

The Aim

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February — April 2014



Report From Cherbourg see page 2



Australian Indigenous Ministries



Report From **cherbourg**

by Christine Moses

Several folk gave their lives to Christ during the Easter Convention in 2013. Seeing the need, I offered follow-up studies to help them keep going and growing. Several others who have been Christians for awhile also began the 20 part series showing the first steps in following Jesus and establishing a solid foundation for the Christian life. These studies also encourage and empower me as I teach, reminding us that the Word of God is always powerful and active and double-edged. Since beginning the studies, some students have given up, while a few have worked hard and are keeping on with them.

Sunday school and **Religious Education** have always been a very important ministry in the life of this church.

We thank God for *Jenny Hart* who was involved with our children for many years. Due to medical reasons she left the Sunday school in the hands of the Pastor last February. I then took up the role as Superintendent. The numbers have grown to 40 at times and it was wonderful to have several helpers that allowed us to have classes for 3 age groups. We also thank God for the 'harvesters' from groups such as YWAM which He has brought from around the world to assist and be an encouragement to us throughout 2013.

Religious Education plays a vital role in keeping our children spiritually and emotionally strong to face difficulties each day. *Ada Simpson* is the key person as the co-ordinator, while I assist in teaching.

We have introduced 'Jesus my Saviour' lessons and have seen great keenness and enjoyment not only from the students but the teachers as well. These are MPA lessons which have been part of our church over many years. These lessons are taught in the RE classes each week— then the same lessons are taught in Sunday school.

Some Highlights Of 2013:

MAY — We hosted a weekend of events to celebrate Mother's Day since we were unable to make it to our AIM Women's Convention in Townsville. Our guest speaker was *Ruth Hegarty*. We were thankful to *Mrs Lesley Power* and *Mrs Lolou Rabai* of the AIM Women's Convention who released us to share the glory of God with our womenfolk and teenagers of Cherbourg at this time.

JULY — Since the strength and willingness of children to bless our community through Christian dancing and the support of the parents has been overwhelming, we decided to call for a concert for the school holidays. We had Libscombe University Mission Team USA to support our children at this time. It was awesome and glorious as the community Hall was filled to capacity with families.

AUGUST — Another 15 young people from PNG arrived to support us with our youth work. Due to the demand of parents and children, another concert eventuated at the Cherbourg sporting complex which again drew a crowd to witness our children dance and the visitors dramatizing strong Christian messages especially to teens.

SEPTEMBER — *Aunty Ada Simpson* and *Sister Alzira Conlon* were invited to Regents Christian College NSW for the farewell of *Mr. Ed O'Toole*. He had been instrumental in organising 7 years of outreach to Cherbourg by the college every April school holidays.

OCTOBER — We decided to cancel the Sept-Oct school holiday programs to relieve the people behind the scenes in the ministry and also encouraged children to spend quality time with their parents. The normal programs of the church continued.

NOVEMBER — The Friday night youth work and Sunday outreach began and have continued on with the demand and request of unchurched homes and parents. A group of twenty persons, mainly teenagers, arrived from Community Christian Fellowship Church in Auckland NZ to support us in the ministry for two weeks. Again like all mission teams, they were an encouragement and enhancement to our church.

DECEMBER — Because of the strong force of teens from the New Zealand church, our programs continued on to the school holidays with spiritual responses made by a number of teens. We had just set the environment whilst God sent his workers to throw seeds of eternity. A Christmas concert was held in the State School grounds with an attendance of 200 persons both teens and parents and again the visiting Evangelist gave a powerful word and response was made especially by teens.

Our daughter *Retta* who has been instrumental in the Youth Ministry here has now gone for further training with YWAM in Townsville. She will be there until July. Please pray for her — and for the ongoing ministry to youth in this area.

