

March — May 2017

Australian Indigenous Ministries

Planting — Partnering — Participating



Fun in the Sun

Swimming, fishing, walks along the beach, great food cooked by someone else, fun and games...sounds like a holiday doesn't it? Well, throw in fellowship, discussions, prayer times, challenges from God's Word and you get the full picture. This was the AIM Summer Field Conference (18-22 January) at Scott's Head (near Coffs Harbour) NSW.

Council members *John Keane* and *Neil Bootes* put much appreciated effort into organising the gathering. They allowed for free time to enjoy the nearby beach, a walk to the local coffee shop, or just talking with fellow workers and friends usually separated by hundreds of kilometres.

There were valuable Q & A times with *Trevor Leggott* and *Stephen Bignall* as they answered questions about important matters in the current life of AIM.

Steve Preston, the National Director of WEC International, led some sessions. He brought great insight and challenge about preventing the 'wheels from falling off' in ministry, and showed genuine

interest in sharing freely with many outside of session times.

The meals were true restaurant quality! We were all so grateful to *Mark Bootes* who was faithfully assisted by *Clive and Rosalie Alley* in the kitchen.

Jono and Claire Murray from Coffs Harbour ran a great children's program. The spontaneity of the children gave much joy to everyone. Several times they could be heard singing Christian songs in the meeting room. One morning they were singing quietly together while perched up in a tree! Another bonus was the special item several had organised to share at the Sunday morning service.

At evening time we gathered for '*End the Day in the Word*'. This brought each day to a close as *Cliff Letcher* opened up God's Word and shared from his heart.

At last, with only a few fish caught and thankfully no sunburn, everyone returned to their homes and places of serving Jesus, taking with them happy memories and some new challenges. Thanks again John and Neil for organising AIM Summer Field Conference 2017!

The Moree mob loved their time at the beach!



Seth, Grace, Shauneisha, Reuben Strahan



fun at the beach



Rob Alley helps Jono and Claire Murray with Family Fun night



John Keane thanks the chef



Steve Preston



Cliff Letcher



'Uncle Neil' Bootes , Trevor Leggott, Betty and Arthur Nicolson and Maleah and Shauneicha Strahan

God @ Work

Some exciting things have been happening in the Dubbo area. Under the guidance of *Rose Cox*, the ladies hold a weekly Bible study and have been focusing on the various women found in the scriptures. Names of the women in the Bible are put into a basket, then each local lady chooses one which also had a date of when she is to lead that study. They receive a paper outlining the study to work on at home. Later they take their turn at leading and sharing the gems gleaned from God's Word. Some were helping each other prepare and study which was creating good fellowship among the group outside of the meeting times.

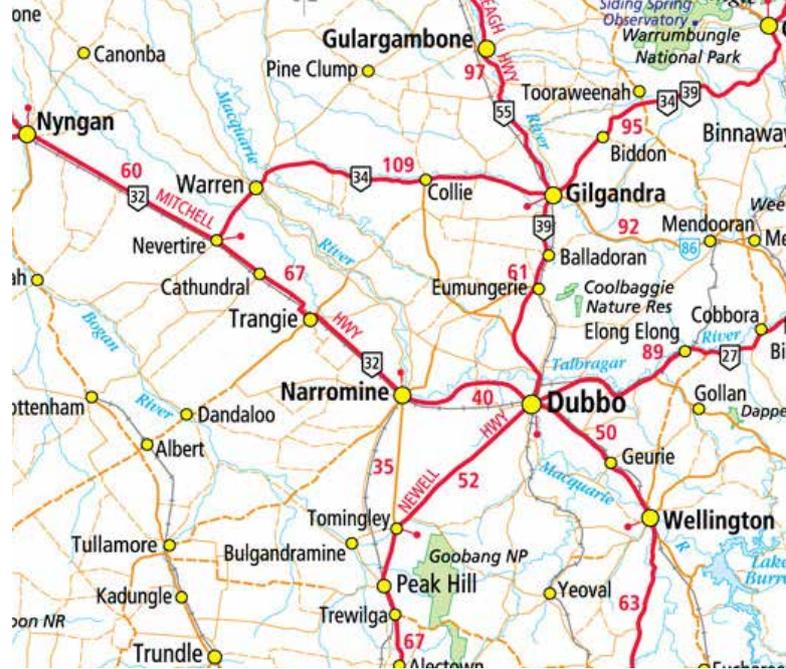
There has been encouragement all around as some ladies from Wellington, Gilgandra, and even Gulargambone join the Dubbo ladies most weeks for the study. Some from Dubbo are hoping to go over and hold the study in Gilgandra once a month to give more encouragement to the ladies there.

Every Tuesday several ladies meet in a group Rose calls WOW – 'Women over West'. These ladies in West Dubbo have been spending valuable time reading together through the book of Acts.



Rose Cox sharing with the editor

Each year in either Dubbo or Gilgandra, special Ladies Meetings are held on a Saturday in September. Dubbo was the location this past year with over 70 attending. 'Redeeming the Time' was the theme with *Stella Sloane* as the main speaker. It was an exciting time with both mums and daughters gathering together around God's Word. They were encouraged to take every opportunity to share the Gospel in their communities and to remember how near the Lord's return is.



