

NORTHWEST network

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African “Safari”

Many beds, bumpy journeys, three hour bogs, lots of hours in the sky plus, the privilege of meeting God’s people across Australia and within Africa! Since September I have been in Perth for meetings and speaking at Trinity College; Sydney for fund raising, wonderfully organised by Friends of the Outback; Cambridge Park with my family as my step-mother died; back to Perth for our Fellow Workers’ Conference; then after one night at home, on a plane bound for Uganda and Kenya; after three weeks in Africa I next found myself in a small mining town in the Pilbara – Paraburdoo. As I write this I have just returned from an encouraging week with the Alexanders in Kununurra, the furthest parish from us southerners in Geraldton.

I am so thankful to God for his care and protection, as Psalm 146:8f reminds us:

The LORD is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love.

The LORD is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made.

As Murray Wilding and I set off for Africa we weren’t exactly sure what was in store for us, yet knowing

God is sovereign enabled us to trust in his overseeing hand. We in the North West established a link with the diocese of Karamoja in Uganda – a region with limited resources and great need. Murray used his engineering skills to bring running water to the diocesan centre and church houses in Moroto. Though it was frustrating at times due to difficulties of accessing replacement parts and new electricity lines, it was very satisfying to see people opening a tap for their water instead of walking a considerable distance to fill up jerry cans.

While Murray was working at Moroto I taught trainee church workers at their centre in Lotome. I also visited St Andrews secondary school where our diocese supports some 200 students. The churches I was privileged to speak at drew hundreds to their services – the singing was terrific and the eager faces peering through the windows and doors (since everyone couldn’t fit inside) created an amazing atmosphere to preach in. But the church lacks pastors to teach and care for the many and growing congregations. In a remote part of the diocese, where



Gary & Murray with Staff

peace is still relatively young, I met converted warriors and cattle rustlers – men who have now traded AK47s for a Bible and a gospel mission. The minister in this parish has already planted some 15 congregations throughout this formerly wild and dangerous area. These fellow Ugandan Christians would certainly say amen to Paul’s words in Romans 1:

I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for salvation of everyone who believes ... for in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith”.

Friends, it was such an encouragement to see God’s mighty work in another part of his world. I returned conscious of my lack of zeal for the gospel; determined under God, and in his strength, to press on with sharing the good news of Jesus to the people of the North West and beyond.

by Bishop Gary Nelson

THE
LORD
IS GOOD
TO ALL



FIRST
WATER



Moving on

by Archdeacon Bill Ross

Wayne Sutton is retiring at the end of December after 19 years as Registrar of the Diocese of North West Australia.

In 1994 Wayne, Gladys and their children Kelly and Peter were living in Dampier, working in administration for Hamersley Iron. They were also active members of their local Anglican church.

They saw an advertisement for the position in the Diocesan Office, applied, and Wayne was appointed Registrar on 15th December, 1994. God wonderfully provided a house in Geraldton, confirming their decision to make such a move.

When Wayne began Tony Nichols was Bishop, followed by David Mulready and then 18 months ago Gary Nelson. He also remembers Bishops Howell Witt and Ged Muston; all of them held in high esteem.

The Diocese has been blessed to have Joanne Klein in the Office all those years while more recently Carolyn Wilding (assistant to the registrar), and Jenny Stubbs (Archivist) – a great team.

Wayne has overseen many changes in the Office and Diocesan administration:



from a golf ball typewriter to an integrated computer system; from manual clergy payroll to a fully computerised package; from individual Insurance Policies to National Insurance, saving \$200,000 in 10 years; from 23 Diocesan Staff to 43; along with the introduction of a solar power scheme and an investment portfolio saving parishes \$75,000 pa.

The greatest challenge has been keeping up to date on matters such as investments, real estate, church law, parish/diocesan administration and Synod (both Diocesan and General).

His most rewarding accomplishments have been in assisting parishes with their administration and bringing the Diocesan Office into the 21st century. Wayne has also developed a not so obvious pastoral role amongst fellow Registrars.