Palm Island

praise & prayer

from Pastor Emmanuel Fave

Ministry Highlights For 2013

- Significant increase in Church attendance each month averaging 40
- Increase of men in attendance each month
- Church tithes and offerings also increased this past year
- School Holiday programs for children with YWAM teams
- Hosting the AIM Queensland Women's Convention in Townsville
- Positive impact in the community from visiting mission teams
- Started monthly Family Sunday Lunch- serving the elders of the church and community
- Fewer funeral services conducted this year compared to previous years

Personal Highlights

- Visit from our older daughter, husband and two grandsons (July early September)
- Our son Ronald & family moved to Townsville after helping for two years
- Our daughter Vaina shifted to Townsville in search of work
- Our youngest daughter Grace continues her mission work with YWAM, Townsville
- The birth of our newest grandson in Lae, PNG
- Provision of a car in September — we thank God for meeting this need

Prayer Needs

- Pray specifically for Christian family values to be re-established
- Continue to pray for spiritual breakthrough in the community
- Pray for a Church van needed to assist with the work
- Pray for more youth volunteers for the work
- Pray for good health and strength for Agnes and I



Agnes and Emmanuel Fave



Monthly Church lunch



visiting ministry team

alley's 2013 Year In Review

by Jenni Alley

Summing up an entire year in one sitting is no easy task, as many of you who attempt the annual Christmas letter will appreciate! We think that overall, we can sum up 2013 with this: it was a time of personal challenge, growth, joy and prayer that God was glorified in some way through it all!

There have been big moments such as moving to Taree and all that goes along with that (including the joy of being closer to *Nanny & Pop*) — Jenni re-entering the Nursing workforce after nearly 5 years away — a rebuild of our 4WD car after the engine blew up — 3 weeks of work on our house in Newcastle (with God-given help!) — the purchase of a big new red bus called an OKA for our Mission Awareness Tours — and *Katie* beginning preschool for the first time. There were little moments along the way such as *Miriam* turning 5 in April, *Katie* 3 in January (now just turned 4), and *Isaac* turning 2 in August — and

normal day to day living associated with our work and our family: the challenges that draw us back to the importance of putting God first in everything and joyfully trusting his purposes in all things.

As many of you are aware, our main 'hat' within AIM is the running of the Mission Awareness Tours. One of these tours for 2013 was primarily with families and it was thus a blessing to all go together. We enjoyed getting to know the team on this tour and catch up with the AIM mob around the country. Another tour was a group from Caringbah Baptist Church that were travelling for a second year with the purpose of building up a long-term partnership with the Borroloola mob. It has been a real joy to see this come to fruition as this style of tour has been a long-standing vision. We pray it can continue in a positive way for years to come.

Along with this main role, Rob has been part of the AIM Council; Jenni has been working in the AIM office; we have both attended the ReachOut Conference and National Training Event as Mission Representatives; and have carried on being part of things in AIM wherever we can.

Another main event for 2013, was the privilege of living and working in Camooweal for 7 weeks from October-November while *Jono & Grace Wright* were away down south. Even though we have been visiting Camooweal for many years now, it has only ever been for very short visits. It was really special to sit with the mob in Camooweal and get a bit more of a feel for the ministry there. We were able to be part of the church service, Bible study, RE at the school and some nursing work at the local clinic for me. It was eye-opening to live for a longer period in this climate and environment: no rain and whilst we were there, 40+ degrees every day.

Whilst at the ReachOut Reps Retreat earlier in 2013, the director of Pioneers, *Simon Longden*, expounded the beginning of Psalm 63 encouraging us as workers to desire first for the Lord. It reminds us of Camooweal: 'O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you, in a dry and weary land where there is no water.' **We pray that as the land thirsts for water in Camooweal, souls will thirst for the Lord.** As it says later in this Psalm: 'Your love is better than life... My soul will be satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you.' **Please pray for the faithful Christians who**





Isaac



Katie



Miriam



Miriam having mud fun in Camooweal.

continue to meet; and pray for a revival in the hearts of the people in this town that will lead to satisfied souls! Pray too for Jono & Grace as they minister there.

