

"I turn to Christ"



Broome Anglicans were greatly encouraged by recent baptisms and confirmations.

Anglicans in the North West are praising God for his work in people's lives, with multiple recent baptisms and confirmations.

Twelve members of Broome Anglican Church declared their allegiance to Christ during a service at Entrance Point Beach.

Ven Michael Baines said the beachside service, where three people were baptised and nine confirmed, ranked among his most joyful experiences in thirteen years of vocational ministry.

"To see that many people wanting to stand up and make a public

profession of faith in Christ was absolutely wonderful," he said.

"Having the Bishop in town is an opportunity to run confirmations so I spoke with church members and asked around and twelve people approached me about being confirmed or baptised," he said.

The candidates completed a series of four preparation session on the topics 'Good News', 'Faith', 'Hope' and 'Love', which included working

through a catechism and talking about keystone habits like Bible reading, prayer and church.

About 60 church members and invited guests came along to witness the 12 who wanted to stand and be counted for Jesus.

"One of the candidates asked to share his testimony at the service because it was important for him to tell his invited friends why he was doing this," Michael said.

Some 2000km south of Broome, at Dongara, Rev David Thompson also baptised two young men. The pair had grown up attending the church, but only recently committed to following Jesus themselves. Rev Greg Harris, Bush Church Aid National Director, was visiting and spoke about living lives that are 'all in' for Jesus.

After the service, the two men were baptised in the ocean at Port Denison. It was a wonderful public testimony to their decision to be 'all in' for Jesus and a great encouragement for the local church.

Boys learn manly lifeskills

The Boys' Brigade ministry in Geraldton is playing an important role in developing Christian men who lead by serving their family and community.

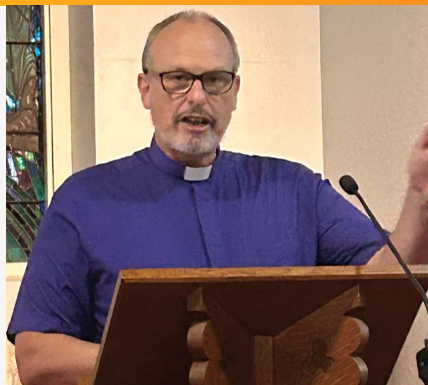
Each Thursday evening 22 boys aged 5 to 14 years meet for a structured, hands-on program designed to grow Christ's kingdom among boys by promoting habits that lead to true Christian manliness.

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Right: Brigade leaders Sam and Mitch de Vries help Boys Brigade juniors to learn practical life skills like cooking.



A really sick engine



Bishop Darrell Parker

There's nothing like it. There really isn't.

Any true 'Rev Head' will tell you, that the sound of an immaculately turned V8 engine at 4500 RPM will put tingles down your spine. I remember vividly being at the Bathurst 1000 at Mount Panorama and hearing these magnificent beasts come up Mountain Straight. For many in the crowd this was an almost 'religious' experience. For me, it was akin to the sound of the world's most magnificent pipe organ as it reverberates through a stunning Cathedral as the organist holds, for what seems like forever, that last triumphant note.

I equally remember my first car, a Holden 1974 HQ Premier Sedan with a 253 V8 under the bonnet. It was a beautiful car and ran and hummed like the proverbial 'purring kitten'. Being the novice mechanic, I liked to think I was, I once replaced the spark plug leads but failed to get them in the right order when I connected them to the distributor.

My stomach sank. My 'purring kitten' had gone. It sounded awful, generated no power, and coughed and spluttered until it decided it could cough and splutter no more. What had been designed for magnificence had been reduced to being less than a chaff cutter.

I see the world very much like my sick V8. The Bible encourages me to see it this way. This, I think, is what sits in the apostle Paul's mind as he argues in Romans 8:20-21, ... *'For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God'*.

Creation is horribly broken. It is suffering under the dreadful burden of human sin. Our rebellion against God has been akin to my getting my spark plug cables in the wrong order, and has resulted in a world and experience of life that is dramatically and painfully diminished. What was imagined and constructed in Genesis 1 by the Master Designer to be 'very good', is so no longer.

