



NORTHWEST network

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TRAINING MEMBERS IS AN IMPORTANT WAY TO HELP CHURCHES GROW

Changing gear

On 2nd May, the whole Mildenhall family - Tim and Kathy, Anna (15), Chris (12), Jonathan (9) and Isobel (6) - flew back into Australia after Tim's special leave. NWN caught up with Tim recently.

Q: Tim, four months! Where did you go and what did you do?

Tim: Well, most of our time was spent in Malaysia - first a short break in Kuala Lumpur, the capital; then some time in Penang on the West Coast; but we ended up spending about three months based in Kota Kinabalu, in the Malaysian State of Sabah, in Borneo. We lived on the All Saints Cathedral Compound. Lots of the time we were tourists, but Kathy and I had a role in teaching some of those in the newly established Anglican Training Institute (ATI). The ATI is the in-house training arm of the Diocese of Sabah, not replacing full time theological colleges, but in recognition that training members is an important way to help churches grow. So I taught Greek and Hebrew, Philosophy and Hermeneutics, and Kathy taught Biblical Theology of Mission. I also preached at the Cathedral half a dozen times.

Q: I thought it was meant to be a break!

Tim: Well it was, actually. The kids went to a school 50m from our front door, and that achieved one big objective. We wanted to expose them to a range of different people – Broome is

multicultural but we wanted them to experience a different norm so they'd have some more tools to understand that normal situation. And I just couldn't imagine lying on a beach for three months – that would have driven me crazy.

Q: Where else did you go?

Tim: We visited Indonesia, Singapore and Vietnam and got close to Cambodia and Thailand too. It was always interesting to think how well is the gospel growing in these places, with very different pressures and openings. Vietnam was by far the most difficult in my view, mainly because of the language barrier, but political issues make it difficult for Christians too.

Q: What are you doing to get ready to get back into ministry in Broome?

Tim: It seems lazy to think when we go on holidays we perhaps go on holidays from God. In a real sense, all of life is ministry for the Christian. Like the Psalmist says, 'Where is there to go from you God?' But the break was meant to give me some time out from the day to day responsibilities of leading the parish and the other responsibilities I've had. A psychiatrist friend once suggested that our minds are like clock springs. They are meant to wind up and unwind. And if they're only ever wound tight they lose that 'springiness' and can't work properly. I guess that contributes to burnout which I surely want to avoid if possible. ...continues on page 2.



Anna & Kathy on a trip to Banda Aceh, Indonesia

Below: Anna, Christopher, Jonathan & Isobel off to All Saints Anglican Academy



Changing gear ...

And thanks to a lot of people, we were able to get a break to get some more 'spring' back. So, in one sense, I'm just changing gear again. In Broome we're launching a new mission and vision for the church (so we're all clearer on what

church is about). But this is not really a change of direction, just getting back to the coal face of leadership. Can I just say, to anyone reading this, plan to take breaks – don't get to the point where you fall over and have to take a break.

Right: water village youngsters at Sandakan



Settling in *David & Trudy Robinson in Northampton*

With two suitcases, a tent and camping gear, we set off for Northampton from Sydney in the middle of February 2013.

After 22 years in Sydney, this was to be our big adventure! We committed to 12 months as BCA Co-workers, to assist in pastoral ministry at Holy Trinity, Northampton.

In the month we had allowed for the trip to the west, we travelled through Broken

Hill, Port Augusta, Port Lincoln, Ceduna, Norseman, Esperance, Albany, the Stirling Ranges, Perth and Geraldton, camping mainly in National Parks.

The North West Diocesan team gave us a great welcome in Geraldton before we continued on to Northampton. Home is now the lovely stone rectory, set amongst gum trees, a delight to live in, as it was made to look welcoming.

We love Northampton and the friendly country life style. The parishioners have been very kind to us and we are getting to know them all, as well as our neighbours and various people in the town.

Northampton is a pretty country town, full of history, set amidst rolling hills, a short drive from nearby Horrocks Beach, an ideal place to swim, walk or relax.

Our effort for the first 6 months will be to establish relationships, through visiting

and hospitality, while assisting with ministry at Holy Trinity – David preaching, leading at services and Bible studies; Trudy running Sunday School, assisting 'Kids' Club and starting a toddlers' music group.

Please pray that God's Spirit would touch the hearts of the people in Northampton, so that they come to know Jesus and that we use the opportunities that God provides.