So here we are headed in to a New Year. We will, no doubt have big things happening. One of these things is a self-imposed role! Since 2011, we have been developing a training program in partnership with Ministry Training Strategy's (MTS) director, *Ben Pfahlert*. Our desire is to address the need for holistic mission training for the individual, but also something that impacts the need for churches to engage in global mission on a level that recognises that God's mission is central to who we are as followers of Jesus. We are now piloting a two year apprenticeship program with AIM and MTS in 2014-2015. Our apprentice is *Ellyn Rowe* from Central Coast EV Church. **See www.mts.com.au/donate-to-apprentice/d/2377608** if you are interested in supporting Ellyn or contact us to find out more.



Other 'big things' will be — getting our new OKA bus ready to travel for a tour in April — more Mission Awareness Tours — Rob taking on a new role of Member Care of workers in the top end of the Northern Territory — Miriam starting school for the first time — and who knows what else? We will, no doubt, have plenty of small things happening too. It is wonderful to have the assurance that Jesus remains the same 'yesterday and today and forever' (Heb 13:8) and that we can rest in His purpose and plan, no matter what comes to pass.



Rob with the new OKA bus

alice

In The Alice



Alice with her parents

Having graduated from a bachelor of medicine and bachelor of surgery degree, new TEAM Partner Alice Schroers from Catherine Field NSW is now in Alice Springs to begin work in the hospital emergency department. During her medical degree she also did a year of Ministry Training Strategy through the Australian Fellowship of Evangelical Students. While a student she was a part of the AFES and benefited greatly from their Bible-based teaching and one to one discipleship. She is currently a member of the Christian Medical and Dental Fellowship of Australia, and has just started a part time diploma of divinity at Sydney Missionary and Bible College.

Alice has wanted to work as a medical missionary in Africa from the age of 15 when she first read the Jungle Doctor books by Paul White. She was 'captured by how he was able to holistically provide care to his patients. He not only treated their physical ailments but also pointed out their spiritual needs. He used medical analogies to not only explain the physical disease to the patient, but also the spiritual disease of sin. By his work he pointed to the even greater need of the Great Physician, the one who heals us truly and offers us eternal life.'

So why Alice Springs?

'Rob and Jenni Alley had been talking to me and supporting me throughout the last few years of my medical degree and helped me to see how it could be used for God's glory in a rural/remote place. I had a few options but I chose Alice Springs as my first preference because they thought it best for me to spend my time ministering there throughout my training as a doctor. I praise God that at least 6 of the 15 interns starting in Alice this year claim to be Christians!

Alice Springs should be a good training ground for further work in remote places (perhaps one day in remote parts of Africa). I can't imagine doing medicine without the ministry because it's all about Jesus. I can't do my job without His work of bringing healing to a broken world.

Please pray for my spiritual growth and reliance on Jesus throughout the stress of work at the hospital, and that I would be a true light in a dark place!

qcc

Report

by Lesley Power

The Church Council meeting held in Brisbane was blessed by GOD. Prayer changes things. Thanks to all who prayed for these meetings. God is always looking forward. He is ready to assist us as we take the challenges of a new day and a new year. God is always about fresh starts — 'His mercies are new every morning' Lamentations 3:22-23.

Chairman *Pastor Apenisa Rabai* welcomed us on Friday night with a challenge to look forward. He said not to let the past eat up the future — to be an eagle and soar above the circumstances — have keen eyes, praying for understanding of scripture, praying and waiting on God to renew strength.

On Saturday morning *Bill Power* presented a paper titled — Mission or Church by *Howard Miles*. This was a challenge to all. It was a good reminder to church pastors and leaders that if you have a problem to think and contact the Chairman of Church Council first.



This year we are celebrating 30 years of the Church Council. Meetings will be held in Townsville in June. Pray that all Qld Churches will work together for this celebration.

Pastor Emmanuel Fave of Palm Island is the QCC Bible Teacher and he will travel to Qld Churches to offer studies.

