



NORTHWEST NETWORK



DECEMBER 2016 No. 104

Celebrating God's Goodness By Bishop Gary Nelson



Travelling around the diocese by car provides many hours to reflect on our great God. The dramatic landscapes of the North West where the desert meets the ocean continue to amaze me - in my recent trip I journeyed from aqua coloured seas with sandy beaches, to the rugged reds of the Pilbara with its seemingly endless horizon. I am reminded of some words from Psalm 145: 3-7

Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable.

One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.

On the glorious splendour of your majesty, and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.

They shall speak of the might of your awesome deeds, and I will declare your greatness.

They shall pour forth the fame of your abundant goodness and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.

The Psalm begins with a solo voice, but the chorus of successive generations soon add their voices of praise. As you enter into the psalm its praise of God roams from creation to redemption. All God has made should rightly praise him, but his family members ('*your saints*' - v10) have the privilege of sharing the good news of the kingdom:

'Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations.'

And these words naturally draw us to the book of Daniel and onwards to Jesus - to the king reigning over an everlasting kingdom, established through his death and resurrection.

What a privilege the Lord, '*my God the king*', has given us in the North West to experience God's abundant goodness as we live in such an incredible part of creation; but more significantly as we have the opportunity to help successive generations know of God's goodness in Jesus, our Lord and Saviour. Thank you for partnering with us in this gospel work.

Kalbarri Op Shop Ministry

Experiencing the Lord's rich blessing By Graham Dunn - Warden

In recent years our core congregation diminished in number, along with a decrease in tourists visiting the town. The result - we could not pay a stipend for the minister. After a few short term locums we ended up not being able to

hold any Sunday services. So for more than 12 months our parish was serviced by the minister at Northampton, David Day. He drove the 200km return trip to provide an evening service three weeks of every month.



Kalbarri Op Shop Ministry

Experiencing the Lord's rich blessing *cont...*

The future for our church looked bleak with our parish income less than \$25,000 pa. But we prayed earnestly that God would bring about a revival in our church and community. God answered our prayers guiding us to establish a local Op Shop. But we had no idea ...

- whether there was sufficient demand in our small town for an Op Shop;
- how we would find the 18-20 volunteers needed to run the shop; or,
- where our ongoing supplies of stock would come from.

Yet we went ahead and rented a shop in the heart of town putting our trust in God. Surprise, Surprise! God blessed us in this new venture. Our local community supported us with their surplus clothing and household goods, and by volunteering in the shop. As a result in 2016 our parish income has increased to \$75,000. Thus with a little help from the Diocese, we are able to support our incumbent minister. The Day family are a wonderful blessing to our church and Kalbarri community.

Under God the Op Shop venture has enabled us to identify and help people in need. But more significantly the shop has provided opportunities to talk to, and reach out to, people we would not normally have contact with. The Op Shop ministry is an important part of our church life and it is recognised as significant by our community.

With David and Jenny residing in Kalbarri, God's word is being preached regularly and faithfully. As well, the light and love of Christ is evident in our church and community. Please pray with us for our church to grow.

Farewell Sam and Jess

By Peter Grice, Dean Holy Cross Cathedral Geraldton

It is with heavy hearts that the Cathedral Community farewells the Morton family. Sam has been our intrepid Children's and Youth Worker since October 2013. In his stint with the Cathedral, Sam has led our Youth Group, co-ordinated our Sunday School and Chaplained our Brigade Group. Sam has also discipled young adults through our young adults' Bible Study group. As part of the pastoral team, Sam has also stepped into the pulpit to deliver faithful and relevant sermons. This is not the end of his capabilities, not by a long chalk. His contribution to the Music Team is notable, with some describing Sam's lead guitar and vocals as having a "raw, but mesmerizing stage presence".



Loving God's Way

Geraldton Women's Convention

By Kate Arthur

On Saturday 24th September, 2016, the women in Geraldton were blessed by the teaching of Jane Tooher, from Moore College, Sydney. Living God's way and hence 'loving what is good' was the theme of Jane's talks on the book of Titus.

It was an absolute joy to fellowship with 65 other ladies from many different churches in Geraldton and from towns in the North West Diocese. Standing in the Cathedral singing praises to our God and being richly fed from the Word was refreshing and encouraging.

We were blessed by many ladies who worked very hard to prepare the event and run things on the day. Our team of men made an invaluable contribution too, as they made us coffee and organised the food. I would like to say a public 'thank you' to all those involved in the running of the Convention, as well as all those who attended.

We are appreciative of Kate's enthusiasm for women's ministry and will miss her role as women's ministry co-ordinator at the Cathedral. In 2017 Kate will be focussing on ministry at a Christian school in Geraldton. Thank you Kate.

I will personally miss his breathless arrivals to staff meeting, sand encrusted and dripping wet with wild-eyed, far-fetched tales of crays that "got away". I will also miss Jess and the kids. Jess has been a great support and encouragement, not least with her tireless contributions to Music and Movement and innumerable behind the scenes caring ministries. It is also with sadness that we farewell Percy and Lois. Percy arrived as a baby and leaves as a bright young man. Lois is a bona fide Geraldtonite, born here and grown into a spirited lass. Our sadness is tempered by the fact that the Mortons have been called to a strategic youth ministry with St Luke's Miranda.

We wish every blessing and happiness for the Mortons as this new chapter commences and every success with Pokemon Go on the other side of our wide brown land. God bless and Godspeed.



Songs of Praises

By Peter Grice - Dean of Holy Cross Cathedral

Each year Geraldton Cathedral hosts a remarkable community event - Songs of Praises, a celebration of congregational hymns. We are privileged to have a number of musical groups joining forces to make this event so memorable.

