



March 2013 No. 91



## Greetings from the Nelsons

We hope 2013 has begun well for you. It has been a hectic start for Christine and I.

January was marked by a short holiday with family followed by CMS Summer School and catching up with supporters – individuals and churches.

Our journeys took us from country to city; from inner west to far west and across our vast continent.

So thank you all for your fellowship and partnership in gospel ministry.

## North West comings and goings

### Hopping into Karratha

On January 22nd, 2013 David Mitchell was ordained deacon at Ashfield Anglican Church in NSW. He, along with wife Traci and daughter Daphne, have moved to Karratha to be assistant minister.

Just before they were scheduled to leave, David injured his Achilles Tendon which necessitated surgery.

On February 7th the Mitchell family flew into Karratha. David 'hopped' into his new ministry complete with crutches and supportive boot. Pray for them as they adjust to summer in the Pilbara.

#### *We asked them about their initial impressions.*

**David:** the weather is mostly as I expected – hot, humid and dusty (David had seven years growing up in Port Hedland). It's been a bit frustrating walking with crutches on the gravel – wearing out the rubber ends very quickly.

**Traci:** no surprises weather wise, but I found the town bigger than I had anticipated. Shopping is a little more expensive with no Aldi stores so there's more to choose from – yet that means longer in the shops!

#### *Q: How have you found moving into a new church?*

**David:** we have been warmly welcomed (not just with the hot weather!) into the fellowship here.

**Traci:** people are easy to talk with, apart from when I'm chasing Daphne.

**David:** it's great to be part of a congregation where people are eager to hear God's word and be built up to serve Christ.

#### *Q: What areas of ministry are you looking forward to being involved with or developing?*

**David:** I'm keen on meeting 1-1 with men to share and read the Bible. I'm also keen to get an evening service started – hoping it will be encouraging for shift and migrant workers.

*...continues on page 2.*

*Below: David preaching - on one leg!*



# North West coming

**Traci:** we're both looking forward to participating in Bible study/growth groups – hoping we can encourage more people to meet together in this way. We're also aware that we come into a church that has benefited from the Gaulton's long-term ministry – very thankful for that.

**Q: Other hopes for the next little while?**

**D & T:** David walking again without crutches – especially so he can help a little more with Daphne (at night!!!).

**Traci:** (physio by trade) - David has about a month until the boot is removed and then needs to get used to walking again – so I'll get to practice without leaving home!

Les and Jenny are both thankful to God for the opportunity of having the Mitchells come to Karratha. 'They have settled in well and have become part of the family (it'll be better when he's walking with two legs!)'.

David and Traci both expressed their appreciation to the congregation for the work done in converting the hall into a home. They find it really liveable and spacious. Also, thanks to those who helped with the unpacking which was gratefully received with David on crutches and a curious toddler.

**"Thank you BCA  
for your support in making  
this position possible."**



Above:  
Revd Les & Jenny Gaulton



Left:  
Traci, Daphne & David  
Mitchelle

## Moving on...

One of the characteristics of the North West region is the transience of people. The bishop has observed, 'there always seems to be farewells whenever I'm in town – is this just a coincidence?' So we took the chance to catch up with Chris and Martha van Tonder on their last Sunday in Karratha.

**Q: Chris and Martha with your accents you have come from elsewhere.**

**Chris:** yes we're both from South Africa via New Zealand (Auckland and Hamilton).

**Q: what brought you to Karratha?**

**Martha:** we came across for a holiday but Chris ended up with an 8 month contract working for the Roebourne shire and so we've been living here since middle of 2012.

**Chris:** I have enjoyed working at Roebourne on planning for the town's future. Looks like I'll still be doing some more work – remotely, but hopefully with a return visit.

**Q: how have you found church?**

**Chris:** it has been good to be part of a church with sound preaching and lovely fellowship – we felt welcome from day one.

**Martha:** we're leaving with good memories and friendships.

**Q: what do you think God has taught you during your stay?**

**C & M:** the Lord will provide for you when you need it.

**We wish them well as they return to Hamilton and pray for God's continued hand of blessing on them.**



Chris & Martha van Tonder





# ings and goings...

## More comings and going

In December 2012 we farewelled the Edwards family from Exmouth. Lachlan received an Australia Day award for his contribution to the community - congratulations. Keep praying for God to raise up someone to lead the Exmouth congregation.

Another exciting move for 2013 is Don Miller from Wiluna to Mullewa. He will begin in the second week of March. Don comes with considerable experience in Indigenous ministry and we're hoping Mullewa will grow into a new regional centre for Indigenous work. Pray for wisdom in this new initiative for the Mid-West region of the diocese. We also give thanks for the long-term ministry of Dot and Peter Harris, along with Gordon and Jean Williams, in maintaining services at Mullewa.

Paraburdoo/Tom Price parish has not had a resident minister for around three years, but we are expecting to have this vacancy filled later this year. Praise God for this exciting development.

