



# NORTHWEST NETWORK



DECEMBER 2017 No. 107



## BISHOP'S WORD

By Bishop Gary Nelson

Life changed dramatically as the gospel is rediscovered in the reformation period of the 16th Century. Superstition and uncertainty give way to reality and assurance. Life's never the same again! What a privilege for us as Anglican Christians to stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before us; what a debt we owe to people like Cranmer, Latimer and Ridley who surrendered their lives for the sake of gospel truth.

Preaching recently on reformation truths I was captured again by the *glory of God* – the glory made known in the God-breathed *Scriptures*; the glory seen in God's *gracious* initiative and love; the glory displayed in *Christ's* sacrifice for sin as the only means of salvation; and the glory of God taking centre stage as we simply *receive* God's forgiveness and life in humble repentance and faith.

The diocese of the North West is committed to our reformed heritage; a heritage increasingly challenged and attacked from both within, and without 'church' circles. I am amazed and saddened by those who are giving in to the forces of compromise in our society; who are trading God's eternal wisdom for worldly compatibility, with its catchcry of inclusivity.

Peter reminds us of the perspective we need in his first letter to the Christians in Asia Minor. Though we are God's elect, we are *strangers*, exiles, in the world we inhabit. Our mindset ought to reflect our '*pilgrim*' status. Why? Since our true home or life isn't here, but

with God in heaven. Paul expresses this reality with:

*'Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.'* (Col 3.2-3)

*'But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ ...'* (Phil 3.20)

In the light of recent events we may be called upon to activate this mindset more consistently in the coming days. Or, as Peter encourages in 2.11,

*'Dear friends, I urge you as strangers and temporary residents to abstain from fleshly desires that war against you.'*

May God refresh us by His Spirit to remain faithful, standing firm on his gospel truth in and through the Lord Jesus Christ. May we draw on God's power to resist ungodly cultural norms or practices, and so live in accord with God's declared purposes in his Word.

## *A Tale of Two Families... Bound for Geraldton*

Two new families will join the Diocese of North West Australia in 2018 to help strengthen the administration of the Diocese and provide support for our churches and their leaders.

Khim Harris will be our new Registrar responsible for the administration of the Diocese. Pieter Overmeire will fill the new position of Diocesan Financial Officer to manage the finances of the Diocese. This restructure of the diocesan office aims to enhance administrative and financial support for gospel ministry in the parishes and ministry centres of the North West. Khim and Pieter begin on January 15, 2018.

Both families are looking forward to being part of the big family of the North West, serving the Lord Jesus and supporting His workers who are labouring away faithfully in regional and remote WA.

Both families are from St Matthew's Shenton Park, where they have benefited from the faithful biblical ministry of many, including most recently the Reverend Kanishka Raffel.

Khim and Eugenie Harris will arrive in January with their youngest son Luke (11), leaving their four older boys behind: Peter (15) Samuel (19), Philip (25) and Simon (27).



# A Tale of Two Families... Bound for Geraldton

continues...

Khim is a graduate of Trinity Theological College and has worked in senior management roles within the not-for-profit and Government sectors. He has a heart for cross-cultural mission and is currently the interim General Secretary of CMS-WA and Deputy Chairman of CMS Australia.

Eugenie has a background in media and communications, and has loved the North West since honeymooning there in the 1990s.

*"I am conscious of how isolating it can be in this part of the world and God has given me a heart to support the wives and families ministering across the North West in whatever way I can," she commented.*



Pieter and Belinda Overmeire, who arrive in January with their two sons Felix (9) and Arnold (7), are both graduates of Trinity Theological College and keen to serve the Diocese. Pieter has an IT and Accounting background and has helped a number of churches in Perth improve their financial systems.

Belinda is a high school teacher in Philosophy and Ethics, and Religious Education. She is well acquainted with the joys and challenges of life in this part of world, having taught in the remote Aboriginal communities centred around Onslow and Blackstone.

When asked why he applied for the position of Registrar, Khim said:

*"My family and I have been using the DNWA prayer booklet for years and so in a sense we have been partners in your work for some time. When I heard about the position, I jumped at the chance to be part of a rural and remote ministry that is well-known throughout Australia for its commitment to the gospel.*

*"I am looking forward to spending my first year just meeting the DNWA family, especially the leaders in each church and listening to them. Once I have done this, I hope to work out how the Diocesan admin team can best support the needs of each parish. My goal is to provide the administrative 'trellis' that will help the 'vine' to flourish and grow."*

## 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](mailto:tchambers-clark@perth.anglican.org)

# Settling in at the Top End

By Revd Daniel Faricy - Kununurra

It's been four months since landing in Kununurra to a fantastic welcoming party from the saints of St. James. We've settled into our home, and at least know the names of our church family. It's beautiful here, but hot, particularly when compared with the winter temperatures of our former home in the Blue Mountains of NSW. Our girls' eyes have been opened to the joys of chasing lizards, picking mangoes, spotting geckoes on the ceiling and daily swims. Kununurra is a lively place, with something always happening. But, it's also a broken place with much sadness and social breakdown.