Particular highlights were the building of the Hummerston Centre and the two residences on Carson Terrace; as well as, the bi-annual Fellow Workers' Conferences.

Wayne was ordained as a deacon on Sunday 17th November. He offered for this ministry knowing the need for locum ministers in the Diocese. He and Gladys are looking forward to serving together wherever God sends them.

His final comments were thankfulness to God for his grace; the assistance of our fellow workers, and the support of his beloved Gladys.



A New Part

By mid-February 2014, Chris and Karen Webb along with their two boys, Ezra (3 years) and Daniel (16 months), will be unpacking boxes in Broome. The Church Missionary Society (CMS) is sending the Webbs to work in a new partnership with the Anglican Diocese of the North West in supporting and strengthening the Aboriginal church.

Chris spent his childhood in Papua New Guinea where his parents were Bible translators.

**THE
RIGHTEOUS
WILL LIVE BY
FAITH**



PROFESSIONAL

The Diocese of North West Australia seeks to be a safe place for all. If you have a concern
Director of Professional Standards: Tracie Chambers-Clark (JP) F

Membership Begins

by Chris & Karen Webb

As he witnessed the impact of his parent's ministry, God gave Chris the desire to be involved in cross-cultural gospel work. Karen grew up in Coffs Harbour, NSW, and moved to Newcastle for university where she met and married Chris. For a number of years Karen worked as a Speech Pathologist and Chris as a Primary school teacher. In 2009 they headed to Sydney Missionary and Bible College (SMBC) to get better equipped in teaching God's word.

During their years at Bible college God alerted Chris and Karen to the ongoing need for Christian people to share the hope of Jesus with Aboriginal people across Australia. With this in mind Chris and Karen applied to CMS and were accepted. Chris and Karen are really looking forward to settling into Broome life and beginning to get to know the congregations who meet at Broome Anglican Church.



Chapel Street to Cathedral Avenue

by Rev Samuel Morton, Minister for Youth

It is midday, 33 degrees, I am wearing shorts, t-shirt, and thongs. Out of habit I look left and right before crossing the road. But I need not as there's not a car in sight - no trams to negotiate, nor couriers to evade.

We have moved from Chapel Street to Cathedral Avenue!

If you have been on a recent holiday to Melbourne you would most likely have visited bustling Chapel Street in Prahran. Only a stone's throw away from the CBD it's 4.13km of high end fashion, 'hatted' dining, entertainment ... and coffee!

For the past five years, this has been home. It was in Prahran that Jess and I met, married; and took Percy home from the hospital. But most importantly, it is where we have been serving, seeking to promote the gospel and mature followers of Jesus.

So what makes us move from urban inner city Melbourne to regional sunny Geraldton?

Simply, the gospel and the power Jesus has to transform people from idol worshipers to followers of him.

It might seem culturally that Chapel Street and Cathedral Avenue are worlds apart, but people still worship the same false gods and need to be redeemed by Jesus. In our short time in the west we haven't needed to look far to see what is worshipped. There is still a great love for work and "keeping up with the Joneses"; along with deep desires for attaining a Thermomix, caravans, motorbikes and boats.

Jess and I are excited about being part of proclaiming the abundant life in Christ in Geraldton. It is our prayer we may see children, youth and young adults give up the vain things they have been worshipping to find joy in the giver of all good gifts.



The "New" Registrar

by Rev Jon Earnshaw

I am excited to be beginning an adventure in sharing ministry in the North West. I believe that God's hand has been on my life, guiding me to this very point. It started with the blessing of being raised in a Christian home by committed Christian parents in Sydney; Jesus has always been a part of my life. But during my high school years I made the decision that Christianity was not just the "family" faith, Jesus was Lord of my life.

