Onslow hungry for God’s word

Christians in Onslow are hungry to learn more about God’s word, grow in their faith and encourage others to follow Jesus, according to Minister Simon Roberts.

On 14 June, Simon, with his wife Alison, held the first recorded service for 15 years in St Nicholas Anglican church – making the eight-hour round trip from their base at Exmouth.

“Our plan is to visit Onslow each month to encourage gospel growth among the saints there.

“While the church was closed, the believers were doing a great job of supporting and encouraging one another, and Alison and I pray we can assist them to do this more and more.”

Simon says many are fairly new Christians and haven't had the opportunity to be trained in how to read, understand and apply the Bible, but they are hungry to know more.

“It has been a great delight in Onslow to see the believers’ enthusiasm to learn from God’s word and their appreciation for the Christian ministry we can provide.

“We plan to run training sessions on the big picture of the Bible during our visits and using online technology in between times.

“We’ll look at how the Bible fits together, how to understand the Bible and how to apply it to our lives.

“Our aim is also to support the small groups that meet week to week by training group leaders so they will grow in their confidence in understanding the scriptures and leading group discussion.”

Please pray for gospel growth in Onslow and the partnership with Exmouth Anglican Church. Pray we make the most of opportunities and that people continue to hunger and thirst for God’s word.

Much rejoicing at the first recorded service in 15 years at St Nicholas Onslow.

Help to pray

God works through the prayers of His people and we are grateful for your partnership.

Now you can also use PrayerMate – the handy free prayer app for mobile.

Frank Nicol and his family (pictured left) serve at Karratha Anglican Church.

“We value all the people who partner in gospel work with us through prayer. We are weak but our God is strong. Thank you for pleading with Him for the spread of the gospel on our behalf,” he said.
The Dean of Geraldton, Peter Grice has been elected Bishop of Rockhampton in Queensland beginning January 2021. We are very thankful for the ministry of Peter and his family over the past five years and sorry to lose them. However, we praise God for the opportunity they will have to faithfully proclaim Jesus and raise disciples in this regional Queensland diocese. This is a very challenging position, and so Peter, along with Virginia, will need much prayer and support. Please pray for them and for the Diocese as we seek a new Dean.

Gary Nelson
Bishop of the North West

A Life-changing Encounter

Roebourne is a small town, with a long history, just past Karratha on the road north. On a fine Sunday morning we gather in the amphitheatre behind the Aboriginal centre. Our service brings together Christians from many different backgrounds and locations. What a joy to be with brothers and sisters who love Jesus as their Lord and Saviour.

As I looked around John’s vision in Revelation came to mind. He sees, ...

... a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!”

Our singing, prayers and fellowship foreshadow what lies ahead in the new creation for all who follow the Lord Jesus.

The sermon centres on a wealthy, chief tax-collector who wants to see Jesus [Luke 19-10]. But Zacchaeus has a problem. He’s short, and can’t see over the crowd, so he runs on ahead and climbs a sycamore tree to see Jesus. What follows is a life-changing encounter with Jesus. Luke describes the change that occurs for this tax-collector in words John Newton’s well-known hymn echoes:

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me. I once was lost, but now am found; was blind but now I see.

We see the reality of Zacchaeus’ repentance as he generously repays those whom he has defrauded. But it’s Jesus who spotlights the significance of this encounter as he defines his mission [vs.9f].

“Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham.

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

Jesus comes seeking lost sinners, offering them salvation.

Friends, the mission of Jesus is at the beating heart of all we undertake in the North West. We too are committed to ‘making disciples of all nations’ as we bring the gospel to men and women, girls and boys of all ages and backgrounds.

Thank you for your vital support in prayer and giving, for without you, our gospel work would be curtailed. May God bless and keep you.

Bishop Gary

NW Anglicans serve Geraldton

Geraldton Anglicans are seeking to bless their City. At the Geraldton Women’s Conference, 90 women from 10 different churches praised God after enjoying fellowship and hearing speakers Erin-May Wicks and Judith Nichols explain the Word. This month, our community meets for the Mayoral Prayer Breakfast — an initiative of Dean Peter Grice supported by local churches. Mayor Shane Van Styn was surprised last year to be told that Geraldton Anglicans pray regularly for him.

