Broome or bust

by Michael Baines - Minister in Charge Broome

My journey to the Diocese of North West Australia began when I was at Moore College. David Muirhead, Bishop of the Diocese at that time, came to Moore urging students to consider ministry in the North West. I was a candidate for ordination in Sydney, so I couldn’t respond to the call right away, but his presentation stayed with me. He said it was hard to get ministers to go to the North West and I thought, ‘Why shouldn’t I go?’

I didn’t expect to go as soon as we did. My wife Karen is Canadian and so after five years as an Assistant Minister in Cronulla and Kurnell, I looked for a ministry position in her country. However, the evangelical Anglicans in Canada currently have more ministers than they know what to do with, and they didn’t have a position for me. So I started looking elsewhere, and one of the people I contacted was Gary Nelson. I didn’t know whether he’d have anything for me or not, but I figured it couldn’t hurt to ask, especially since I already knew him a bit (he was working at Moore while I was studying there).

Gary told me he had a vacancy in Broome. He was up-front about the challenges it would involve (e.g. heat, remoteness) so at first I wasn’t too sure. But I figured I’d ring a bunch of Broome’s previous ministers to get their impressions, and the more conversations I had the more excited I grew (along with my wife) about coming here.

The church family in Broome have given us a very warm welcome, and I’m really encouraged by their enthusiasm for the gospel. I’m also very happy to be in a diocese that upholds the authority of God’s word, and in which the ministers really seem to look out for each other (each minister I’ve met or spoken with on the phone has been very supportive).

From that wonderful starting point, and with a lot of help from God, we’re looking forward to doing what we can to help make disciples in this beautiful part of the world.

BCA returns to Bluff Point

The Bush Church Aid Society of Australia (BCA) is delighted to announce that we are once again supporting ministry in Bluff Point with the recent appointment of the Reverend Roger and Mrs Amanda Kyngdon.

BCA last supported ministry in Bluff Point from 2006 – 2008 when Graeme Middlewick (and his wife Rachael) served the parish as Assistant Minister.

Roger and Amanda Kyngdon – along with their three children Ada (3), Eliza (18 months) and Benjamin (born March 8) – were commissioned to serve at Bluff Point Anglican in mid-February as part of a BCA Ministry Training Arrangement.

Roger, who was previously the Youth and Children’s Minister at Windsor Anglican Church in Sydney, had always hoped to move to Western Australia to further his ministry and be closer to Amanda’s side of the family. Amanda’s family have a long association with the Anglican Church. Her grandfather, The Rt Revd Howell Witt, was the Bishop of North West Australia from 1965 to 1981.

Roger grew up in a Christian family and his father Geoff was at one time the assistant to the Bishop of Wollongong.

“I always knew that being a Christian and having a relationship with God was something really important,” says Roger.

“After completing my primary teaching degree, a minister encouraged me to do...
What a day!! Clear blue skies, refreshing ocean breeze and panoramic coastal views followed by the interior of Gerringong Anglican Church — but the warm fellowship more than made up for the location change. On March 12th some 40 or so people who had served in the North West came together for a reunion. We had people who served in the 1960s like Bill Lawton (Mullewa) as well as those who served in more recent times such as the Mildenhalls (Broome).

Parishes represented ranged from Kununurra (Johnson); through the hot interior of Newman (Wilsongs) and Paraburdoo (Brains & Rothwells) and the wonderful Mt Magnet (Frances); plus coastal towns including Broome (Fords, O’Maras, Thompsons), Exmouth (Edwads,) and Shark Bay (Fairbairns, Reeces). And we couldn’t neglect the deep south of Mingenew (Gowings), nor the far north of Wyndham (McDougalls). Many who attended served in locum capacities including the Smarts, Mathesons and Merringtons.

What a privilege to be part of such a group of servant hearted men and women.

