



# North West NETWORK

May 2020

## Boys' Brigade grows Christian men

At the Geraldton Boys Brigade young people are learning habits to form a solid foundation for a life of faithfulness to Jesus.

Brigade Captain Eion Simmons praises the program which helps boys and young men develop Christian maturity, balanced personal growth, leadership skills and community service.

"Unfortunately, we don't have a Girls Brigade at Geraldton Cathedral, but girls are able to join the primary school age sections of the company," Eion says.

"One of the strengths of Brigade is its practicality. Kids learn skills such as how to read the Bible for themselves, camping, bush survival, cooking and debating."



Brigade is an outreach which attracts children from non-Christian families as well as from a range of other churches in Geraldton.

"Our programs encourage kids to develop habits that are part of true Christian manliness, such as obedience, reverence, discipline and selflessness."

Programs are on hold but will begin again once Covid-19 restrictions have been lifted.

## Onslow church reopens



Onslow Church reopens after 15 years

One of our churches in a remote part of the Pilbara region has reopened after 15 years, as the gospel expands in the North West.

Christians living in Onslow rejoiced at the news that, after major repairs to restore the building, ministry would begin again at St Nicholas' for the first time since May 2004.

Local resident Jo Yates exclaimed: "We are all encouraged to get the roof of the church rocking and let it be seen that our church is being used!"

"I am excited that community members will see people meeting to listen to God's word. I pray this will bring hope to our community and encourage others to seek out the Lord," she said.

The plan was for the Exmouth Minister to make the eight-hour return journey by car once a month to lead a service, disciple believers and meet with locals over two days.

However, with Covid-19, Exmouth locum Revd Kees Bootsma and his wife Cindy, visited and threw open the doors virtually in late March. They set up the Exmouth-Onslow Anglican Church so believers from both towns now fellowship online together in the interim.



**Pray for this church to grow and expand God's kingdom in Onslow**

# Responding to Challenge



Gary Nelson  
Bishop of the  
North West

## The current crisis

*'The times they are a-changin' ...* so sang Bob Dylan back in 1963. I suggest it's even truer today as we experience changes never before encountered in our life-times:

- changes impinging on personal freedoms;
- changes creating panic;
- changes threatening the economy;
- changes dictated by a deadly disease – the Corona Virus!!

Life is very different to what we've known. Our sense of control and self-confidence have taken a nose-dive. They've been replaced with uncertainty, worry and fear. So, this crisis brings some challenging questions such as: will people move beyond the anxiety and panic to embrace the God who's truly in control? Will people turn to the Lord who has real power over disease and death?

As Christians we have a life-transforming hope capable of dealing with uncertainty and fear. What a message to share in these changing and stressful times.

## The powerful Jesus

Luke 8:40-56 presents the powerful Jesus, the One we can rely upon irrespective of the circumstances surrounding us. In this emotionally charged incident we see a desperate father, Jairus, whose only 12 year old daughter is dying; along with, a desperate woman who's been suffering for 12 years].

Both recognise in Jesus someone who could deal with the situations confronting them.

Jesus begins to accompany Jairus back to his home [v.43], but stops after the woman reaches out. 'Who touched me?' asks Jesus [v. 45]. I wonder what started racing through Jairus' mind at this interruption.

Yet, all we see is graciousness as the synagogue ruler remains silent in the presence of this ritually unclean woman, potentially delaying the healing of his daughter. Jesus' words in v.46 indicate his power over disease in action. As he restores the woman, he makes clear that her healing is the result of her faith in him, rather than some random touch. So, he says to her, 'Daughter your faith has made you well; go in peace'.

Then someone from Jairus' house brings him a message he doesn't want to hear ... 'Your daughter is dead; do not trouble the Teacher any more'. What heart breaking news, yet Jesus offers an amazing word of comfort in. He then follows this word up by demonstrating his power over death, as he breathes new life into the girl. What a relief to her parents, what a testimony to faith in Jesus!

## The NW Mission

Friends, your support in prayer and through financial giving, enables us to keep announcing this gospel message of Jesus in our current crisis. We have the privilege of bringing this message of hope in a powerful, dependable Jesus to the nations of our remote NW region. Thank you.

**May God continue to bless and keep you.**

# Church Live a lifeline

**Covid-19 has produced a blessing for Christians in towns like Paraburdoo, which hasn't found a minister willing to serve there.**

The Diocese has launched **North West Live** so isolated and remote believers can join church online via Zoom each Sunday at 10am.



Haulpak driver **Alyse Anderson** says online Christian encouragement is so helpful in mining towns.

"Working in the mines is a bit like learning to live in exile. The guys have a unique, colourful language and don't mind discussing absolutely anything in mixed company. God is just a swear word."

"Church is like taking a beautiful spiritual drink in the middle of your work swing."



Young Paraburdoo local, **Reece Gordon**, who only became a Christian four years ago, agrees.

"I cannot say how blessed I feel to be able to tune in every Sunday."

"Bishop Gary's Sermon, the Scripture readings, prayers and worship songs are so uplifting to hear."

"I am amazed how the Lord has blessed us with this wonderful way to fellowship across the great expanse of the North West."

