. It means loving the people God has put in your world, as well as loving the world.

Being an Alongsider means sharing God's love in genuine, active and relevant ways. It means partnering together with each other and God – sending and being sent, giving and receiving, working together as partners in God's mission. The four key Alongsider themes that will be explored over the month are:

1. People of Prayer: Mark 1:35-39 We follow Jesus' model of retreating to pray before stepping out

2. People of Peace: Acts 16 We are people who bring peace and seek people of peace

3. People of Love: John 5:1-15 We love people and holistically respond to their needs

4. People who Partner: Philippians 1:3-6 We partner together in God's mission

If your church doesn't do May Mission Month in May, that's okay! Engagement with global and local mission is an all year round calling for followers of Jesus.

May Mission Month resources will be available on the website from March and will remain available all year (and beyond). You can make use of them anytime that suits your church program.

Micah 6:8 says, in part, "...walk humbly with your God," in 2023 let us walk as Alongsiders, sharing God's love both near and far.

Lisa Cornish SA/NT State Leader

Praise God for his work in Kalkarindji through his people!



The church at Kalkarindji welcome Mat and Shannon Anderson and their family.



BAPTIST UNION of the NT ASSEMBLY

A very important BUNT Assembly will be held on Friday 24th March - 7:00pm at Casuarina Baptist Church.

It is imperative that as many delegates as possible attend this meeting, as we will be voting on a motion to give certainty to the amalgamation process. A copy of the proposed Constitution of the new entity (BCSANT) will be considered as part of this process.

Further information, including the proposed motion and Constitution, will be circulated as soon as possible. Please note that for voting at this meeting, church delegates may appoint proxies, however, ministerial staff must attend in person in order to vote.

For further details: president@ntbaptist.org.au

Baptist Churches of NT & SA Proposed Amalgamation

As reported previously in Belonging People and at the last few Assembly meetings, there has been ongoing discussion and exploration about the possibility amalgamating the Baptist churches of the Northern Territory and South Australia. This has progressed to our Annual Assembly in September 2022 passing the motion that BUNT "take steps to work towards amalgamation".

The desire and prayer for all involved in this process is that the churches across the NT and SA are enriched, supported and enabled to be healthy, vibrant communities living, proclaiming and demonstrating the Kingdom of God in our needy and broken world.

Since September the Amalgamation Taskforce, comprising 4 representatives each from NT and SA, has continued to work on understanding and preparing the steps needed to be taken to see amalgamation become a reality, recognising that the two associations each have their own decision-making processes and timelines to fulfill. The model being proposed is one in which the SA Association will amend its constitution so as to embrace and include the NT Baptist churches and their ministries, while BUNT, as a legal entity, winds up and membership is transferred to the amended entity. It is proposed this amended entity will formally be know as "Baptist Churches of South Australia and The Northern Territory Incorporated" (BCSANT).

Extensive work has been done on the proposed revised constitution and a draft will be available to BUNT for consideration in coming weeks. Wonderfully both existing constitutions are very similar and where there is difference the new version is seeking to express the best of both.

The next step will be a formal decision by BUNT to proceed toward amalgamation to enable SA to work through adoption of the revised constitution. Then later in 2023 BUNT will have opportunity to make the final decision to wind up and to become members of BCSANT.

Mike Mills Director of Ministries BUNT

TOM and PAT

A new book by Rev. Ivan Jordan OAM & Rev. Ed Kingston

Tom and Pat

The Story of Tom and Pat Fleming. Centralian Pioneers and Missionaries to the Warlpiri People of Australia



Ivan Jordan OAM & Ed Kingston

Tom Fleming is one of my heroes; a man who suffered under the Japanese in WW2 but turned his suffering into service of the Warlpiri people at Yuendumu. I am proud to be a Baptist Minister because of the character and witness of this spiritual giant. Ivan Jordan has given us a jewel in providing understanding of one of the most significant chapters of Christian mission in this nation's history.

Tim Costello AO

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Baptist Financial Services



N ow that we have all settled into a year after the disruptions of the last couple, it is pleasing to see a growth in church activity happening in the Northern Territory. BFS serves not only Baptist Churches, but any Christian Organisation that is engaged in the ministry of

God's Kingdom. Several of these have come to us in the last few months for assistance in expanding their Kingdom work, which in turn makes us a stronger organisation – and enables us to do even more to support our clients.

One of our major focuses for this year, is an overhaul of our Client Facing systems with the goal of further improving your user experience of our services. This will make it quicker and easier for you to accomplish many routine tasks with BFS (especially filling out paperwork!) and will provide a fresh new modern feel to the services you are already familiar with. It is a significant undertaking, but we are confident you will see improvements rolling out during the second half of this year.

