

Children's bibles reach adults with the gospel

Port Hedland Chaplain to seafarers Garry South is using children's bibles to reach international mariners with the good news of Jesus.

Garry says that at the Port Hedland Mission to Seafarer Centre, demand for children's bibles is as strong as demand for adult bibles.

"In the last 18 months the seafarers are really hungering for children's bibles. Recently I asked an officer to pass a copy to the captain. However, he hugged it to himself and wouldn't let it go so I had to give them both a copy."

Our chaplains give out thousands of bibles each year in a range of languages at Mission to Seafarer centres at Port Hedland, Dampier and Geraldton.

However, Garry says the children's bibles have become popular because they are easy to read and understand and help the men and their families to learn English.

Some of the seafarers are Christian but most are not. Even so, they read the bibles themselves when alone in their cabin on board ship, and also with their children when they return home – often after more than six months at sea.

The Port Hedland centre outlays \$8000 each year (including a \$2000 Bible Society grant) to buy bibles for seafarers.

Our chaplains play a valuable role in caring for the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of the 6500 mariners who visit our centres each month.

Recently Garry was called aboard a ship at anchorage after a sailor was lost at sea. Garry was asked by the port, mining and shipping authorities to help comfort the crew following the recovery of the body from the ocean.



Help us reach more seafarers for Christ www.anglicandnwa.org/donate

What do we idolise?



Gary Nelson
Bishop of the North West

For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come. [1 Thessalonians 1⁹⁻¹⁰]

When I had the privilege of visiting Greece, the constant sight of temples and statues helped me to better understand Paul's words to the Thessalonians. For even when confronted by ruins in every city and island, I still felt as if I was being watched by an imposing number of Greek gods!

The physical idols served to remind me of the more significant idols that capture our hearts and shape our perspectives on life. Paul's gospel summary as he writes highlights the impact that turning to Christ brings – it's a fresh start with a new allegiance breeding new attitudes and actions. In 1 Thessalonians 4 this fresh start embraces walking in a manner pleasing to God; being grounded in holiness; and testifying to our certain hope in the Lord Jesus Christ.



Bluff Point church members serve up fellowship and faith with food

Paul says Table of Grace has been an unexpected gift for some older housebound members of the congregation who enjoy the regular outing. There's a warm welcome offered to all, so one church member is even accompanied by her husband who doesn't come to church.

Volunteers Jenny and Rob Jamieson helped launch the ministry which is about to celebrate its first birthday. Jenny was excited to hear one diner say that she couldn't stop thinking about the talk because it had prompted her to reflect on her life priorities.



That people will hear and respond to the gospel through the Table of Grace ministry

Faith, fellowship and food at Bluff Point

Table of Grace, the newest ministry at Bluff Point Anglican Church, draws dozens of people from the local community for a simple meal and nourishing words of life.

Each Friday lunchtime, this humble ministry reaches out to the disadvantaged, the lonely and people from all walks of life with whom the church has some contact.

Bluff Point Minister-in-Charge **Paul Spackman** says the initiative came from members of the congregation who wanted to live out their faith in Jesus.

"It was started out of a desire to be a blessing to our community in both word and deed, offering food, friendship and faith.

"Over lunch of soup and sandwiches we share a message of God's grace through a Bible talk or a personal testimony."

The faithful team of organisers also prepare and distribute food parcels to those in need.

PERTH EVENT

Gospel Growth in the North West

Saturday 3 November 2.30-4pm

Speakers:

Rev Michael Baines,
Broome Anglican Church
Rev Brendan Hurley, Bluff Point

Hosted by **John Dingle**
Mayfair Apartments
41/3 Park Avenue, Crawley
RSVP: eharris@anglicandnwa.org

What do we idolise? contd

Turning to Christ challenges all that we've idolised in our lives and produces a cleansing from the inside out!

Friends, we can't effectively bring the gospel to the nations of the remote North West without being mindful of the idols that have captured the hearts of those who work, travel and live in the communities and towns of our region. Please continue to pray for wisdom and insight in our gospel ministry.

As you pray, remember the Nicol family who begin their new ministry in Karratha (early August). As a result, we are now looking for a minister to serve in beautiful Exmouth. Please pray for the congregation in the interim, giving thanks for the locums who will minister there for the rest of the year. It is also exciting to know we have a good number for the fundraising trip to Israel and Jordan that comes from Christian Fellowship Tours' concern for gospel work in the diocese.

Pray for me as I prepare Bible talks, and, that we will be encouraged together as we explore the land of the Bible.

The ministry of the North West is a gospel partnership with all who pray, give and support us. And we thank you for your continued care for us as it is deeply appreciated. Would you join with us, as Paul urges in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, ... *in 'rejoicing always; praying without ceasing; giving thanks in all circumstances for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus'* for all of us.