I was inducted by Bishop Gary Nelson at the end of August. And it was great to be reminded of the charge that God has given us to preach the good news of Jesus. For it's only Jesus who will bring life to Kununurra, the only one who can bring true healing to the brokenness.



We have been encouraged by the people at St. James who know this to be true. Many are already involved in supporting and leading youth groups; serving in a local street chaplaincy program on Friday nights; along with supporting the school chaplaincy. I am looking forward to seeing how God will grow us at St. James and what opportunities he will provide so we may share the good news of Jesus with more people.

So far, God has opened up occasions for us to get to know the people at St. James. I have been reading through the Gospel of Mark with a few people one-on-one. This has been such a great blessing for me. I am also involved in organising the Combined Churches Carols and will be speaking on how Jesus brings peace at Christmas. Bec (my wife) is leading a newly-formed Bible Study group for mums.

It has been a great encouragement meeting the other ministers in the diocese at the Family Conference in September - especially the team from Broome (Michael, Steve & Chris and families), which is our neighbouring parish in the Kimberley (only a short 11-hour drive).

Please pray that we will keep proclaiming 'Jesus is Lord' and that the people of Kununurra will truly hear God's word.

## BISHOP'S VOICE

During November the Bishop's voice was heard in the media commenting about the same sex marriage issue. He took the opportunity to remind the community that marriage between a man and a woman is God's design for marriage; and what's best for children and society. Gary's voice was heard on ABC radio and TV; and via newspapers such as the Geraldton Guardian, The West Australian, thewest online. Please pray for this public ministry of our bishop.



# Visiting Milly



*By Chris Webb  
- Broome*

It's 6:15pm as I sign out of rehab. At 11am I'd made my 'every Thursday morning' phone call: "Hi, my name is Chris. I'm from Broome Peoples Church. I was wondering whether it's ok for me to come and visit Tom and Cindy\* this afternoon?" Permission granted, so at 5pm I make the short drive to Milliya Rumurra (more affectionately known as 'Milly'), the residential drug and alcohol rehabilitation centre for Aboriginal people in Broome.

Tom and Cindy arrived at Milly two weeks ago feeling hopeful, but also pretty nervous about the prospect of 3 months away from family, along with no grog or ganja. I know Tom and Cindy because Tom's nephew Rob\* introduced me to them. I'd been reading the Bible with Rob once a week while he was in Milly, and when his relatives checked in he encouraged them to meet with me too. The number of relationships we have with Aboriginal people usually grows through relative-to-relative referrals! Rob's finished his time at Milly now, and is back out in the real world battling temptation. Although he's not always winning the battle, I nearly jumped for joy when he showed up to Broome Peoples Church on Sunday.

*It's hard not to feel discouraged by the devastating effect alcohol and drug addiction has on many families in the Kimberley. That's probably why the hour I spend in Milly every Thursday afternoon is so encouraging! People come to Milly because they know they need to change. They absolutely know that they need help. And some of those men and women realise that they need more than just a behaviour change. They need spiritual transformation too! I reckon that's why the Milly residents I meet with are so eager to hear what help God can offer.*

This afternoon I'd gone out expecting to meet with two people. But Tom and Cindy had invited 4 other residents (all relatives!) to read the Bible and pray with us. What a surprise! And what a privilege to be the carrier of good news! The good news that Jesus can free them from their sin, take away their shame, lift their burden of guilt and give them the power to live a completely new life.

It's not all 'ups' though. Addiction is a hard master. Many of the friends I've made at Milly can't yet resist the lure of alcohol and the pressure of peers once they leave rehab. Please pray that they'll never forget how much God loves them. For he loved them so much that *while they were still sinners Christ died for them.*

*\*Names changed to maintain privacy.*

# Crossing Cultures

*By Revd Derek McCartney, Chaplain - Pt Hedland Seafarers Centre*

Cape Camellia is a 206,400 tonne bulk carrier. It's visited Port Hedland probably four times in the past four-five months. She has a Philippino crew of 23 seafarers, is about four years old. It's also one of the larger bulk carriers that loads iron for the Chinese steel industry. The Houheng 6 is a brand new 260,000 tonne carrier that made her maiden voyage to Pt Hedland in mid-October. Having just completed her return journey, she is once again on her way back to China.

