



NORTHWEST network

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A Gospel Heritage

By Bishop Gary Nelson

Recently Christine and I have been listening to an audio book during our long drives. It's the biography of John Newton titled, 'From Disgrace to Amazing Grace', by Jonathan Aitken. We've been terrifically encouraged as his story from slave trader to parish minister and well known speaker, author and hymn writer has been narrated in such gripping style.

It's amazing (to say the least) that we have known so little about this servant of God from the 18th century. His approach to ministry, along with his own personal devotion, is challenging and worthwhile reflecting on.

But for Australian Christians we can be very grateful for Newton's efforts (along with Wilberforce's) to secure a chaplain for the First Fleet. Newton expressed key thoughts to Wilberforce in letters dated November, 1786:

"The simplicity of Mr Johnson's views, his integrity and humility, give me a pleasing expectation, that the Lord himself has chosen and called him to this service - if so, we may cheerfully expect a happy event."

"To you, as the instrument, we owe the pleasing prospect of an opening for the propagation of the Gospel in the Southern Hemisphere. Who can tell what important consequences may depend upon Mr Johnson's going to New Hollands!"

Friends who support and pray for our ministry in the North West share in a wonderful heritage of bringing the gospel of the Lord Jesus to our land. I'm sure Newton would have derived great encouragement from the long term consequences of Johnson's ministry - for the gospel has reached into and taken root, in the vast spaces of North West Australia. We have many people who could echo Newton's dying words: *'I am a great sinner and Christ is a great*

Saviour'. A truth Newton had expressed so movingly in his most well-known hymn:

*"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."*

Thank you for your loving concern, care and prayer. Let me conclude with these words from Philipians 1:

⁴ In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy ⁵ because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, ⁶ being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.



L-R Richard Johnson & John Newton

"Go, bear the Saviour's name to lands unknown, Tell to the southern world his wondrous grace; And energy Divine thy words shall own, And draw their untaught hearts to seek his face."

John Newton to Richard Johnson

On Friday, 30th January, 2015 the parishioners of the Parish of Geraldton joined with a good representation of the clergy of the Diocese, community dignitaries and friends and family of Peter and Virginia Grice, to celebrate Peter's installation and induction as the Dean of the Holy Cross Cathedral, and minister-in-charge of the Parish of Geraldton.

The focus of the service was a call to ministry from 1 Peter 5. Those gathered were both encouraged and challenged. Peter, Virginia and their family have now settled into life in the Deanery and the parish has embarked on a new phase of gospel ministry to the community of Geraldton.



Opportunities in the North West

We are very thankful for all who venture to this side of the continent whether as ministers, church workers, BCA nomads or supporting those who come. So will you pray with us about the following significant needs in the diocese:

Minister for Broome

Looking for someone with pastoral experience for this strategic position. Key qualities for this role include a proven ability to lead; able to relate to people across a diversity of backgrounds; and a love for cross-cultural mission with a keen desire to support Indigenous ministry in partnership with our CMS missionaries. A sense of adventure for the Kimberley would be helpful. This is a paid church position.

Administrative assistant for the diocesan office

We are in urgent need of someone with book-keeping skills to assist the registrar. Currently the diocesan office is staffed by the registrar (chief financial officer); bishop and a part-time secretary shared with the Cathedral. The administrative load keeps increasing which results in the registrar having no opportunity to fulfil other responsibilities such as, OHS auditing across the diocese and child protection training. As we do all payrolls for ministers and church workers through the diocesan office we require an assistant with at least some level of book-keeping skills. We use MYOB for our accounting program.

But we do not have any money for this position. So if you can self-fund and would like to share in a vital support ministry for the diocese please contact us.

Two of our school chaplains report ...

Frank Nicol in Exmouth

Before my family and I moved to Exmouth we were approached by the parish council to spend two days a week as the chaplain in the local high school.

I jumped at the opportunity. Once upon a time I was a high school teacher and so I looked forward to interacting with students once more. More than that, out of the 2500 people who live in Exmouth 450 are school students. When we add to that number parents and teachers and other support staff, chaplaincy was obviously going to provide a helpful means to get to know lots of my community quickly, which would be great for the ministry of our Church.

This has certainly been the case. The school gave me time to 'wander with intent.' I moved from classroom to classroom getting to know students and teachers alike. Our town is small enough that I regularly see many of the students around town and am able to introduce myself to their parents on a regular basis. I have loved the opportunities chaplaincy has given me to meet people and I look forward to the ministry possibilities that those relationships will provide.

Other than meeting people, what do I do? Officially I am a Christian person in the school charged with caring for the physical, mental and spiritual health of the community. Practically I ask a lot of people on a regular basis, "how are you going?" I then spend time listening to what they have to say and supporting them. From time to time people ask questions about Christianity and I am able to talk about Jesus. Praise the Lord for those moments and pray they happen more regularly.

Matthew 5:16 is important to me in my chaplaincy work, "...let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven." Please pray that God would enable me to do the good works he has prepared for me in the school community and that he would be praised as a result.

*Minister-in-Charge,
Exmouth Parish*



Frank at school.



Brian Fyffe in Carnarvon

My first involvement in school chaplaincy arose when appointed to the Newman parish in the Pilbara.

I was invited to be a part time volunteer chaplain at the Newman Senior High School. Without any training, preparation or induction, I launched into the role and felt like a fish out of water. But I did receive some encouraging feedback, particularly from senior staff of the school. While in the Maddington Parish in Perth I joined the local YouthCare council overseeing the chaplain at Yule Brook College. I also helped out as a part time volunteer mentor in the school.

