



We need the bread of life...



Tim Mildenhall, Archdeacon of the Kimberley, writes from Broome:

Broome needs a minister to help the local indigenous church.

Phil Brewster, 69yo local minister of the People's Church, and Brethren missionary, faithful minister of the gospel in the Kimberley for 25 years, told me today that he and his wife plan to leave Broome for Perth this time next year.

He is trusting God to bring someone to Broome to pick up the mantle of indigenous ministry here in the town.



Broome Anglican Church wants to recruit an appropriate minister to take up this opportunity. The position would work with the larger ministry team at Broome Anglican, but with chief responsibility for ministry to an indigenous congregation.

Upfront, it is a missionary setting; you would need to be self-funding. However, there is a supportive team already on the ground, and it is within the Diocese of North West Australia (fantastically supportive of gospel ministry).



Broome is growing; (present pop. 15k in the wet season, doubling in the dry) there are people moving to the town from the remote indigenous communities. It is undoubtedly the focal point of long term indigenous ministry in the West Kimberley due to its strategic place in the economic and administrative life of this region. Broome Hospital has just undergone a massive upgrade. Twenty two government departments have offices in Broome.

Broome is 'on the map'; it's the destination of choice of many international tourists. It's a long way from Perth 2400km, and Darwin 1800km. The closest big city is

Denpasar in Bali. The next really big environmental 'fight' in Australia will concern gas processing on or off the Kimberley coast near Broome.



Quite frankly, this is a beautiful place to live, a saltwater locale with freshwater areas close and accessible.

It is likely that the next few years will see another worship location opened up for the use of the parish. In the next decade it is almost certain that an Anglican school will open in Broome, with the attendant possibilities for reaching the community.

There are vibrant artistic and intellectual groups within the community, some of whom have international recognition.

There are also very many problems. In fact, in many ways, Broome is a dysfunctional society, with deep divisions papered over, but becoming more evident under the stress of development.

What is needed is Jesus' gospel. It is only this gospel which can reach into this community and bring the regeneration that's needed. There are many competing visions for Broome, but none of them will generate the love, joy, peace and hope that Jesus' gospel can bring.



But we need personnel.

Actually, the situation is dire. I keep asking around, and I might be wrong about this figure, but at the moment, I know of only 2 young indigenous men (18-25) who are actively being discipled in the West Kimberley. What Christian witness there is amongst the indigenous communities is in danger of being swamped by all kinds of social and health problems. And if we do not do what we can to raise up the next generation of indigenous Christian leadership, things will get worse.

The People's Church is a fully functioning incorporated body, with a bus, full gift tax deductibility, a standing in the community and a history. It could easily link in with any denomination. My worry is that things will not stay this way for long.

Without a gospel centred, Bible teaching ministry amongst indigenous folk, other kinds of ministries (or none) will take people away and deprive others of hearing of Christ.



All ministry is hard work. What I am asking you to consider is without doubt one of the most difficult ministry undertakings in Australia.

But all ministry is also a privilege.

Some of the challenges with this ministry are the capacity to cross cultures, working with English as second language believers, isolation and the climate. These will preclude some from even considering this opportunity.

But what about you? Ready to get your hands dirty where you'll make a difference?

My contact details are below.

Tim Mildenhall
Archdeacon of the Kimberley

Senior Minister
Broome Anglican Church
Cnr Hamersley and Haas St
(PO Box 158)
Broome WA 6725


Church: 08 9192 2051
Home: 08 9193 5164


Home Mailing Address
PO Box 5424
Cable Beach WA 6726
mobile: 0412 286 450

timmil@bigpond.net.au
anglicanchurchbroome.org.au
anglicandnwa.org

Here are more pics of Broome and the Kimberley –
<http://picasaweb.google.com/timothy.mildenhall/BroomePics#>

0 300km

 National highway

 National route