Officers for 2014 are:

- Chairman: Pastor Apenisa Rabai
- Vice Chair: Lesley Power
- Secretary: Jandalyn Mitchell
- Treasurer: David Chambers
- Youth Co-ordinator: Billie of Inala Church
- Men's Co-ordinators: Pastor Emmanuel Fave and David Chambers
- Women's Co-ordinators: Lesley Power and Lolou Rabai

newspots



Update From Cliff Letcher

During a visit to the Bone Marrow Transplant Clinic in mid-January, we were able to see the Professor in charge of the team. He indicated that while they cannot give cast iron guarantees he believes that the Leukaemia has been defeated. However, Sue has a low immune system which was destroyed a year earlier with the chemotherapy. The transplant should have restored the immune system and it has not yet done so. She also has chronic graft vs host disease which is responsible for a number of symptoms such as the low liver function and the depletion of the platelets. The difficulty is that to increase the treatment for the graft vs host would further deplete the immune system so he does not want to change any treatment for the time being.

Sue has also been troubled by increased pain in the sinus area where she had the fungal infection about 18 months ago with surgery as part of the treatment. Her local GP is endeavouring to find suitable medication that will relieve the pain but not leave her feeling groggy. Your prayers for these issues are greatly appreciated.

We have been reading the Gospel of Luke together and are up to the crucifixion. It is a stark reminder of the suffering involved in our salvation. It also helps us recognise that part of the answer to the question, 'How can a good God allow suffering in the world?' is found in the fact that God the Son entered into our suffering. In other words, God is not in isolation from our suffering. This has been an encouragement to us and we trust it will be for you also.

Recovering

In November *Ruth Freudigmann* had major surgery in Adelaide. We thank God that the surgery went well and was not as big as the doctors thought it would be. After a long 8 weeks of recovery which included fatigue, nausea and pain she is now feeling well. Please continue to pray for Ruth and *Eugen*.

Sympathy

The sympathy of the AIM family is extended to *Debbie Piper* (Katherine NT) following her father's death late last year.

Sympathy is also extended to *Eugen Freudigmann* on the loss of his mother in mid-December.

Homecall

Cherbourg lost another long standing member in November with the homecall of *Annie Moffatt*. Despite being very ill, she had attended the Mother's Day meetings in Cherbourg where the Lord gave her strength to testify and to bless all those there by raising her voice in song. She and her singing talent used for the Lord will be missed. Please remember her family and the Cherbourg church in their loss.

Anniversary And Travels

Congratulations to *Phil and Cathy Stuart* who celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary on the 15th January. On the 21st they and *Joshua* were setting off for 5 weeks of trekking in Europe. Please pray for safety and refreshing for them during this time.

Do YOU want to experience a Mission Awareness Tour in 2014?

We will take you through NSW, QLD and the NT and show you what God is doing in and through the Indigenous people of Australia!

Dates: 11th-26th April, 2014

NB: There will also be a commitment to a training day prior to the trip on the 29th March and a Debrief Day subsequently on the 24th May.

Cost: \$1600 per person

Please email us back to express your interest: mat@aimpa.com

60 Years Ago...

borrooloola's 1st school

'**W**e want our children to learn to read and write' was the request of the Borrooloola people not long after Merv and Lelean Pattemore arrived as the first resident missionaries in 1953. They too had the desire that the children — and adults — would learn so they could read God's precious Word for themselves!

So, when their small house was built (9.75 x 6.09 metres), one 3.04 x 3.65 mt. room was set aside for conducting school. Merv used bush timber and weathered masonite to make desks and tables. A tea chest was dismantled, slated and hung to provide 4 small blackboards for the new school. Smaller boards were also slated for the students.

The government was not offering education there in those days. Merv had written to authorities requesting some school curriculum. He had hoped to facilitate the students so they could then fit in at cattle station schools should they move there later with their families. *'You'll get no help from us'* was the reply seemingly because he was not a 'qualified' teacher.

