



NORTH WEST NETWORK



JUNE 2018 No. 108



A Good Read

By Bishop Gary Nelson

Recently I was asked to preach on Nehemiah 8 and I must confess it's been awhile since I looked at the book of Nehemiah.

I imagine Nehemiah isn't on everyone's top 10 favourite reads from the Bible. Yet it's worth a revisit for Nehemiah, and its close neighbour Ezra, are truly a good read.

As Nehemiah 8 opens you can't miss its central element... the word of the LORD (v.1):

And all the people gathered as one man into the square before the Water Gate. And they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses that the LORD had commanded Israel.

Israel assembles in Jerusalem to hear their LORD speak to them. And like all large-scale conventions a platform is constructed for the speakers (v.4). They gather as one, just as the returned exiles had gathered previously (see Ezra 3¹) and yet this gathering is marked by a particular enthusiasm – an enthusiasm reflected in a request for Ezra to read from the Scriptures, from the Book of Moses. [vs.3 & 9]

Ezra then reads the law from 'early morning until midday ... And the ears of all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law' (v.4).

Continues Page 2...



By Roger & Amanda Kyngdon

Loving Newman

When the Bishop approached us about three years ago we agreed to serve two years in a ministry trainee role at Bluff Point in Geraldton. We would then be placed 'somewhere in the North West' as minister in charge of a parish.

So we didn't choose Newman. It was chosen for us but we love it here. It's a great little town. There is a strong community spirit with plenty of things to get involved in, especially with children. The congregation has welcomed us warmly.

My priorities are to preach the word faithfully and to get to know people in the church so we can support and care for them. One challenge for us will be to reach out to people who have lived in the town for decades. They tend to

think the transient nature of the North West means newcomers won't stay very long and so they don't seek new friendships.

I grew up in a Christian family and can't recall when I wasn't a believer. However, the formative time for me was in Year 12 at high school when I became mates with two other Christian guys. Hanging out with those guys solidified for me what it means to live as a Christian in a community that largely doesn't believe in Christ.

Continues Page 4.

Catch our latest news on  @northwestanglicans

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF NORTH WEST AUSTRALIA Geraldton WA 6531 | Ph (08) 9921 7277 | email reception@anglicandnwa.org | website www.anglicandnwa.org



A Good Read continues...

What we observe here is all the people committing to take God's word seriously, for they're not just listening passively – check out v.6:

They read from the book, from the Law of God, clearly, and they gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

The leaders' concern is to make sure the people have the word 'explained and expounded'. The picture painted before us highlights God's purpose for his Torah. He desires his word to shape wise and understanding people [see Deut 4:6] – a people hearing and obeying from childhood onwards.

As the assembled people hear God's Word their hearts are touched. They respond in worship (v.6); repentance (v.9); joy and generosity (v.12); obedience (vs.13-17); along with sustained reading of God's word (v.18). A transformation takes place as God's word is 'read and responded to'.

I suggest Nehemiah 8 is at the very heart of the book. While its challenge is clear. How central is God's word for us – as individuals, as churches and as dioceses? If people are to know Jesus, then they must hear his Word and respond in repentance and faith. So, are we truly committed to this truth? Similarly, if we are to grow as Christians then we need to hear and obey God's word. So, are we people enthusiastic and attentive to the word of God?

Our diocese, churches and ministers are committed to the central place of God's Word. Please pray we will maintain our perspective, even in the changing times and values of the society in which we live. Thank you for your generous support, and I hope you will be encouraged by our latest Network.

Keep global mission on the radar

This was the message to Mid West ministry workers during the recent Archdeaconry Meeting.

CMS WA branch head Rev David Greeff made his first visit to the North West and gave Bible talks on mission. His first talk encouraged us by examining Jesus' words in Matthew 9:37-38: *'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few, therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.'*

His second talk was an exhortation based on the Great Commission of Matthew 28:18-20 to *'disciple the nations'*. We were spurred on by this message which applies in the North West Diocese, a vast land mass where people from many nations come and go, particularly as seafarers or mine workers.

David is a former long-term missionary in Namibia with his family. He brought news of current missionaries. He also gave an update on the important redevelopment of CMS training facility, St Andrews' Hall in Melbourne.

God at work in visitors to the North West

By Andrew Burr

Meet Ross, a visitor to the North West. In August 2017 he left Perth needing a break from caring for elderly parents and looking for direction in his wayward life.

Ross stopped in Geraldton and went to the Bluff Point Anglican Church. That Sunday he heard God speak to him from 1 Peter 2:13-16,

Therefore, with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming. As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."

Ross realised he wasn't holy. He was cut off from God because of his sin. A church family invited him to lunch and over the course of three days Ross became a Christian. He went from spiritual death to life knowing that God's love and forgiveness came to him through Jesus Christ. This was life changing for Ross.

But that's not the end.

Ross travelled further into the North West. He went to Carnarvon, Karratha and Paraburdoo, visiting Anglican Churches

along the way. In each church the ministers encouraged Ross from the scriptures, showed him hospitality, gave him books to read and urged him to keep trusting Jesus Christ.

Ross discovered that each church used the Bible as its central focus for worship and teaching. Church services helped Ross to see God's Word as the key to Christian living. Ross was challenged to think deeply about the gospel in his own life. All this equipped him to serve God as he returned to Perth.

Three months later Ross stood in front of the Bluff Point church to confess his faith in God's goodness and Jesus Christ. It was wonderful to see what God had done to a 67 year old ex-farmer who had been lost, but now found. Ross had started a new life.