So God's been preparing me for this chaplaincy role at Carnarvon Community College for some time. I have also been part of the local YouthCare District Council. I began in July 2014, working 2 days per week. The student body is about 70% Indigenous, with a few students from other ethnic backgrounds. But there are very few Christians among them. The staff are all highly motivated towards achieving the school goals and doing the best for the students.

Much of my time is centred around the classroom with students in years 7 to 10 - especially the indigenous boys in the special education program for years 10 - 12 [Clontarf Academy]. Half day a week is usually spent with boys in this program.

During recess and lunch time, I chat with students about how they're going, their interests, and I try to broaden their perspective on life. Recently I've spoken with some boys over bullying and fighting.

Some of the challenges in this role include talking to teenage boys who have become fathers, about fatherhood; striving to get kids into their correct classrooms; coaching kids in algebra, or in reading a basic text; as well as helping a boy cope with the trauma of being bullied.

Occasionally kids ask me about my faith and about Jesus Christ. What a joy this provides as I seek to engage them in learning about Jesus and his good news for us.

There is also the personal challenge of fitting school chaplaincy around my regular parish responsibilities, including Kids' Club, Youth Group and a Thursday Bible Study group for kids.

Please pray for Godly wisdom as I aim to encourage the students and attempt to bring the grace of Jesus to bear in their lives.

Minister-in-Charge, Carnarvon Parish



Does LSL give you itchy feet?

In some ways, the thought of Long Service Leave (LSL) can be quite daunting:

"What are we going to do with ourselves for three months?"

- where do you go? when do you go? what about the girls and school?
- is it even biblical to take off so much time?
- what if the house or church building burns down while we're away - well, not really, but you get the picture.

In other ways it felt exciting: *"Imagine not having to think about work for three months!"*

- can't wait to go to the Gold Coast theme parks
- Christmas with family - haven't been able to do that since coming to the North West

So, after Synod last year, we set off on a trip around Australia (sort of). Our aim was to spend time together as a family, as well as being refreshed from the stresses and strains of ministry (and building projects).

During our leave we drove just over 21,000 kms; seeing some amazing parts of God's creation; appreciating that Port Hedland is not at all the worst place in the world to live; enjoying different foods, good coffee and new experiences; catching up with old friends while making some new ones. We also attended a few different churches which gave us an interesting sense of what is out there beyond the North West bubble.

It was a great blessing to have an extended time of rest, plus being able to spend time with our girls - especially as Bella starts High School this year which will bring its own set of challenges.

Having said all that, we are also very happy to be back home. We're really enjoying seeing our church family and being part of their everyday lives again. We did miss them and feel very privileged to be part of our congregation in Hedland.

While it was with sadness that we heard about the locum George May not being able to come due to family health issues, we were confident in Eion Simmons' ability under God to look after the parish well - which he did!

We look forward to continuing to minister in our community whether it be through teaching, walking alongside people, or sharing the gospel with non-Christians around us.

Does going on Long Service Leave give you "itchy feet"? Perhaps for some. But at this point travelling around has enabled us to see with new eyes the many positive things about Port Hedland and our diocese, which will make it hard to leave indeed, whenever that may be.

*Philip Knight
Minister-in-Charge, Pt Hedland*

Celebrating Australia Day

*'BREAKFAST ANYONE?' 'WHAT'S ON THE MENU?'
... PANCAKES!*



Pancakes on Australia Day? I don't know why, but the idea must have appealed because the Cathedral's been doing it since 2008.

On Australia Day morning over 100 members of the Geraldton Cathedral family with visitors gathered at Pages Beach near our lighthouse. Rev Garry and Joyce Hamersley brought the *Elders* trailer along with buckets of pancake mix. There were nearly as many different pancake fillings as people - which all added to a great atmosphere ready to celebrate.

Full stomachs and a hot, windy day meant my talk had to be brief. My theme was citizenship. Australia Day is a wonderful occasion to become a new citizen. I was granted citizenship in 1989. I had no right to be accepted

but in a gracious act of the government I was accepted and so can live the rest of my life here. I'm very grateful to be an Australian Citizen.

Terrific though it is to be legally recognised in Australia and to have all the rights as if I had been born and raised here, there's something even more terrific. I am so thankful for an infinitely greater act of grace - that of being accepted as a citizen of the kingdom of God.

Ephesians 2 reminds us of this gracious privilege, so that in Christ we can say:

I was once a foreigner and an alien, but because of God's grace, love and mercy, I am a citizen of the kingdom of God. I had no rights, I was not worthy, I was and still am a sinner, but through faith in Jesus Christ I have been forgiven.

I who was once far off have been brought near to God; a citizen of God's kingdom, secure and accepted, with all the rights of a child of God; full of hope for an eternal and rich future.

I hope this is true for you too.

Rev Jeremy Rice

SUPPORTING GOSPEL MINISTRY IN THE NORTH WEST

PERSONAL DETAILS: (please print)

Name:

Address:

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Phone:

Email:

- I want to be a **PRAYER PARTNER**
Please send me the Northwest Network
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- I'd like to discuss **SERVING in NWA** as a..
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My Support will be via,

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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.

A unique fund raising event



Christian Fellowship Tours has offered the diocese an opportunity to host a fund raising tour - in the footsteps of Paul, April 5 - 22, 2016.

This tour provides a terrific occasion to enjoy fellowship together, while experiencing locations where Paul ministered in both Greece and Turkey.

Our itinerary includes a tour of the Gallipoli Cove - how significant during the centenary events remembering the sacrifices of the Great War and our own ANZAC tradition.

Christine and I hope you may be able to join us.

For further details contact our diocesan office (08 9921 7277) or request a brochure via email (reception@anglicandnwa.org). Or check out the tour website www.christianfellowshiptours.com (phone: 1300 635 358)