Speakers Erin-May Wicks and Judith Nichols

Bill & Jocelyn Ross have retired

After 50 years of God-honouring ministry in North West parishes, Bill and Jocelyn Ross have retired from their last post at Shark Bay, where Bill was Honorary Minister. They are continuing to serve in the Diocesan Office as volunteers – Research Officer (Bill) and Diocesan Archivist (Jocelyn). Praise God!

Peter Grice is the new Bishop of Rockhampton, QLD

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In remote North West Australia, our workers are reaching Aboriginal people with the gospel via MegaVoice – a solar powered audio Bible.

Thanks to donations and grants, Rev Chris Webb at Broome People’s Church is able to sell MegaVoice players at a subsidised price that is affordable for locals. He’s had so many requests that he’s run out of supplies.

Chris says the MegaVoice is excellent for isolated communities in the Kimberley — easy to use, durable, charged using a small attached solar panel and available in a variety of languages. People who struggle to read or have failing eyesight can hear and study God’s word no matter where they live.

“A young woman bought a MegaVoice for her dying grandmother. The old lady had tears in her eyes when she first listened to the Scriptures played through the MegaVoice placed beside her on the pillow,” Chris said.

“People also listen to the MegaVoice when they have trouble sleeping or are anxious about something. It really helps calm their fears as they hear God’s word in audio form.”

For Chris, the MegaVoice helps facilitate Bible studies with church members or at the local drug and alcohol rehab centre.

“My current approach is to show a Global Recordings flip chart picture and play the Bible story on MegaVoice before we chat about the text. This method seems really effective for people who are not so confident at reading.

“One of our church leaders who cannot read usually takes a back seat in book-based Bible study. However, when we are using the MegaVoice he actively leads other men in discussing the Bible story we are listening to.

“The MegaVoice is a non-threatening medium for him and many others to engage with God’s word.”

Chris was thankful to recently receive a $2000 grant from Mother’s Union Australia and $1000 from CMS to make available dozens more subsidised audio Bibles.
Hope in pain and death

Jeremy’s patch is Geraldton Regional Hospital — providing pastoral care and home visits to hundreds of patients, their families and staff each year.

“It’s such a privilege to be with people at this time in their life. Suddenly they have an accident or a diagnosis with a bleak outlook. They come to a crossroads and everything is different.

“As a Chaplain I have a precious opportunity to speak with people about the hope of the gospel and the saving grace of Jesus Christ.”

His role in a public hospital requires great sensitivity and he is guided by the teaching in 1 Peter 3:15, ‘But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.’

“I pray constantly as I’m listening to people. So often I feel weak, cowardly and inadequate to the task.

“I ask God to give me the opportunity and courage to bring the gospel to each situation and I pray that I won’t make a mess of it. “It’s amazing the conversations that open up. I look to find a point of contact by exploring how a person makes sense of life, what gives their life meaning and what they most value.”

Jeremy has seen God at work in the lives of the dying: a professed atheist joining in prayer each visit; a self-reliant man claiming Jesus’ forgiveness and salvation for the first time; and the joy of sharing the Scriptures, prayer and fellowship with dying Christian patients and their family.

“Support can involve listening and talking generally or discussing deeper issues like ‘Why is this happening?’ and ‘Where is God in all this?’ Conversations can be about Jesus, healing, hope and may involve reading the Bible and praying with patients.

As a Chaplain I have a precious opportunity to speak with people about the hope of the gospel and the saving grace of Jesus Christ.

Others don’t want a bar of talk about God but they might still want to talk.

“My aim is to listen well and to combine truth and love in my words, manner and actions — doing all to the glory of God.”

Prayer and privilege are two words which describe the life of Hospital Chaplain Jeremy Rice.

I’d like to support gospel ministry in the North West

Name _______________________________
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☐ I want to be a prayer partner. Please send me the North West Network & Prayer Diary

☐ I’d like to give a gift: $ ____________ one off /monthly/quarter/year

☐ Cheque (Please make cheques out to Diocese of North West Australia)

☐ Electronic Funds Transfer
Bank Account Name: Diocese of North West Australia
BSB 706 001 A/C No 3000 3846

☐ Credit card _Mastercard _Visa

Name on card __________________________
Signature ______________________________

Card number _______ _______ _______ _______

Expire ____ /____

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