Gotta go to rehab to preach the gospel

Port Hedland Minister Philip Knight says that some of the best gospel discussions he has during the week are when he goes to rehab.

He visits Turner River drug and alcohol Rehabilitation Centre to hold a bible study with residents and is encouraged by their genuine interest and engagement with the scriptures.

“The residents are in a place where they recognise they need help. So many people never get to that point. How precious it is to meet people who are open to talking about God in the midst of their struggle to change.

“Everything else they relied upon – such as relationships, work, money and things – has been stripped away and they have nowhere else to turn. The gospel speaks powerfully into their situation.

“Each week I print out a passage of the Bible and we spend about an hour discussing it verse by verse to find out the meaning.”

The centre which draws people from all over the state and almost every resident has asked Philip for their own copy of the bible.

Philip regularly reminds them of Ephesians 2:8-10: ‘For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourself, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God has prepared in advance for us to do.’

“I have had a front row seat in seeing a person move from claiming to be an atheist, to agnostic to finally repenting of their sins and putting their trust in Jesus. It is truly amazing how God draws people to himself and makes them new.”

Like many Christians, Philip prays that God will open the door for him to proclaim the gospel.



“When the rehab rang and invited me to run a bible study, I thanked God that he had opened a door, and I run through that door each week!”



**For people in rehab to know
God’s grace and peace**

North West moves



We thank and praise God for raising up workers for the harvest in the North West.

Frank and Jo Nicol (with Lydia, Eli and Silas) begin ministry in **Karratha** in August. God worked in their hearts to prepare them to move from Exmouth and for the sake of the gospel they said farewell to that church family.

Please pray for the Exmouth folk and ask God to raise us a new minister for this town.

At **Port Hedland Mission to Seafarers**, John Hague is the new Operations Manager, replacing Chris Towsey who resigned to care for his sick wife, Helen.

After 10 years of faithful service at **Wickham**, Richard and Tracy Goscombe are finishing and moving on to other things.

In **Dongara**, we said good bye to David and Traci Mitchell who have taken up student ministry with AFES. We thank Philip and Kathy Knife who are ‘back in harness’. Please pray for a smooth selection process for the young couple who is keen to minister in Dongara from 2020.

VACANCIES

Minister-in-Charge, Exmouth
Chaplain & CEO, Port Hedland Seafarers Centre
www.anglicandnwa.org/vacancies

Steve multiplies ministry in Broome



Broome Associate Minister Steve Combe is seeking to set up a combined church youth group to help disciple teenagers and strengthen them in their faith.

With plans to launch in term 3, Broome Anglican Church and Broome Baptist Church will combine their young people to create a group meeting together each fortnight for Bible study, fun and fellowship.

Steve says that youth group was important in helping him to trust and follow Jesus in his own teen years, and he wants to support local young people to grasp hold of the gospel for themselves.

“The world bombards teenagers with messages that are not consistent with God’s Word and we want to help them lay down a solid foundation for the rest of life,” he says.

Steve was in the Royal Australian Navy training as a Maritime Warfare Officer before, out of the blue, he was struck by severe vertigo and diagnosed with Meniere’s Disease.

He had planned to become a Navy Chaplain, but a medical discharge closed that door. He still had a heart for ministry which led him to study for a Bachelor of Theology at Sydney Missionary & Bible College.

“A verse that had a strong impact on me going into ministry is 1 Timothy 4:8 where Paul writes to Timothy; *For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.*

“Training in *godliness* is something of great worth! It is our continued growth in our *knowledge of the truth* – understanding the Bible as God’s true and living word. I enjoy helping people to train in godliness.”

Steve and his family have been in Broome for about two years and plan to stick around for a while yet. Steve’s other priorities include Indigenous outreach, evangelism and supporting Minister-in-Charge, Michael Baines.

Says Michael: “Most regional churches don’t have the benefit of an Associate Minister, and it’s a benefit for which we are very grateful to God and Steve’s supporters. With Steve’s help, we’ve been able to make progress in areas where I struggled on my own (especially youth ministry). Like any good Associate Minister he just makes everything better through countless small acts of service, encouragement and leadership.”



Support Steve to disciple young people in Broome
www.anglicandnwa.org/donate

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

Name _____

Email _____

Tel _____

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 _____

Expiry ____/____

Please post this form
(no stamp required) to:
Anglican Diocese of
North West Australia
Reply Paid 85267
GERALDTON PO WA 6531

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
T: (08) 9325 7455
E: tchambers-clark@perth.anglican.org

The Anglican Church of North West Australia
T: (08) 9921 7277
E: reception@anglicandnwa.org
www.anglicandnwa.org
 [/northwestanglicans](https://www.facebook.com/northwestanglicans)