The basic format is an hour of singing and items, each song being introduced and explained to provide some background. This year, as in past years, the Geraldton City Band performed a number of items as well as accompanied our congregational hymn singing. In addition, local singing groups, the Geraldton Choral Society, Sing Australia and the Strathalbyn Christian College Choir performed for the packed Cathedral congregation.

From our Cathedral family, the Choir, the Music team and Brigade added their own distinctive contributions to the event. For completeness, even the Dean was shamed into playing the organ for a number of hymns, as well as speaking on God's Praise from Psalm 103.

All in all it was a great event and a great outreach. It was well supported by our own congregations and the community. If in Geraldton mid-October next year, you are more than welcome to attend, contribute and join in songs of praise. As the Psalm reminded us, it is God who is indeed worthy of all our praise.

*Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me,
bless his holy name!*

(Psalm 103:1)

Touring North Western Australia with BCA

By Judy Erskine

On the 15th July, 2016, I met our BCA touring group at a motel in Darwin. Having never been on a BCA tour before, and being the first big "adventure" on my own after losing my wonderful husband Bill to cancer, it was with mixed feelings and emotions. I need not have worried as they accepted me, along with "Johnny Walker" (my walker) and "Charlie Brown" (my walking stick), as part of the crowd.

Throughout this amazing "adventure", I met a wonderful lot of loving caring Christians. They, like me, wanted to meet these fantastic BCA people who work and teach God's word in some of the remotest, isolated, inhospitable, but breathtakingly beautiful country. It is not only a country of vast distances, but a country where everyone "looks after and are concerned about their fellow human beings." I was constantly reminded of this Bible verse, John 13:34 "Love one another as I have loved you".

In Darwin we visited Nungalinga College, a training college for indigenous Christians. We also fellowshiped in the rebuilt Christ Church Cathedral which was totally destroyed by Cyclone Tracy on Christmas Day, 1974.

We visited Kakadu and then Katherine where we met BCA workers, Kristan and Kathryn Slack who told us about their work in this area. Crossing the NT/WA border we arrived at Kununurra where I met up with old friends Kees and Cindy Bootsma who are BCA Nomads - ministering in churches during the "dry" season so the locals can have a break or go on leave. We continued onto Fitzroy Crossing, Port Hedland and Newman where we again shared in church with the locals. Next was Tom Price, Karratha, Exmouth, Carnarvon, Denham, Kalbarri, Geraldton and then Perth and home - a total of 7,500 road miles - and a wealth of experiences on how the "other" half live.

*"He gave us eyes to see them, And lips that we might tell,
How great is God Almighty, Who has made all things well."*



People on the Move

As the year ends some of our diocesan team are moving on to other locations or other ministries. So, travelling north to south we have:

- the **Alexanders** concluding their ministry in Kununurra parish;
- the **Simmons** moving on from Port Hedland parish;
- the **McArtnes** moving from Newman parish to senior chaplain at the Mission to Seafarers centre in Port Hedland;
- the **Combes** preparing for a new ministry next year;
- the **Mortons** moving from the Cathedral parish to Miranda, NSW;
- **Kate Arthur** will be focusing on school ministry in Geraldton;
- **Bill and Jocelyn Ross** retiring;
- the **Suttons** into ministry at the Geraldton Mission to Seafarers.

Please thank God for these servants of the Lord and pray for their future ministry in 2017.



A Tentmaker for Derby

Are you equipped for a tentmaking ministry and keen to see the gospel move forward in the Kimberley region of the North West? The town of Derby, about a two-and-a-half hour drive north of Broome, is an opportunity waiting for someone to take hold of with both hands. It is the third largest town in the Kimberley, but we haven't had any significant Anglican ministry there for a good number of years. Are you interested?

We have a church property to use as a base, but at this stage no diocesan owned house. Some possibilities for chaplaincy through the school or prison may be on offer. There are employment opportunities provided you have suitable skills or relevant qualifications. Contacting people, establishing relationships will still take time - especially in an environment where people change locations and jobs on a regular basis.

Well, who are we looking for? You would need to have Bible college training, passion for the gospel, proven evangelistic ability, and love for people. You'd also need a lot of resilience, since this missionary work could be slow-going (you may be the only church member for a while) and frustrating. But the team at Broome are keen to provide prayer, fellowship and administrative support. We are trusting that God will provide someone who can minister in a remote town reaching out to the lost; who can sustain themselves financially; and is able to cope with a climate that is hot and dry, but with a cyclone now and then to dampen the ground!

If you are interested, then please contact Bishop Gary Nelson at bishop@anglicandnwa.org.

SUPPORTING GOSPEL MINISTRY IN THE NORTH WEST

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L-R: Steve Combe, Roger Kyngdon, Gary Nelson, Jake De Salis & David Hilton

Called to Serve

By Andrew Burr

God answers your prayers. We saw this at the Ordination service on October 2nd 2016. After Synod that week a large congregation met at Holy Cross Cathedral in Geraldton for the Priesting of four men and to welcome their families to the North West. Steve Combe (Shark Bay), Roger Kyngdon (Bluff Point), Jake de Salis (Dampier Seafarers) and David Hilton (Greenough Prison) had responded to God's call to work for the Gospel in this large Diocese.

Bishop Gary Nelson preached a stirring sermon on Christian discipleship and ministry. A light lunch after church allowed everyone to catch up with friends. Please thank God for answering our prayers for new workers in the North West and keep asking the Lord of the harvest to send more. We ask you to prayerfully support these men and their families as they work in difficult situations and isolated communities.

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

The Diocese of North West Australia seeks to be a safe place for all. If you have a complaint or a question about sexual abuse or inappropriate behaviour please contact the **Director of Professional Standards:**
Tracie Chambers-Clark (JP) Phone: (08) 9325 7455
Email: tchambers-clark@perth.anglican.org