



NORTHWEST NETWORK



JULY 2017 No. 106

Trinity Mission in Broome

By Rev Michael Baines

I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS

By Rev Jonathan Earnshaw

From April 1st-9th a team of students from Trinity Theological College (plus lecturer Clare Deeves) joined Broome Anglican Church for a Mission Week. Here are some highlights:

- *Monday:* We took the team on a 2 ½ hour drive to Derby. We ran a service at the Numbala Nunga nursing home; visited the Kingdom Aviation hangar; and ran a kids' event in the Mowanjum community.
- *Wednesday:* Women's morning tea featuring the theme 'True Beauty'; and an outreach dinner featuring the theme 'Science vs God'.
- *Saturday:* Market stall in the morning; a lecture from Clare on the Enlightenment in the afternoon; concluding with the team helping 'Feed the Little Children' charity in the evening.

What are some of my reflections of our Mission Week? It seemed to provide an excellent ministry experience for the team; a reasonably stimulating period for the church; and a fair effort at outreach. Planning obstacles prevented us from promoting events as early and widely as we would've liked. But I think Mission Week has helped raise our church's

profile in Broome.

The team had many experiences they will long remember and share with others. I'm sure this will incline them to support and maybe even pursue ministry in the North West. Let's hear some of the team's thoughts on Mission Week Broome style:

- *Simon Benson:* 'I am very grateful for the warmth of the welcome we received from all in the Broome Anglican community. Thank you to everyone, especially Michael and Steve and our billets, for your fellowship and for helping Trinity Theological College's mission week in Broome to bring glory to God.'
- *Chris Metcalf:* 'I'm thankful to Broome Anglican and to God for the opportunity we had to witness and participate in the proclamation of the gospel in Broome. It was such privilege to see the challenges and opportunities that ministry in the North West has to offer. I continue to pray that God would continue saving people through the faithful ministry of Broome Anglican and The People's Church.'
- *Bec Shaw:* 'Mission week gave me an encouraging snapshot of ministry in the Kimberley. I loved having the opportunity to have a go at different things, it's so helpful as I consider how and where I can serve God in the future.'

I'd encourage all evangelical colleges to send mission teams to North West churches. And I'd encourage North West churches to accept those teams. They're always welcome in Broome!

Denham is a solitary community with a population of about 600. It is 408km from Geraldton and 325km from Carnarvon. In the tourist season there is a huge influx of visitors from all parts of the world. The question is, "how can you keep ministry going in such a place?"

God is bringing the world to the church through tourism. The church building is on the tourist trail for its unusual construction from shell blocks. The visitors' book reveals people from all round the world taking time to stop to admire the scenery and perhaps offer up a prayer. Some of those tourists even enjoy the fellowship and worship at the Sunday meeting.

In these modern times of "mega-Churches" we often forget those who struggle faithfully in very difficult circumstances; faithful people who need encouragement and support just as much. Ministry in small and isolated communities is vital and there must be creative ways of continuing to build up the body of Christ in these places.

Since the departure of the Combe family in December 2016, we've had services by Bill and Jocelyn Ross, Garry and Joyce Hamersley, and Jonathan Earnshaw; but the real joy for the congregation was when Ron Watts (with his wife Alison) were able to stay on as locum ministers through April. We hope they will be able to return again.

No matter how isolated the community, the faithful should never



I am with you always

continues...

By Rev Jonathan Earnshaw

lose sight of Jesus' promise "I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28.20). However, Jesus' promise should not stop us from making every effort to ensure that those faithful believers are encouraged at every opportunity.

We continue to pray that we will find locums willing to come to our small and isolated communities.

Doing time at Greenough Prison

By Rev David Hilton

It only seemed like yesterday that I was first escorted through the front gates of Greenough Regional Prison. It was like entering a whole new world, and it would soon become clear that many of the rules and norms that govern everyday life don't apply in a place such as this. But there I was, standing in the middle of the prison, wondering what would happen next.

Questions flooded my mind. How did I get here? What is meant to happen next? What do I say to people in a place like this? How will I talk to prisoners? What assistance will staff give me here?

I was reacting quite normally for a first day as a prison chaplain, for there's little that really prepares you for this type of ministry. However, in the subsequent 9 years, I have learnt much about both prisoners and God's grace.

Every prisoner I speak to has a unique story; stories of families being torn apart through violence and abandonment; stories about displacement, rejection, and lack of hope; stories of lives spiralling into despair; stories of those who were unable to get the help they desperately needed. Now as prisoners, they often feel abandoned, isolated, afraid and angry. Despite how society may view them, how much we may want them 'out of mind and out of sight', no one is so bad, so far away from God, or so evil, that the grace of God cannot penetrate into their lives. If we believe that Christ died for all, then this means he died for everyone, regardless of what they may or may not have done.