Building Bridges in Shark Bay

By Rev Philip & Kathy Knife

Kathy and I came to Denham, a remote town on Shark Bay with a population of less than seven hundred people, in January 2012 for a three month locum ministry. We found a small but very active congregation at St Andrew-by-the-Sea. The parish has never been large enough to offer a stipend for a minister, but has been blessed in the past by fulltime self-supporting ministers and a succession of locums, usually retired ministers able to help out. Such were we. It became apparent that both town and church needed a committed long-term ministry. After much prayer and consultation, we offered to return on a long-term basis. We were back in Denham by November 2012 and have not stopped thanking God for the beauty of his creation here, and for opening so many doors to enable us to return and make it our home.

Our ministry objectives have been to faithfully teach the Bible, and to become involved in and reach out to the whole community. It has been encouraging that the majority of the congregation participate in our weekly Bible studies. This is already producing fruit, and we are thankful that our long term commitment enables us to plan ahead to teach in depth. Within the community, we are grateful for the friends we have made and the people we have met. Our church is for the whole community, and we seek to build bridges there. As a new initiative, on Easter Day we held an evening celebration at Monkey Mia and David Day kindly motored up from Kalbarri to provide live music for the occasion. Anzac Day brought participation in both a Dawn Service and mid-morning service in Denham where the gospel message was proclaimed to what was described as a record crowd.

We were so delighted to be able to bring church and community closer together through these occasions.

God has given us the opportunity for ministry to people in an area of awesome wilderness beauty, and the resources to enable us to be here. We thank him for bringing us to Denham, and for our ongoing health and fitness to undertake this task. We look forward to serving him here for some years to come.



Above: Easter in Shark Bay

Reaching Koreans in Kununurra

By Rev Gary Alexander

Nikki Alexander never imagined God would have her teaching English to Koreans in Kununurra! Ten years ago Nikki lived in Korea for a year teaching English. It is wonderful how God equips each of us for His ministry, even when we may not realize at the time what he has in store for us in the future.

Kununurra has a large transient population of Koreans who come here to work on the local farms. Our church has been trying to engage the Korean population better and are now offering bible based English classes. Nikki currently has two classes running each week - basic conversational English and advanced English.

The classes are using Mark's Gospel as their reading material, for understanding difficult

words and comprehension questions. As the students read through the Gospel of Mark, they are asking more and more questions about Jesus. Most of the students are now attending our church.



Above: some of Nikki's students

It's wonderful to use the gifts God has given you, even when it is unexpected! Whilst we started out with the intention of teaching English to Koreans, Nikki now also has a class with Estonians and one Thai lady. We had difficulty finding an Estonian bible to give away to the students, however on our recent travels we were given a copy by the Evangelical Sisters of Mary. What a blessing!

Please pray for the students that they discover Jesus as Lord and Saviour as they continue to study.

From the Bishop

BISHOP'S REFLECTIONS

Over recent weeks I have been thinking about being thankful. A friend Peter sees thankfulness as one of the attitudes that can transform our lives. I've appreciated his reminder about thankfulness as an essential mark of being Christian. At times it's easy to take people for granted, or just expect our situation to remain stable and fulfilling. But Paul in 1 Thessalonians 5:18 says:

... give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Don't have to wonder about God's will for us at this point! Christians should be leading the way in thankfulness.

As I turn to the Bible thankfulness just keeps jumping out at me. Psalm 100 is a great call to give thanks, recall how it begins:

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.

The psalmist challenges all the earth to acknowledge the LORD, the king who rules the universe. Without God's blessing and grace we would never exist in the first place! In v.3 the psalmist provides a reason for our thankful response:

Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his;

we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

We know the covenant God, the Creator, our shepherd who cares for his people. How could we not give thanks!

The psalm continues on with its encouragement to praise and thank God in v.4f. And it ends with another amazing reason why we should thank God:

For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.

As Christians we know the Lord's goodness; we've experienced his enduring love and faithfulness. How? In and through the Lord Jesus who died and rose again. So how's our thankfulness going? I try to thank God each time I pray; I am seeking to thank (at least) one person every day to help me develop a greater thankfulness in my life.

So thanks to everyone who regularly prays and supports us. Thanks to our great God who saves us in his Son, Jesus. May we grow in our thankfulness.