After leaving school I worked as an accountant for seventeen years. But as the years rolled on I had the nagging feeling that God was moving me in a different direction. Finally, after much prayerful consideration I left accounting to study at Moore Theological College. After

completing college, I moved back into accounting with the Campbelltown Anglican Schools, and then on to become the Finance Manager for SIM Australia.

In 2000, I was ordained in the Diocese of Armidale serving in several Parish ministries.

In God's perfect timing my position at Moree came to an end and the need for a Registrar in North West Australia was drawn to my attention. The position here allows scope to utilise all the training and experiences God has led me through in the past.

He is truly a gracious God and I look forward to seeing what He has in store for me here in the North West.

AL STANDARDS

complaint or a question about sexual abuse or inappropriate behaviour please contact the
Phone: (08) 9325 7455 Email: tchambers-clark@perth.anglican.org



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IN THE NORTH WEST**

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Please send me the Northwest Network
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- I'd like to discuss SERVING in NWA as a ...**
 - tentmaker
 - retired Minister
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Please use my gift for:
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 - Bishop's Support
(*capital of the See Fund*)
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 - Cathedral Anniversary Gift
 - My Support will be via,
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for the amount of \$.....
 - Or \$ every
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Please send me details concerning a **bequest** to the Diocese of NWA.

Fellow Workers Reunion

by Andrew Burr, Archdeacon for the Midwest

It's no small feat to bring people spread over two million square kilometres together in one place. But it happened this year at the Family conference for the Diocese of North West Australia. The ministry families from the far North West came down from their 18 parishes and Seafarers Missions to meet at Swanleigh in Perth. They came from the Kimberley, the Pilbara and the Midwest.

For some the weather in Perth was a shock - it was cold (or so the Northerners thought). But the children didn't seem to notice, some even venturing into the swimming pool.



For the adults, a time to catch up and hear about church life and work across the Diocese. It was great to welcome new arrivals to the North West team: David & Traci Mitchell, Sam & Jess Morton, Sean & Clarice Wagenaar and Jon Earnshaw. We also heard from:

Rob Healy (Bush Church Aid), the Galvin family (Church Missionary Society), Bernard Hill and Tracie Chambers-Clarke (Church's Professional Standards).

Our guest Bible teacher for the week was the Rev Dr David Seccombe. He had spent 20 years teaching in South Africa and has written books, including a commentary on Romans ('Dust to Destiny'). The timeless themes of Romans, God's righteousness and Grace, Justification, Faith and the Gospel, reminded us how much we owe to the Lord Jesus Christ. The letter of Romans also reaffirmed the ongoing need for evangelistic mission and good biblical teaching for the church and the world.

This was our new Bishop's first Family Conference so we were able to spend time getting to know Gary Nelson, and his lovely wife, Christine. They are working hard to inspire and encourage Christian ministry in the North. Please keep praying for them.

Conferences like this don't just happen. They take time, effort and money to make it work. So we are very grateful to those who pray for the Diocese, organise things behind the scenes and to groups such as the Mother's Union and NHMF (Outback Fund), whose financial assistance enables us to bring families together for this conference. A big thank you from the North West!

Celebrate! Celebrate!

by Rev Paul Spackman

50 years ago a concrete star shaped structure rose out of the ground. Since this time the **Cathedral of The Holy Cross** has been a place to sing, pray and hear the word of God proclaimed. In March 2014 we will be having our 50th birthday celebrations. We are planning to use this time as a spring board for outreach to the people of Geraldton, with activities for children, teenagers and adults. We will be holding a special celebration service and lunch on Sunday 9th March with Bishop Edwin Ngubane from South Africa as our guest preacher.

2014 is also the 100th birthday of **St Catherine's at Greenough**, located about 20 minutes drive south of Geraldton. Celebrations are planned for Sunday March 23rd. We would love as many friends and supporters to join us for the celebrations. Please let us know if you would like more information about planned events by contacting the office on 9921 7277. If you would like to make a special gift towards this anniversary we would be very appreciative (*see this page - Supporting Gospel Ministry in the North West: Cathedral Anniversary Gift*).