In Greenough Prison, I see the lost who Jesus came to seek. I see the reality of those who understand that Jesus came so that they may have life to the full. As I walk through the different sections among the over 300 inmates, I seek to offer a new hope, but not cheap grace. Please pray for those at Greenough Prison. Pray that they may understand the need for repentance, experience God's love and grace, and seek to be true disciples of Christ.



Recently I was preaching on Zechariah 7-8 at Trinity Theological College in Perth. The word of the LORD given to Zechariah centres on God's kingdom ... on the restoration and consummation of that kingdom. Or, as the prophet declares in 14:9,

And the LORD will be king over all the earth.

On that day the LORD will be one and his name one.

A time is coming when the LORD'S kingship over the entire earth will receive universal acknowledgement – when the kingdom of God will be seen as the *only* kingdom worth belonging to!

Zechariah is fired by this vision of God's kingdom; by his *deep-seated* conviction that the covenant LORD is the true king ... and that one day his kingdom would *come* in all its glory; his *will* would be truly done; his *reign* recognised by every person across the globe.

In Zechariah 7 the message highlights God's rebuke of his people for their sin and how they were scattered as a result. But in chapter 8 the focus moves from the judgement of scattering to God's promise to gather his people – to gather them from all the nations into his kingdom. When this ingathering is complete then the great covenant promise that runs like a golden thread through the Bible will be fulfilled,

And they shall be my people, and I will be their God, in faithfulness and in righteousness. [Zech 8:8]

Caring for Seafarers

By Rev Wayne Sutton

On 10th January 2017 Rev Bill and Jocelyn Ross handed over the responsibilities of Chaplain and Shop Manager of the Geraldton Mission to Seafarers to Rev Wayne and Gladys Sutton. They have taken on this commitment for the next 4 years with the goal of moving the Chaplain's role from a voluntary to self-supporting position.

These new responsibilities have made them even more aware of how hard a seafarer's life truly is. They daily endure long and dangerous working conditions; experiencing isolation and loneliness as they are often away from their families for up to 12 months at a time; facing communication difficulties while at sea, low wages, Pirates and shipboard hazards (I know of two fatal accidents in the last month). When the seafarers have the opportunity to come ashore we serve them by making them feel welcome in a relaxing, helpful environment.

GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISE TO GATHER HIS PEOPLE FROM ALL THE NATIONS

African Mission 2017

By Bishop Gary Nelson



In Jesus this gathering has commenced because of his work on the cross; as the gospel is proclaimed God's people are gathered into his kingdom. While the long-term result is wonderfully pictured in places such as Revelation 7:9-11. What a mission to fire us up! What a mission to be committed to! What a mission to partner together in, not just here in the North West, but in Africa as well.

In April-May, Christine and I had the privilege of a 4 week mission trip to Africa. We are thankful for the support we received that made the trip possible – from individuals, churches and our diocese. This enabled us to bring together some 80 ministers, their wives and church workers for a week long intensive on the theme of discipleship in Moroto, Uganda. The diocese formed a link with the Diocese of Karamoja back in 2010. We have sought to support by prayer and resources children in a diocesan school; income generating projects; and in-service training/teaching of those who minister in this remote and poor area of Uganda.

In 2013 a Geraldton engineer accompanied me to establish system to supply running water in the diocesan centre in Moroto. This year we returned with a replacement water pump (about 23kgs of our 60kgs baggage), along with baby clothes lovingly knitted by folk in the Geraldton cathedral and Mothers' Union. Once we added notes and other resources for ministers we were looking forward to a limited wardrobe for the trip.

Travelling in Africa always comes with its challenges such as:

airport chaos; crowded roads; unreliable power; intermittent water supply (thus showers took place in a basin with enough water to just cover our feet); and the ever-present possibility of illness. But God kept us safe and well throughout our time – not just in Uganda, but in Kenya and then for our time in South Sudan (more of that in the next Network). This was Christine's first mission venture to Africa and it was hard to get her back on the plane.

We were privileged to see the gathering of God's people in three different countries – churches we visited normally bursting at the seam! What a delight to meet people like Michael and Jane. They've been ministering in an isolated area of Karamoja. They care for 7 children, though they long for their own. Over the last 8-10 years they have planted 21 congregations who meet mostly under big trees. Each numbers around 80-100 people. Yet very few of us will ever meet them. But friends, the *Kingdom of God* is growing there as the gospel is faithfully proclaimed; as God keeps his promise to gather his people from all the nations.