*Below: Revd Ron Miller*



## A Northampton farewell

Sunday February 4th concluded the ministry of David and Jenny Day in the Northampton parish. This service was the annual Harvest Festival and local produce was on display with thankfulness to God.

This thankfulness extended to the Days' for their ministry in the

parish. As a token of their appreciation a wonderful quilt was given to David, Jenny and Nathaniel as a parting gift.

The Day family have moved to Kalbarri and are settling in to their new home and ministry. We held a service for the commencement of their ministry on February 12th.



They have been warmly welcomed by the parish and we're looking forward to what God will do in and through them.



## A Northampton arrival

David and Trudy Robinson will be joining the North West team as BCA co-workers to help in pastoral ministry in the Northampton parish. Pray for their journey across from the East.

They are planning to arrive in mid-March. We also wish to thank Peter Harris for his continued willingness to assist with church services at Northampton and we greatly appreciate Gordon Williams' willingness to take services in the Chapman Valley.

Andrew Burr will be acting minister-in-charge with Eldred Royce co-ordinating services on the fourth Sunday of the month. A real team effort!!



*David & Trudy Robinson*



# A QUICK TOUR

## Wickham

Give thanks for the Wagenaar family who have moved into Wickham to share in Indigenous ministry with the Goscombes.

## Port Hedland

The Knights and Nicols minister together. Pray for the Allens as they supervise with the building development – thanks for its progress. Thanks for the encouraging ministry of Allan & Maria Mower and their team at the Mission to Seafarers.

## Exmouth

Give thanks for the congregation as they keep ministering while they wait for a new minister. Pray for locums to serve in Exmouth.

## Paraburdoo / Tom Price

Pray for the couple who desire to serve in the parish that arrangements will work out for an arrival later this year.

## Newman

Give thanks for the faithful ministry of Derek & Amanda McArtney.

## The Pilbara

### Karratha

Les & Jenny Gaulton are thankful for the arrival of the Mitchells. Pray for David, Traci & Daphne as they settle in and for good healing of David's Achilles tendon. Pray for Ian & Sue's ministry at the Mission to Seafarers.

## The Kimberley

### Broome

The Mildenhalls are on extended leave until May. We are thankful for Bill and Jackie France serving as locum. The Simmons continue to faithfully minister in Broome - pray for housing.

### Kununurra

The Alexanders along with BCA co-workers, the Watson family, are seeking to grow the church in WA's top end.



## Carnarvon

Pray for Brian and Annie as they seek to establish a youth group.

## Shark Bay

Give thanks that the Knifes have settled in and pray for them as they get to know people in the town.

## Cathedral

Pray for Jeremy's long service leave and the CPE course he is undertaking. Give thanks for the Smarts helping out again during this time.

## The Mid-West

### Kalbarri

Give thanks for the Days good move and pray for them and the congregation as they serve together. Pray for growth in the church.

### Northampton

The congregation is experiencing a number of changes. Pray for them that they will continue to serve faithfully. Pray for BCA co-workers David & Trudy Robinson as they settle in from mid-March.

### Bluff Point - Geraldton

Give thanks for the continued ministry team of the Burrs and the Sutherlands and for the Trinity mission team. Pray for their plans especially for growth of the youth ministry.

### Chaplaincies

Give thanks for the faithfulness of those in chaplaincy ministry – the Ross', Hiltons and Royces.

### Dongara

The church has been growing and we give God thanks for this growth along with the enthusiasm of the congregation to reach out to their community.

### Mullewa

Pray for Don Miller as he moves into town. Pray for the congregation and for new ministry initiatives.





# Bishop's Reflections

As I write there is a cyclone brewing off the coast near Port Hedland – just another aspect of life and ministry in the North West. I managed to fly out of Karratha before the alert turned from blue to yellow, but as the airport doors opened for boarding the winds blew in with menacing intent. I can only imagine how fear could easily grip you when caught in the destructive winds and torrential rain of a cyclone. Please pray for those who live and serve in these regions.

Easter is rapidly approaching and I look forward to sharing with the people of Geraldton the good news of what Jesus has done in his death and resurrection. At the cathedral we will be looking at the significance of the Easter event via two VIP Old Testament passages (Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53), followed by passages from John 17-20. I have been struck once more by those opening words of Psalm 22, echoed on Jesus' lips as he hung on the cross (Mark 15:34), 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?'. For David there can be no greater despair than to be forsaken by God – to cry out in anguish, yet seemingly receive no answer, no rescue. As David describes his experience you cannot but be moved by his abandonment, his rejection, the mocking words of those around him. The feeling of despair keeps growing as he says (vs.14 &17):

*'I am poured out like water,  
and all my bones are out of joint.  
My heart has turned to wax;  
it has melted within me ...  
All my bones are on display;  
people stare and gloat over me.  
They divide my clothes among them  
and cast lots for my clothing.'*

Yet, David constantly clings to his God – the covenant LORD. For he knows 'strength in despair' can only come from the LORD. And so we see with relief from v.21 onwards how God answers David's cries of despair – God has not abandoned him. This leads

David to overflowing praise to his LORD. His greatest fear has been overcome – God is with him, even in despair.