On average seven ships a day leave the port and seven take their place. Generally, from the time a ship leaves anchorage for the Port it takes approximately 48 hours to pilot, berth, load and pilot the vessel out of the harbour and through the channel. From there it will make its way to its destination.

Those are some of the statistics governing the operations of the Port. But, people are more than statistics. The Chaplains from the three Missions to Seafarers Centres in the Diocese recently gathered together. As they met they reaffirmed how crossing cultures dominates the interaction chaplains have with seafarers from all over the world. Every time they set foot on and off a ship, they enter a different culture. Likewise, every time we meet a seafarer coming ashore, or as we visit onboard, we are also crossing boundaries. As the seafarers enter our world and we theirs, we do so with the utmost respect for one another. But what a God given opportunity crossing boundaries provides for sharing the Gospel!

Our task as a Mission is to take those opportunities. We cross boundaries and cultures knowing we're surrounded by those who keep us in prayer. You are among our bridge builders. So please remember us in your prayer times. Remember us when you pray for the world and the Church every Sunday - just as we pray for you. Remember those among the nation of 1.65 million seafarers to whom Jake, Wayne, Garry and Derek - supported by fantastic volunteers and hardworking Centre staff - have been called and commissioned by Christ to proclaim:

**"THE TIME IS FULFILLED, AND THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS AT HAND; REPENT AND BELIEVE IN THE GOSPEL."**

**(MK.1:15; ESV)**



## DIOCESAN MOVES

We farewell some of our team:

- Wendy and Andrew Burr - 10 year ministry at Bluff Point;
- the Morgan family - 4 years in Paraburdoo-Tom Price.

Those who are taking up new responsibilities:

- Roger Kyngdon - moving to Newman in December, with his family, as their new Minister-in-charge;
- the Spackmans - moving to Bluff Point, as Paul takes up the role of Minister-in-charge of St George's parish.

## DIOCESAN OFFICE RESTRUCTURE

We sadly farewell Jonathan Earnshaw, who after 4 years as Registrar, is returning to pastoral ministry in the Armidale diocese. During his time with us Jon has made an invaluable contribution to diocesan financial management and administrative structures. Due to the increased work load in the office, the Diocesan Council has decided to step out in faith and restructure for 2018.

We have created the new role of Diocesan Financial Officer who will focus solely on financial administration. Pieter Overmeier has been appointed to this position. While the Registrar's role will be filled by Dr Khim Harris.

If you can assist us to maintain these positions, crucial for the long-term sustainability of the diocese, we would greatly appreciate it (see cut out form below).

Thank you for your prayers and support.

## 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.**

## Choices, Challenges and Changes

By Andrew & Wendy Burr

### CHOICES

Ten years ago, Wendy and I were offered the opportunity to lead the congregation at St George's Bluff Point. At the time we were living in Sydney and so faced a choice; should we uproot everything and travel 4000kms across Australia to serve God in the North West; or should we stay? In the end we agreed to come even though it was said 'that's a brave decision'. We believed that no matter what, God would help us cope with everything. This choice offered a great adventure to leave Sydney and minister in Western Australia.

### CHALLENGES

After ten years of serving in Bluff Point we can say that God has been faithful. We faced many challenges like: leaving family in Sydney; moving across the continent; resettling our son into a different school system; meeting new people; and coping with some health concerns. Looking back we can see how God helped us to make Bluff Point our home. Our aim was to teach God's word, pastor the church and encourage Christian growth - but other things happened along the way! We learnt to drive long distances; teach Indigenous children; catch crayfish; farm wheat and canola; and enjoyed getting to know the extraordinary people who live and work in the North West. During our time the church has extended its ministry into the community with such things as a Night church, an Op shop and a Playgroup. It's been a great adventure for our family and we've come to appreciate the generous nature of God's people here in Geraldton. Without their support and encouragement, and from those of our friends in the East, we would not have survived.

### CHANGES

Things don't stay the same forever. Earlier this year we felt our time in Bluff Point was drawing to an end. Our son has already moved to Perth and we also thought St George's needed a new, fresh leader. We spoke with the Bishop about this change, and arranged to leave Bluff Point at the end of 2017. Where to now? We don't know. But in the meantime, we'll take some long service leave and have a holiday while looking for gospel ministry opportunities in either Perth or Sydney. No doubt there will be more choices to make.

We leave Bluff Point knowing God has provided the next ministry family for St George's, and that He will enable us to cope with whatever lies in the future. God is faithful and will provide what we need to serve Him.



**'KEEP YOUR LIVES FREE FROM THE LOVE OF MONEY, AND BE SATISFIED WITH WHAT YOU HAVE. FOR GOD HAS SAID, "I WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU; I WILL NEVER ABANDON YOU".'**

**(HEBREWS 13:5)**