Last year a Bible study began in Peak Hill under the leadership of *David Cox*. After several women from there attended the Dubbo Ladies Meetings, they put in a request for one to be held in Peak Hill. This was happily organised and there was a really good number in attendance to hear Rose share about the importance of God's Word. She reminded them of how important it is to be in the Word because when you know the truth, you will know error when it comes.

The Bible study in Peak Hill started as a small gathering held in a tiny bed-sitter. The group began growing partly through the faithful witness of Rose's sister *Sharon* who lives there. She has been going around this small country town on her Gopher handing out tracts and Bibles and sharing a word of challenge and encouragement about the Lord with those she meets. She took a short break from this and when she restarted it people were saying how much they had missed her witness and ministry.

With this group growing they needed a bigger venue. God gave them an unexpected surprise and blessing when one of the churches in town offered their facilities. This church was only having a Sunday morning service once a month, but due to the Bible study and faithful witness of the locals, that church now has a service every Sunday morning. What a blessing for everyone!

We thank God for the work He is doing among the people in and around Dubbo and for all who are growing in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. Pray that each one will be a faithful witness for the Lord, and a godly influence among their family, neighbours and community.

Young Lives Matter

Stephen Bignall – Field Director

Reflecting on 2016 in western NSW, one rich vein of ministry for all members has been consistent Gospel interaction with young lives. Both adolescents and teenagers, as well as young adults and parents; there is a consistent ministry to the young.



A Bush Christmas

This was very evident at Gilgandra on Christmas Day, the challenge of the celebration of Jesus birth falling on the anniversary of His resurrection, i.e. Sunday, was discussed across the wider community out our way. How to get the big lunch on, presents open and prepare for family while morning worship beckoned caused no small crisis it seems.

One would have expected many young families to stay away, but *Pastor Henry Louie* had the joy of welcoming over a dozen of his children and grandchildren to the service that Christmas morning. In prayer, praise and preached Word, the Lord Jesus was set before us all as Saviour and King, the greatest and most lasting gift from God the Father.

Seeking to Serve

The dynamic with the young at Dubbo, Wellington and Peak Hill is one of seeking the Saviour and then serving Him openly. There are youthful believers wanting to live in gracious and godly ways to honour their Saviour; several young men eager to study the truth and beginning to teach and preach, testing their gifts.

Brewarrina Bus Service

The young people gathering each week in Brewarrina has steadily increased, ministered to by *Pastor Isaac Gordon* and family, along with a small

but growing group of adult disciples. More transport was needed to bring the kids together and Gilgandra Church was able to donate one of its Hi-Ace buses to that work further west.

Moree Ministry

Paul and Erin, Ruth and Leo Strahan continue to gather and feed young people both in body and soul; Sunday school at the local Christian School and evening services at the home of the Strahan's senior both well attended. Paul and Erin also assist at Walgett and Brewarrina.

A happy addition to the town is *Phil and Fiona Speirs* [TEAM partners] who have now joined the Presbyterian Church with Phil in post as Pastor. Their strong, positive relationship with other AIM workers speaks well for the future, God helping.



Schools partnership

Walgett and Warren have chaplains in school now, and AIM workers teach Scripture in Gilgandra and Gulargambone. Bringing the good news and seeking to live it out graciously supporting young lives. We are strengthened through the prayers and partnership of AIM supporters. Children in Moree and Gulargambone were delighted to receive Christmas gift bags and boxes from West Hoxton Baptist Church, hand delivered by our Chairman and his wife, *John and Rita Keane*.

Prayerful hope

For some time there has been much concern for the missing generations, younger people seemingly without God and without hope. Things may well be changing, small shoots springing up in the wilderness; what we have prayed and hoped for. Time will tell as the Lord unfolds his will in 2017 – brethren pray for us.

Newspots

Katherine Christian Convention

This year will mark the 50th KCC when it is held in Katherine on 6-7th May. The speaker will be *Jude Long* who is principal of Nungalinga College in Darwin.

Congratulations

The AIM family is delighted to offer congratulate *Arthur and Betty Nicolson* as they celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on 14th April. His wisdom and insights on the council are greatly valued, as is his vital role as Prayer Convenor. Betty has always shown great interest in the work and workers of AIM and we are grateful for the support and encouragement she also shares.



We also want to congratulate *Ralph and Valerie Day* from Darwin on their 50th wedding anniversary on 6th May. Pray for them as they have just suffered the tragic and unexpected loss of their daughter *Brenda*. Remember them and their 12 year old granddaughter *Shellbea* as they try and adjust to this loss.



New Worker

AIM welcomes a new helper for a new role. *Joyce Bennett* is a long time family friend of *Stephen and Fiona Bignall* and joins AIM to administer a centralised Child Protection Register for AIM personnel.



After taking early retirement as an anaesthesia nurse, Joyce moved to the Manning District and has been helping with the mail-out of The Aim magazine and prayer notes. She has also attended some of the 'Day in the Word' times in Dubbo and gotten to know some of AIM folk there.