Things like this don't often happen. But they do happen continually as God opens people's eyes to the greatness of Jesus Christ. They happen as people talk about Jesus from the Bible and share His love in simple ways. The Anglican churches and workers in the North West, with Bishop Gary and Christine Nelson, work and pray to this end.

Please continue supporting this life changing work with your prayers and gifts. We are all partners in God's work in the North West.



Farewell after 25 years in the North West

By Les and Jenny Gaulton

In April our ministry in the North West came to an end and with heavy hearts we said goodbye. It was hard to believe that we had spent 15 years pastoring the flock that meets at the Anglican church in Karratha. We came here after a decade in Leinster, so retiring after 25 years in this amazing part of God's world has been very emotional.

During our time in Karratha – a mining town in WA's Pilbara region – we have seen God constantly at work in people's lives. Some have been brought into the kingdom and many have grown in their faith and commitment to Jesus.

The mining boom came bringing with it high levels of materialism. However, as with all mining cycles, the downturn also came – and hit the place hard. Lots of people lost their jobs and then their homes because they could no longer pay the mortgage.

This produced high levels of stress in the community. However, it gave us new opportunities to remind people of God's bigger plan and to encourage them to put their faith in heavenly treasures.

Like many places in the North West, the

population is transient. People don't stay in places very long. The average is about two years. Congregations would leave and then we would start all over again. We found ourselves training people for ministry leadership positions only to have them announce they were leaving Karratha three months later. But what we did see was people growing from having a very basic understanding of the gospel to being really full on in their faith. The faithful teaching of God's Word always bears fruit.

We are grateful for the way God has used us to grow people during their time in the North West. Many of them will go on to settle and join a church community elsewhere. We pray that God will build on the gospel foundation laid down in the North West.

Like missionaries all over the world, the knowledge that people were faithfully and regularly praying for our work has been wonderful. We wouldn't have been able to stay this long without that support.

This region is a great place to labour for God's mission to build His kingdom. We invite you to pray with us that God will raise up more workers.



Brian Fyffe had been a busy mining executive before Rev Les Gaulton turned his life upside down. Brian is now the Minister-in-Charge of the Carnarvon Parish.

'Les would travel more than 250km, leaving his own family for a couple of nights, just to minister to our family of four once a fortnight. The congregation grew and we began to meet in an old operating theatre at the hospital.

Les was impressive as a minister; but his message was even more impressive. He had a persistent, unrelenting focus on Jesus Christ. He showed me a model of Christian ministry I'd never encountered before. Together with the work of the Holy Spirit, Les stimulated my desire to know more about the Bible and re-orient my life towards Jesus.'

Loving Newman *continues...*

I rejoice at the incredible forgiveness God extends to us in the death of his Son Jesus. I feel blessed to have the opportunity to encourage the people of Newman to take hold of this great gift also.

Amanda is finding her groove. She has a unique link to the region because her grandfather was bishop of the North West (1965-1981), Howell Witt. He was known for his creative approach to ministry, which I discovered when preparing talks for a recent service. Witt by name and witty by nature, he let nothing stand in the way of meeting together. On one famous occasion Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, the Queen's husband, visited Newman. He was surprised to find the church service conducted in the local police court and that he had to read the Bible from the witness box.

Finally in 1988 the congregation found a permanent home when the first Anglican Church was built. One of my early joys was to run a service to commemorate the church's 30th anniversary. This was an opportunity to reflect on God's goodness and to pray for his continued blessing on ministry at Newman.

Please pray that we would be faithful servants and that God would open up many opportunities to proclaim the good news of the gospel.

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:
- Where it is most needed
- Ministry in/for
- 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.**

Preaching christ or surfing?

By Frank, Jo, Lydia, Eli & Silas Nicol



Four and a half years ago Jo and I were shocked to hear the bishop asking us if we were willing to minister in one of our favourite locations in WA. We tried not to look too excited when we agreed to make the move down to Exmouth. Time has since passed and I think it is fair to say we are well and truly settled in.

The great joy for us ministering in Exmouth is, not so much the beauty of the location, but the size of the town. The pressure of ministry life and a growing family means we don't frolic in the sun as much as you might think. But we do have plenty of opportunities to build relationships with the people of Exmouth for God's glory. It is impossible to go out here and not see multiple people you know. When ministry life is going well, we often pray that God would use those day to day relationships to proclaim Jesus. From our experience, God tends to answer those prayers in the positive, rapidly and often. Our hope is that our church would likewise catch the vision for proclaiming Jesus in our existing relationships with people. Please pray for this to happen. And pray God might build us up, equipping us for that end.

Aside from the informal opportunities for the gospel that God provides, many of our ministries are similar to what you may find in other churches. We meet as a congregation every Sunday. We catch-up for Bible Study together twice a week and we share youth ministry with another local protestant church. It's great to have a strong partnership with other Christians in town and to express that through shared ministry. Exmouth Christian Fellowship also strongly supports the role I have as Chaplain in the local high school. Again, we very much value Chaplaincy which brings us into contact with the community 2 days a week.

There are struggles to ministry in Exmouth. I suspect like many other places, the soil seems hard. It feels like gospel seeds struggle to take root. Surfing is much more popular than Jesus. Please pray that our church may persevere in the face of those struggles. Pray that we may call people to worship the awesome Christ. They already know his awesome - yet tainted by sin - creation. May they know him too.

Thank you for your partnership with us.

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