Using materials obtained from the South Australian curriculum, classes began at the end of January 1954 with 20 children attending. They ranged in age from 6 to 16. The parents came down for the first couple of days to see just what would be going on at this new thing called 'school'! It obviously met with their approval as they saw to it that the children attended faithfully each day whatever the weather.

Shortly after the school had commenced a class was started for adults. Several classes per week were held in order to try and accommodate all the adults who were interested.

The Pattemores soon found that the children were struggling to concentrate and learn midway through a week. They eventually realised that the problem was hunger. Despite the fact that supplies only came in a maximum of 3 times each year, they got out their own supply of wheat to be ground up for porridge. Wonderfully, Merv had found an old coffee grinder one time at the dump. He bolted it to the back of his vehicle and the children took delight in helping with the grinding for their own porridge.

The parents happily provided the pannikins which they cleverly created from the dripping tins that came in their rations. Pattemores had enough spoons to go around, and soon the students were doing well on a full stomach! The children were taught to wash their utensils and then hang them on the nails that were put on the 'pannikin post' out the back.

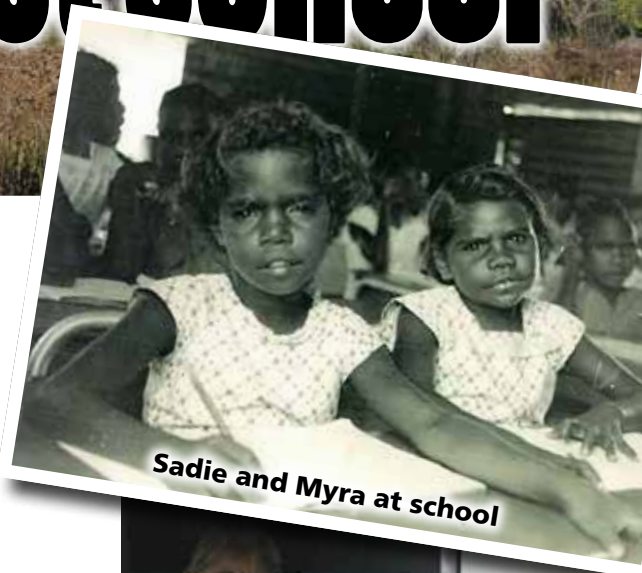
At the end of the first term Merv reported the following: *'One lad is half-way through the first reading primer (from South Australia). As yet we only have half day of school and have been holding it for 10 weeks. Starting from scratch and with a very limited knowledge of English, here is yet another example of what these folk can do if given a chance.'*

By the end of that first year of schooling, the following was reported: *'The children have done exceptionally well. Six have finished the first Adelaide reader — one of these has finished the 2nd reader — whilst two of them are well into the 2nd reader. The school has filled a long-felt need of the people who are most appreciative of this part of our work.'*

At the Christmas gathering at the end of that first year, one of the students gave a reading. A station manager was watching from a distance and was greatly impressed with this achievement — so much so that a sizeable gift was given to help buy books in the new year.

With this new ability to read (and also to write) it had soon become possible for Bibles and hymn books to be used in Church meetings. The school was proving a wonderful asset to the people, the community, and in aiding in the goal of building a strong and faithful Church among the people of Borrooloola.

to be cont'd next issue...



Sadie and Myra at school



Myra and Mr Pattemore in 2013



Our God is Able

Partnership support with: Australian Indigenous Ministries

Our God is Able

General Director

Trevor (and Pamela) Leggott

Office Secretary

Jenni (and Robert) Alley

Field Director

Stephen (and Fiona) Bignall

AIM Office

PO Box 126 Taree NSW 2430
Phone 02 4754 3833
Email aim@aimpa.com
www.aimpa.com

AIM Representatives

- NT Richard & Sue Davies
VIC Merv and Elizabeth Topp
WA Ian & Elaine Lindsay

The Aim Editor

Rhonda Coats
PO Box 40555 Casuarina NT 0811

Assistant Editor

Grace Wright
Camooweal Qld 4828

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