New QR Codes

You can now use the QR codes below to access the monthly Prayer Notes and/or receive this magazine online on your smartphone. Or...you can still use the contact details found on the inside flap to contact AIM to receive these publications!

Sign up to our monthly PRAYER POINTS online:



Sign up to AIM MAGAZINE online:



Illness

Secondary cancer in the lining of the heart has led to *Eugen Freudigmann* being taken off the new cancer treatment. A palliative care team was being put in place at *Ruth's* last writing (early February). The Sunday after receiving this news Eugen gave the morning message as he had been scheduled to do. Thank God for giving him the strength and opportunity to share from God's Word. Please uphold him and Ruth at this time.

Former worker *Merv Pattemore* was receiving palliative care in his home at the time of writing. Please remember him and *Lelean* at this time.



Tennant Tourists

Many tourists from down south make their way up to the Northern Territory and look around places like Tennant Creek. In February *Michael and Jorna Jones* and their grandson *Daniel* from TC were able to turn the tables and be tourists around Sydney with *Stephen Bignall*. They were in Sydney so that Michael could take part in the AIM Council meetings, but were able to enjoy some relaxing time first.



God Squad

Former AIM TEAM Partner *Greg Piper* is now a member of the God Squad Christian motorcycle group. He is the only member in the NT and had to join the Rockhampton Chapter to get his membership. Greg enjoys cruisin' in and out of Katherine on his Harley, and loves it when he is back there to sit under the ministry of the Katherine AIM Church mob, and having their support in his ministry with God Squad.



 Australian Indigenous Ministries

M.A.T.
MISSION AWARENESS TOURS

LOOKING FOR AN ADVENTURE WITH A PURPOSE THIS YEAR —

and a chance to see what God is doing in AIM centres?

Want to see the opportunities in our own backyard and have fellowship with Aboriginal brothers and sisters?

Then join us for a Mission Awareness Tour! Come on!

Tours are being planned for most school holiday times.

Contact us at mat@aimpa.com for more details

Megavoice

A long time coming but worth the effort

by Richard Davies

In the 1980's The Flying Bibleman *Laurie Edwards* provided a copy of the Good News Bible (GNB) on cassettes to *Richard Driver* (pictured on front cover), one of the Tennant Creek church leaders. Richard had recently lost his eyesight so could no longer read the scriptures for himself. *Ron Haddrick*, the Australian actor, read these easy English scriptures clearly and accurately – and with the familiar Aussie accent which helped!

Richard loved these Old and New Testament tapes. This was important for him as he would listen and memorise the scriptures perfectly. He is blessed by having an amazing memory. (This has a funny side as he used to correct me when I made slipups with a reference when preaching – ‘*I think it's verse 5 not 6 Richard*’ he would say.)

With the passing of time, audio cassettes went out of fashion and it became more difficult to buy cassette players. Richard's cassettes had worn out or been borrowed by people. He began gently asking me what could be done about getting CD's or some form of media that would help him listen to the GNB again. Bible Society had released a set of CD's with the GNB New Testament and the Psalms. Unfortunately this was not very useful for Richard as he could not navigate between books, chapters and verses using a CD player.

There was a break-through when we learned that the New Testament and Psalms were available on a mp3 player called 'Megavoice'. This was a God-send as it has a button navigation system so that books of the Bible, chapters and verses could be quickly accessed. Richard was very pleased with this unit and used it to good effect. In time however, he started asking if he could also have the Old Testament as well.

I contacted Bible Society about the masters of the GNB recordings. My idea was to digitise them for distribution to Megavoice then return them. Sadly I was told that the masters were damaged and unusable. An advertisement in *New Life* newspaper resulted in two sets of GNB Old Testament cassettes. These had been used in nursing homes and were in pretty good condition. What an answer to prayer. I duly digitised and gave them to Bible Society.

The great news is that after 2 years of work and many emails to Megavoice Israel and Australia, I have received a box of Megavoice 'Envoys'. I had a bit of a shock as the senders address was from Tiberius, Israel. So, the names are not just on a map!

Richard now has the GNB with selections from the Old Testament and the whole of the New Testament on a Megavoice. He loves it! He had almost stopped preaching as he was struggling to prepare messages, but now says that he is equipped to keep going. This process was a lot of work, but knowing that he is preaching again has made the effort worthwhile. This will be a great blessing to the whole church.

It needs to be said that these units are not just for blind people! While based in Canteen Creek, we were supplying people with mp3 players with the GNB on them. The people would sit around their campfires listening and others would come and join them. These players were limited again by their vulnerability. But the Megavoice files cannot be tampered with, and it also had a solar panel on the back to recharge the batteries. How good is that!

We want to make the Megavoice Envoy available to people for about \$30. This is below cost price – but similar cost of a paper Bible for readers. We are making an appeal for people to help by subsidising each unit by \$10. If anyone feels they can help our Aboriginal people with this, please send donations to Richard Davies, 117 Hovell St. Cootamundra NSW 2590 marked 'for Megavoice Envoys'.

You can learn more about Megavoice: megavoice.com