I am very thankful to the North West’s former bishop David Mulready and his wife Maureen for organising the reunion (perhaps it could become a tradition as an annual event!). Thanks must also be extended to the volunteers from the Gerringong parish who served us so well from the kitchen — wonderful food, tea, coffee and cold drinks.

Mark Short, national director of BCA, joined us representing the many people through the years who have supported gospel ministry in the North West as field staff, pray-ers, donors or nomads.

This ‘elite’ band is worth joining so please contact me if you would like to serve in the North West in a full-time capacity or as locums or encouragers. It was a very rejuvenating day for this weary bishop.

BCA returns to Bluff Point continues...
A Unique Opportunity

The diocese currently has three Mission to Seafarers centres - Geraldton, Dampier and Port Hedland. These are served by chaplains, paid staff and volunteers ministering to over 6000 seafarers per month. Let's hear from some of those involved at the centres.

PORT HEDLAND… Maria writes

Garry South (associate Chaplain) had the opportunity to visit a sick seafarer in hospital. While at anchorage this seafarer experienced horrific burns to his hand. But due to a policy change this man had to wait until the ship docked. Allan Mower (senior Chaplain) took up this case with the operations manager in Perth. Advocacy is one of the many areas chaplains are involved with. As a result an interim solution now operates for on-board emergencies.

DAMPIER

Last year over 100,000 seafarers visited the port of Dampier. Ian McGilvray (chaplain) recently visited a ship at anchor whose crew hadn’t been ashore for many months. Amazingly, Ian was asked to conduct a prayer service for a crew who didn’t have a single Christian on board! He left Gospels of John for each crew member. We pray they’ll read John’s Gospel and come into a saving knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

GERALDTON

Christine has been a volunteer in the Mission centre. She comments:

Sometimes I am asked, ‘what is your religion’? (Chinese seafarers). So in turn I asked, ‘what is your religion?’ as an opportunity to speak of Christ.

I had an in depth conversation with a young Chinese seafarer about the Christian faith. He gave me his email to link him to another Christian, but my email was blocked. It’s apparent how precious these face to face opportunities are.

Many seafarers take evangelistic booklets or portions of Scripture in their own language. Booklets that begin with the difficulties of sea going life are very popular. The seafarers love to share pictures of their wives and children, and quite often talk about worries concerning their families. They were always thankful when I said, ‘I will pray for them’.

The Mission also offers a place for joyful conversations with Christian Seafarers from all countries. I am sure it’s encouraging for them to be in a friendly, Christian environment; and, where people are keen to talk about their faith in Jesus. We trust these times will help them as they live and speak their faith in the confines of the ship’s community.

Friends, the Mission to Seafarers is a challenging, but incredible opportunity to minister to people in the midst of a hard life. Many who come to our centres meet few or no Christians, so it’s a privilege to be part of this outreach.

If you are interested in serving as a chaplain please contact Bishop Gary. We are in urgent need for three chaplains to replace those retiring over the next 6-12 months.

SUPPORTING GOSPEL MINISTRY IN THE NORTH WEST

PERSONAL DETAILS: (please print)

Name: ..........................................................................................
Address: ..................................................................................... 
......................................................................................................
Phone: ..........................................................................................
Email: ...........................................................................................

☐ I want to be a PRAYER PARTNER
   Please send me the Northwest Network

☐ I’m interested in training for MINISTRY in NWA

☐ I’d like to discuss SERVING in NWA as a...
   ☐ tentmaker
   ☐ retired Minister
   ☐ Parish Minister

☐ I want to be a FINANCIAL PARTNER
   Please use my gift for:
   ☐ Ministry through Bishop’s Discretionary Fund
   ☐ Ministry in/form .................................................................
   ☐ My Support will be via, ........................................................
     • Electronic Transfer to:
       Diocese of North West Australia ACF
       BSB 706-001 A/C No. 30003846
       for the amount of $ ....................................................... 
     Or $ ................ every ............................................................
     • Cheque/postal note (payable to Diocese of North West Australia)

☐ Please send me details concerning a bequest to the Diocese of NWA.

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