The great tragedy as presented in the Bible, is that our experience of life on earth reaches so very far short of what God intended. His creation is profoundly sick and that sickness began with us. So called 'natural disasters', human war and conflict, disease, physical and mental illness, broken

and imperfect relationships, loneliness, greed, divided families, and selfishness, are all part of a magnificent creation that is badly misfiring.

Nowhere is this tragedy currently more visible than in the area of human sexuality. What was designed by God to be so very good has become something of immense confusion and 'lostness'. Rampant adultery, prostitution, pornography, homosexuality promoted and celebrated as equally valid to heterosexuality, same sex marriage, and the very notion that gender is 'fluid', are all symptoms of a wondrous and beautiful creation that is misfiring.

Christians rightly mourn and grieve that what God made to be 'very good' has been broken and lost. Yet we do not grieve without hope. As Paul argues in Romans 8, we have in Jesus the one who alone can set creation free from its bondage and re-attain what was once 'glorious'.

This is the liberating truth we proclaim to the North West of Western Australia.



In Jesus Christ, God has miraculously rewired the human heart.

Only in Him can this life get better and make sense, and only in Him can the life to come really 'hum' .””

Moves

After 36 years of service, our CMS link missionary Joan is retiring from South East Asia to the North West! We're excited that a diocesan flat has been reserved for her from 2025 after her deputation.

We thank God for her ministry and pray He will continue to raise up workers for the harvest. We pray that Joan will have a fruitful gospel ministry in Geraldton.

New Bishop for Karamoja

Our partner diocese in Karamoja, Uganda, has elected a new Bishop. The Rt Revd Bishop Michael Chorey was consecrated and enthroned as the fifth Bishop on 25 August.

Bishop Michael was Archdeacon of Pokot Karamoja where he and his wife have planted 24 churches.

Raising up Aboriginal leaders



CMS worker Chris Webb travels the Kimberley to help train Aboriginal Christian leaders.

Broome People’s Church is helping equip Christian leaders in remote Aboriginal communities in the Kimberley.

Rev Chris Webb, a CMS worker based at Broome, was recently invited by a local elder to visit Yakanarra, near Fitzroy Crossing, and run Bible teaching and leadership training.

The initiative is a partnership with the Kimberley Christian Fellowship which runs an annual weekend training workshop in each of four communities, including at Noonkanbah, Yiyili and Wangkatjungka.

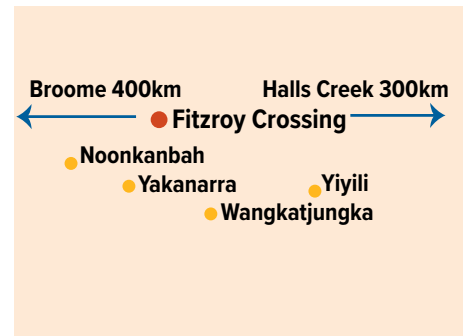
Overall, the aim is for people to attend all four workshops as an integrated training program. However, distance and cultural commitments make this difficult so Chris delivers stand-alone foundational training to those who come along.

At Yakanarra, Chris and pastor Jamie Short from Kununurra People’s Church led a small group study of Titus 1, looking at the aim of ministry and qualities of a leader.

“We also want to support the local Christians to share the gospel with their community, so we had a BBQ evening and church service that were open to all,” Chris said.

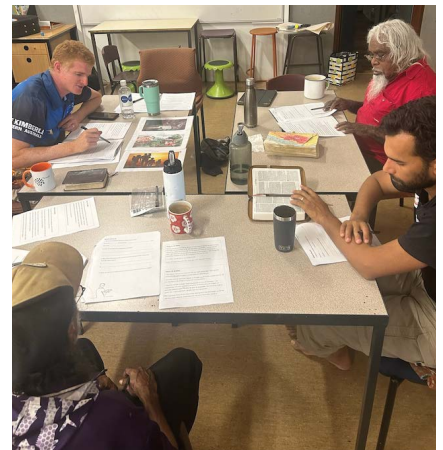
Christians in each community are keen for others to hear the gospel and want to have a church set up. However, they face many challenges, including isolation and a population that moves around a lot.