In the North West we have the nations coming to us as international tourists visit; as people from many nations are employed in the mining industry; as seafarers find rest and refreshment in our mission centres. Please keep praying that we will be faithful to the gospel and make disciples of all the nations. May you also join with us in praying for our brothers and sisters in Africa as they serve in very difficult physical/political circumstances, along with limited resources and trained people to pastor the large congregations they minister in.

The Centre operates through the generous support of Ambassadors, which are those who volunteer their time and skills to keep the mission open when ships are in port. They are a group of committed and caring people who have a love for the Seafarer. They are missionaries who don't need to go overseas as the 'overseas' come to them. Each of the volunteers are greatly appreciated.

Gladys has a busy role as the Shop Manager, which involves welcoming seafarers, ordering supplies, shopping locally to replenish stock, and maintaining the Centre appearance. Wayne organises the Ambassador Roster and the shipping advice display monitor. A key task is keeping up the supply of Scripture material and Bibles that are given to seafarers. He endeavours to visit every ship coming into Geraldton port (some 35 to 40 ships a month). Wayne will meet with the captain and crew distributing Bibles in English and the language of the crew; along with various other reading materials. He also provides medical and airport transfers as required.

Currently the garage is being refurbished as a stock storeroom and the aim, eventually, is to acquire a suitable transportable

building to expand our space. This will enable us to better accommodate the Seafarers and provide a more helpful office area. This extra space is limited since our current Centre is a Heritage Building (1865), we look forward to the challenge God's called us too.



Northampton

By Rev Eldred Royce

At 8.25am every Sunday morning our church bell can be heard around the town of Northampton. It's not just a reminder to gather for church, but that the church of God is still in town.

This small rural town provides a number of areas to outreach into the community. We hope to get to know more of the Nabawa community and encourage more people to join us at the Nabawa congregation.

Brookview is an aged care facility attached to the local hospital and Geraldine goes there every Tuesday to participate in activities with the residents. We hold a monthly church service at the facility.

We both teach "Religious Education"

every Friday at Nabawa Primary School, some 25 kilometres away. In February this year the school principal, with the backing of the P&C, invited us to come and teach RE. This added a new avenue to engage with young minds that are keen to learn about our faith.

I'm involved with the Northampton Men's Shed which is still in its infancy of development. Chiverton House Museum offered them a spare shed to operate from, as well as the shire offering a block of land in hope of a more permanent building being constructed. The Men's Shed have recently been involved with building a playground for the shire, which is a good way to make a contribution to the community. This is a great way to get to know the other men in town.

Helping "Meals on Wheels" is another way I have sought to connect with the

locals; attending a senior's gentle gym class; participating in the town's Carols by Candlelight at Christmas; and more recently, I organised a community church service to commemorate the establishment of the Gwalla Church building (built by ex-convict "Dr" D.L. Horrocks in 1863, it was a meeting place for all Christian denominations, but all that's left today are its ruins).

Please pray that we connect with the Northampton community and it produces conversation seasoned with salt, and that we'll see many coming to know Jesus as their Lord and Saviour.



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Moving to Mullewa

By Rev Don Miller

Mullewa, a small wheat-belt town in the south west of the diocese, is a great place to live and minister. I moved here four years ago following 30 years 600 km further east - out in the middle of WA. Semi-retired, I enjoy a more laid back lifestyle after many hectic years of running a pastoral station and looking after an Indigenous community. An added bonus has been living an hour away from my adult children in Geraldton.

During my time at Ululla my daughter Helen become involved as an artist in teaching painting at the station. She then managed the Tjukurba gallery in Wiluna before moving back to Geraldton. Helen has been teaching art at the Greenough Regional Prison to Indigenous people from all over the North West; as well as being involved with the Spinifex Hill artists in Hedland on a FIFO basis.

When Helen and her family moved to Mullewa at the start of this year she became a valuable resource to the town with a high percentage of Indigenous people. She's been helping the children at the local schools in painting murals; one being a public piece on a wall of the town swimming pool. It was an important project for the children to gain self-esteem, and for Helen to get to know them.

Mullewa has an active art and craft scene among the wives of the local farmers, with two different groups operating. Helen found it very easy to become involved with these women.

Over the last couple of years, we have been using some of her art work as a means of making contact with the tourists who flock through the town during the wildflower season. With this being successful, this year Helen and a local friend are already making plans to increase the impact.

Helen, her husband and their three children have given a huge boost to our small aging Sunday congregation. So, I give thanks to God for the phone call from Bishop Gary asking if I would consider moving to Mullewa.



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