Easter reminds us of another One who experiences abandonment, mocking words and actions, physical exhaustion and division of his clothes. But these experiences aren't simply an echo of David's experiences – rather, they're a fulfilment (cf. John 19:24). Christ gathers up the whole psalm into his own experience as he faces death by crucifixion – but unlike David, he is saved through death. As Christ suffers on the cross he enters the fear of mortality that we humans face. He does this by taking on himself the real cause of all human suffering, and hence mortality – our sin. Christ dies as the sinless one (cf. Isaiah 53:4-6, 9; 1 Peter 1:18f, 2:22f; 2 Corinthians 5:21) and experiences God's abandonment on our behalf. The despair of abandonment due to sin has been suffered by Christ. And his death saves us so we can always be certain of God's presence with us – we are never alone. How can we not praise God? Surely our lives must echo in everything thankfulness for all God's done in Christ? So how can we not but trust him – especially when we feel weighed down by menacing darkness all around us?

But Easter also reassures us of Christ's vindication – he is resurrected; death doesn't have the last say! Death pinpoints the terror of our mortality; the fear that grips us in our suffering. In Christ we can be freed from this despair, for in him we have the certainty of eternal life. What a blessing to rejoice in!

***Friends, are we rejoicing in this wonderful blessing?***

***Are we daily thanking God for his rescue in Christ?***

Yours in Christ  
Gary Nelson

REJOICE  
IN THIS  
WONDERFUL  
BLESSING

THANKING  
GOD  
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RESCUE IN  
CHRIST



# A New Partnership

We have been in discussion with the Church Missionary Society concerning the possibility of a partnership for ministry.

This arrangement would enable the diocese to draw on CMS' experience and resources to assist with Indigenous ministry in the Kimberley region.

Please join us in praying for the formal arrangements of this partnership and for the arrival of our first CMS missionary family. The Revd Ray Arthur, a Canon of the Cathedral of the Holy Cross in the Diocese of N W Australia, is the General Secretary of CMS-WA.



Right: Revd Canon Ray & Lyn Arthur



**The Church Missionary Society of Australia**

*working with churches to set apart long-term workers who cross cultures to share the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

## 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)

## STOP PRESS

Jeremy Rice has announced his resignation as Dean. We thank God for Jeremy & Virginia's faithful ministry over 10 years. Please pray for wisdom regarding the Dean of the Cathedral.

PS. Jeremy will be seeking to establish a chaplaincy department at Geraldton hospital. Pray for him in this project.

**SURELY  
OUR LIVES  
MUST  
ECHO IN  
EVERYTHING  
THANKFULNESS  
FOR ALL  
GOD'S  
DONE IN  
CHRIST**

## Support for Karamoja

The Diocese of NW Australia seeks to support and encourage the Diocese of Karamoja in Uganda.

Bishop Gary is hoping to visit in the future and spend some time teaching clergy and students.

Please pray for arrangements.



## SUPPORTING GOSPEL MINISTRY IN THE NORTH WEST

### PERSONAL DETAILS: (please print)

Name: .....

Address: .....

.....

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☐ **I want to be a PRAYER PARTNER**

Please send me the Northwest Network

☐ **I'm interested in training for MINISTRY in NWA**

Please contact me

☐ **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:

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(Ministry Support Fund) ☐

Youth Ministry ☐

Rural Chaplaincy ☐

Bishop's Discretionary Fund ☐

Bishop's Support  
(capital of the See Fund) ☐

Buildings & maintenance  
(Outback Church Foundation) ☐

Other: .....

My Support will be via,

• **Electronic Transfer to :** ☐  
Diocese of North West Australia ACF  
BSB 706-001 A/C No. 30003508

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.**

## A Wednesday prayer...

During January Christine and I had the privilege of meeting with a group of faithful prayer supporters.

This group meets monthly on a Wednesday to pray for the diocese. It was great to catch up with those (or at least most of the group) who responded at short notice to our change of plan.

Some members of the group we already knew from past times when our paths crossed – others we were meeting for the first time.

The group meets in the home of former CMS missionaries and they have a large map of the diocese prominently displayed on their lounge room wall.

What a terrific reminder to pray! We are so thankful for people like these faithful pray-ers who meet monthly in the NSW town of Bathurst to bring before our heavenly Father the requests of the North West.

Ministry in the North West is a team effort – those on location, along with supporters around Australia who pray and give.



## Some sadness



The **Revd Ken Frewer** (former CMS missionary), an honorary canon of the Cathedral of The Holy Cross Geraldton, died on 16th January, 2013.

Ken has been an encouragement to many folk both here in the North West and elsewhere. We

thank God for him and his ministry among us.

Jenny Stubbs' (wife of Dongara minister Rob) father, **Bill Hicks**, died on 12th February 2013. Please pray that God will continue to comfort and sustain Jenny & Rob as they return from Sydney and settle into their ministry.