If it has been a while since you have looked strategically at your church finances, consider getting in touch so we can discuss the range of options that may be open to you, and which we can tailor to best suit the ministry you are engaged in. I'd love to discuss with you some of the ways we can assist your Ministry to Thrive.

I look forward to speaking with you,

Glen Thornley Relationship Manager SA&NT Baptist Financial Services

The Worst Hunger Crisis in Modern History Famine in the Horn of Africa

Appeal.

R ight now, this large peninsula in Eastern Africa is gripped by one of the worst hunger crises ever recorded, with 22 million people hungry, and Somalia close to famine.

John Kinyoki, Chief Program Manager from one of our local Christian Partners in The Horn of Africa writes:

'The drought is very severe, and farmers are very much in dire need of food. There is no food for the livestock because of lack of vegetation. Livestock have died, and the ones that survive are very weak, so cannot fetch anything in the market. We don't know what's happening in the coming months.'

The situation is dire and getting worse with one in five households in The Horn of Africa about to run out of food.

Children and breastfeeding mothers are especially susceptible to starvation, with lack of nourishing food contributing to nearly half of all preventable deaths among children under five. Experts are warning that a timely targeted response is the only hope we have of reversing the effects of malnutrition. YOUR PRAYERFUL HELP IS URGENTLY NEEDED Your gift today will help families meet their food needs now, and fight hunger into the future with ongoing access to food and water. Please donate to our Hunger Crisis

Secure Phone Call on 1300 789 991

With your help, our local Christian Partners in Kenya and Uganda can reach further with the resources and expertise to fight hunger across the Horn of Africa.

Your donation will help provide food and emergency cash grants for those experiencing acute malnutrition, but it will also fund projects that make people more resilient to drought and food shortages as they happen, such as the repair of damaged water sources.

Sophia Russell Baptist World Aid





M issions Interlink is a national organisation. I am excited to share about the Northern Territory opportunities.

Transition Training Remote Indigenous Ministries (T-TRIM)

Are you interested in addressing the key issues involved in making an effective transition to working with remote Australian Aboriginal people - whether in town or in remote communities? You can sign up for the different units or do the whole course. Even though based in Darwin, we had folk travel up from Alice Springs for the course last year. **When:** 27 September -6th October. **For more Information:** Search Missions Interlink T-TRIM Registration soon.

MI Darwin Indigenous Network

Rachel Borneman MI Ministry Leader

Katherine Christian Convention

We are all looking forward to the Katherine Christian Convention happening 29-30th April. There are a variety of volunteer roles available. Having a willing, flexible, serving attitude is important. There is an application process to go through. Please e-mail for the application form. Please pray for Ox Roberts, John Stennett, Jim Mathieson and myself (with others) on the KCC committee.

Harvest Mentor - paid position

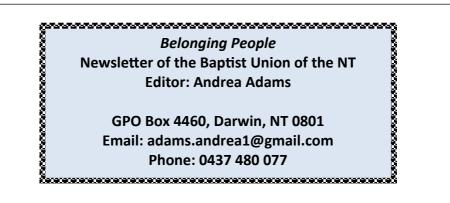
As there are no sending mission agencies based here in the NT, this unique role includes up to five mission agencies that jointly employ one Harvest Mentor. This role includes praying, journeying and encouraging those considering or preparing as crosscultural gospel workers.

For those in Darwin, who are interested or involved in Indigenous Australian ministry, you are welcome to our monthly gatherings on a Friday evening. This starts with a shared dinner from about 6pm on 31st March.

For more information:

www.missionsinterlink.org.au Facebook: 'Missions interlink NT' E-mail: <u>nt@missionsinterllink.org.au</u>





From Back Page: Katherine Christian Convention

Entry Costs:

Adult: \$20 for 1 day or \$30 for 2 days

School age children: \$10 for 1 day or \$15 for 2 days



n Ch

Under School age FREE

No registration required before KCC

Unpowered Camping:

Available from 10am Saturday

For groups travelling long distances who wish to also stay Friday night, please pre-arrange this by contacting Ox Roberts or John Stennett via the KCC Facebook page or email - see below

facebook.com/groups/KatherineCC

Email: christianconventionkatherine@gmail.com

Katherine Christian Convention SATURDAY + SUNDAY

APRIL 29-30 2023

@ Katherine Showgrounds

★ Bible Talks ★ Children + Youth Programs ★ Celebration Evenings ★

"Working Together for the Gospel"

Looking at the book of Philippians

Speaker: Bishop Greg Anderson

Session Times: Saturday 3pm & 6:30pm Sunday 9:30am & 6:30pm







www.kathcc.org.au Entry and camping details on page 27