“In most of the places, opportunities for face-to-face Christian encouragement are few and far between and we are yet to see a strong church take root and grow.



“But, the men who are coming to the training weekends, have grown in maturity and understanding of what being a Christian is all about and under God we trust that spiritual growth is happening.

“Our prayer for them is that they will be able to begin small but regular gathering of Christians – that they would feel confident and take the initiative to start a Bible study, prayer meeting or a sing along.”



Chris leads Bible study on Titus 1 with local leader Martin, Josh and Jamie.

Boys learn manly lifeskills *Continued from page 1*

Officer in Charge of Juniors, Sam de Vries, said parents love the program because it is a safe place for their children to make and build relationships, learn different life skills and learn about God.

“We do a lot of practical, hands-on learning which is especially good for boys. The juniors learn skills they can use at home, like making a bed, ironing clothes or cooking. For them, it has to be in a fun environment.

“With the senior boys it becomes more focussed, with a wider range of activities, including camping. The leadership training is about being a servant – not making people do as you say because you are the boss – but showing the sort of leadership which Jesus demonstrated.”

One of the annual highlights for the juniors is the recent Café Night where they invited family and friends to Brigade Bandits Café for a meal. The boys designed the menu featuring a selection of savoury and sweet goodies complemented with hot and cold drinks. They cooked, served and fixed the bill for each guest.

Guests gave a 5-star rating to the food and one visitor tried every item on the menu!



Please pray for this ministry to grow as the Geraldton Anglican Cathedral reaches out to the Geraldton community.

Gospel frees prisoners



Prison Chaplain Rev David Hilton tells inmates that no sin is too great for God to forgive.

Prison chaplain Rev David Hilton praises God for the 42 offenders who attended Sunday services in gaol – across six gatherings spread over seven hours.

For 15 years, Dave has been sharing the gospel with inmates and staff at the Greenough Regional Prison, south of Geraldton, motivated by the power of Jesus to save and heal.

“Without the gospel, we are completely lost. It is the only way to deal with the depravity of the human heart,” he said.

Prisoners often believe their sins are too great for God to forgive but Dave shares the message that God forgives all those who turn to Jesus. In addition to Sunday services, his ministry involves Bible studies, pastoral care and prayer for prisoners and their families. He has Bibles to give away thanks to a generous grant from the Bible Society.

He assists Aboriginal prisoners in a unique way by holding memorial services inside when offenders are unable to gain approval to attend funerals held in the community – a culturally important event.

According to Dave, when he began ministry in 2008, staff considered the role a bit of a “pain-in-the-backside” but now it’s very much an integral part of prison management. Like many ministries, the continuity of ministry is paying off.

” A lot of the time it’s just plain, hard work – people in their darkest of times. But in amongst that, in the hard times they will say ‘Chaplain, can you pray for me?’ and that’s a great privilege.

“One man had been in and out of prison for 13 years and there was nothing remotely spiritual or religious about him. We would say g’day each week and then he started attending a Bible group and the services I’d hold.

“Then one day I heard he was reading Bible passages to his partner over the phone. His partner asked for a Bible too, and I delivered it in the prison carpark.

“That was so exciting. He told me it was because I had never pushed him to believe. And that, I think, is what prison ministry is. It’s about turning up each day and letting God do His work through me.”

A measure of the importance of the Chaplain’s role is that Dave is now part of the management of prisoners at risk – those not coping with being committed.

Maximum security is Dave’s busiest area. Unlike other units where prisoners have work responsibilities around the jail, prisoners in maximum security are confined.

“They are very much cut off from the rest of the world and everyone has a lot of time to think.”

Dave prays for each prisoner to know they are created in God’s image, there’s nothing they can do to save themselves, but that God makes salvation possible through Jesus.

Hospital chaplain Jeremy Rice retires



After 20 years of North West ministry, including 11 years as Hospital Chaplain, **Jeremy Rice** is retiring on 31 August. We thank God for Jeremy’s faithful, godly and humble ministry, alongside his wife **Virginia**, and pray God’s blessing upon them in this new phase of life.

I’d like to support gospel ministry in the North West

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I want to be a prayer partner. Please send me the North West Network & Prayer Diary

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