**Join North West Live Sunday 10am**



Go to [www.anglicandnwa.org](http://www.anglicandnwa.org) and follow the link



# Prisoners do business with God

**"This is the best thing I have ever read," said a prisoner in remote Western Australia after learning that Jesus died for his sins.**

He was stunned to read Romans 5:8 and find that: "God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

Our chaplain in Wickham, Matt Warth, visits Roebourne Prison weekly to hold a regular Bible study for up to 24 guys and says it is the highlight of his week.

"Last year we spent 12 months going through Mark's gospel. Mark is not a big book nor a hard book but the guys wanted to really understand it and so we studied it at a good and consistent pace.

"I tell them they are here to do business with God, not business with God through Matt.

"And the power of God's Word is amazing. There is one young man who has undergone such a remarkable transformation in attitude and outlook that even his acquaintance can't believe he's the same guy.

"Sure, the discipline of prison has helped him, but as he has sought to understand God's word, the Spirit has changed him."

After release, Matt says, the prisoners tend to keep their distance. However, recently a fellow asked if he could visit and "talk Bible" together.

"It is so encouraging to see God at work drawing people to his son Jesus. The guys usually come to Bible study the first time because it's held in the only airconditioned room in the prison.



Chaplain Matt Warth leads a weekly Bible study at Roebourne Prison

"But then they keep coming and happily spend up to two hours each time reading the Bible.

"It blows them away to learn that no matter what they have done, God forgives and loves them unconditionally."



**Pray for Roebourne inmates to meet the living Lord Jesus while in prison**

An advertisement for a Western Australia Wildflowers tour. It features a large image of pink wildflowers with the text "Western Australia Wildflowers" and "An amazing kaleidoscope of colour...". Below this are four smaller images: "THE PINNACLES", "GERALTON 5 NIGHTS", "KALBARRI NATIONAL PARK", and "BISHOP GARY NELSON". At the bottom, it says "CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP TOURS", "PHONE 1300 635 358", "www.christianfellowshiptours.com", "Travel the world with like-minded people.", "CFT gives a portion of tour proceeds to support North West gospel work.", and "9 DAYS DEPARTS 4 SEPT 2020".

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

☐ 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

The Anglican Church of North West Australia | T: (08) 9921 7277

E: [reception@anglicandnwa.org](mailto:reception@anglicandnwa.org) | [www.anglicandnwa.org](http://www.anglicandnwa.org)

/northwestanglicans

# Training key to long term mission



New Dongara Assistant Minister Matt Morrison, with Leonie, (front R) has joined the NW Ministry Training Program

**The Anglican Church in the North West reached a big milestone this year, when a second young couple joined the North West ministry training program.**

Matt Morrison, (with wife Leonie), began as Assistant Minister at Dongara parish, having committed to spend four years getting equipped here before moving to lead a remote church.

Bishop Gary Nelson said the training program was vital to the future of Anglican Bible-based ministry in the North West.

"This program is an important strategy to overcome the problem of sustainability — finding and recruiting ministers who will stay in the North West and serve Jesus long term."

Gary said that last year Brendan Hurley (with wife Laura) began their training based at St George's Bluff Point with Revd Paul Spackman.

"We aim to equip ministers with skills and resilience so they can thrive amid the isolation, transient populations and sometimes harsh environment.

"It is very significant to have home-grown ministers for this missionary setting, so that when they move to lead a parish they can hit the ground running.

"The North West is a strategic place for making disciples from all nations, whether it be among young workforce graduates, international seafarers, mine workers or Aboriginal communities."

"In God's goodness, we have another excellent young family keen to begin training next year and we are praying that God will raise up the support to make this possible."

## Church growth, priority for young ministers

At a recent Parish Council Development Day, members of the church in Dongara agreed to build on strengths, as well as work on areas that needed improving — one of which is evangelism.

Their aim is to get so good at sharing their faith, that their church grows.

New Assistant Minister Matt Morrison was thrilled to have this commitment to evangelism to shape every part of the 2020 ministry plan so people can be encouraged and equipped in this area.

"Especially in these troubling times with Coronavirus, we put our trust in God and we have a message of hope that we want to share with family and friends," Matt said.



Assistant Minister Brendan Hurley (r) is serving a growing church alongside Paul Spackman at Bluff Point

At St George's Bluff Point, Assistant Minister Brendan Hurley is focussed on helping more people worship Jesus with their whole lives.

Brendan says the church is growing and this year added a new Sunday Night Church at 6pm to reach out to young people.

"We don't just want a full building. We want to see the gospel change lives and this means we want to see conversions of unbelievers and increased maturity in Christians."

## Worker update

We thank God for the faithful service of **Jake de Salis** who has finished at Dampier Seafarers Centre; and **Philip Knight** who has recently completed 15 years of ministry at Port Hedland.

Please pray for godly servants to fill both these vacancies. We thank God for Revd Michael Baines and Revd Steve Combe from Broome who will help lead the church at Port Hedland while we seek a new minister.

**Simon Roberts** (with wife **Alison**) begins serving as Minister-in-Charge, Exmouth/Onslow in May.

A new **Chaplain/Head of Mission** has been recruited for Port Hedland Seafarer Centre. Please pray for a smooth transition through Australian immigration.