NORTH WEST CONCERNS

Jeremy Rice resigned as dean of the Cathedral at the beginning of April to pursue a chaplaincy ministry at the local hospital. The Cathedral's parish council has just decided to continue with Bishop Gary as acting dean and use the resources for a youth minister. Please pray for someone with the gifts and experience we so urgently need to join the Cathedral team.

Bill and Jackie France have completed a wonderful time in Broome as locum and the Mildenhalls have returned from their extended leave in Sabah. We're very thankful that the Franceses will be returning to serve as locum in Exmouth from July-December.

We are very appreciative of our partnership with BCA. Please pray with us for ministry in Paraburdoo/Tom Price parish. May you join with BCA and the North-West in asking our heavenly Father to supply a gospel hearted minister to serve in this area.



GREETINGS

We trust you are growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

God continues to bless us here in the north-west in many wonderful ways.

And so it's a terrific privilege to be part of the team seeking to serve our Lord from Dongara in the south to Kununurra in the north.

THANKFULNESS

IS AN ESSENTIAL MARK OF BEING CHRISTIAN



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



SUPPORTING GOSPEL MINISTRY IN THE NORTH WEST

PERSONAL DETAILS: (please print)

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- I want to be a PRAYER PARTNER**
Please send me the Northwest Network
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Please contact me
- I'd like to discuss SERVING in NWA as a ...**
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 - retired Minister
 - Parish Minister

I want to be a FINANCIAL PARTNER
Please use my gift for:

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Ministry in the diocese
(*Diocesan Ministry Fund*)

Youth Ministry

Rural Chaplaincy

Bishop's Discretionary Fund

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(*capital of the See Fund*)

Buildings and maintenance
(*formerly Outback Church Foundation*)

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Or \$ every

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to the Diocese of NWA.**

Diversity in Unity

By Amanda McArtney



Who would think that in outback Australia where it's more Aussie than vegemite, we would find a mix of cultures of God's people from every tribe and tongue and nation. What an opportunity we have as a diocese to minister to not only the Aussie miners but to people from all ends of the earth!! It really is the supreme mission field and all in our backyard.

Newman Anglican Church delights in the kaleidoscope of peoples that worship and serve their risen saviour. As in many mining towns we have a large turnover of people (since last November we have lost fifty). At our peak last year we had 24 different nationalities worshipping with us. This brings a richness of Christian character that can often be lacking in suburbia. One of our Kenyan men told us that back in Kenya, everybody goes to church because that's just what you do – it doesn't mean everyone leads a Christ-like life though. He went on to tell us when he arrived here he had to make up his mind if he would be like everyone else and sleep in on Sundays or go to church. It meant he drew a line in the sand and said 'Jesus will be my Lord'. Another great example is from Gilbert a PNG fellow who told us how he couldn't believe the apathy of the Australians regarding political elections. When some of his work mates were saying that they weren't going to vote, Gilbert addressed them and said "are you kidding? In PNG we will literally stand for three days in the rain to have the privilege to vote and you would throw it away?" Good stuff isn't it!

One of the challenges we could have had as a church, is the ability to form deep relationships. This is due to our unique situation of multiple shifts, different cultures and different denominational backgrounds. So we are intentional about strong relationship building through camps, 4wd outings and lots of meals at our house. Then comes the invitation to join a Bible study/home group/mothers group.

Members work in all aspects of mining from mechanical, engineering, bus driving, electrical, cleaning, nursing, accounting, dump truck drivers, child care, drill and blast, teaching and law.

Most of the mothers are stay at home mum's which is unusual in today's society. So we greatly encourage "home-making" and honour the role of mothers. We delight in being a family friendly Church with Derek stating at the beginning of the year that the children would be one of our main focuses. We understand that you can't be ministering in a town full of children and not have a passionate children's ministry. Our children feel very much part of the family which is wonderful.

Something we find very encouraging is that nearly all church members are doing daily devotions. We have seen such a growth in desire to understand the depths of God's word, to truly believe in His promises and move towards leading more godly lives. The church is vibrant. We love Newman! We love the diverse people groups, we love the extreme weather and we love being able to impart the saving grace of Jesus to the lost souls here. We thank God for bringing us to Newman.



STOP PRESS

Please pray for an experienced youth minister to join the Cathedral team. If interested contact Bishop Gary Nelson:
Em: bishop@anglicandnwa.org
Ph: (08) 9921 7277.

