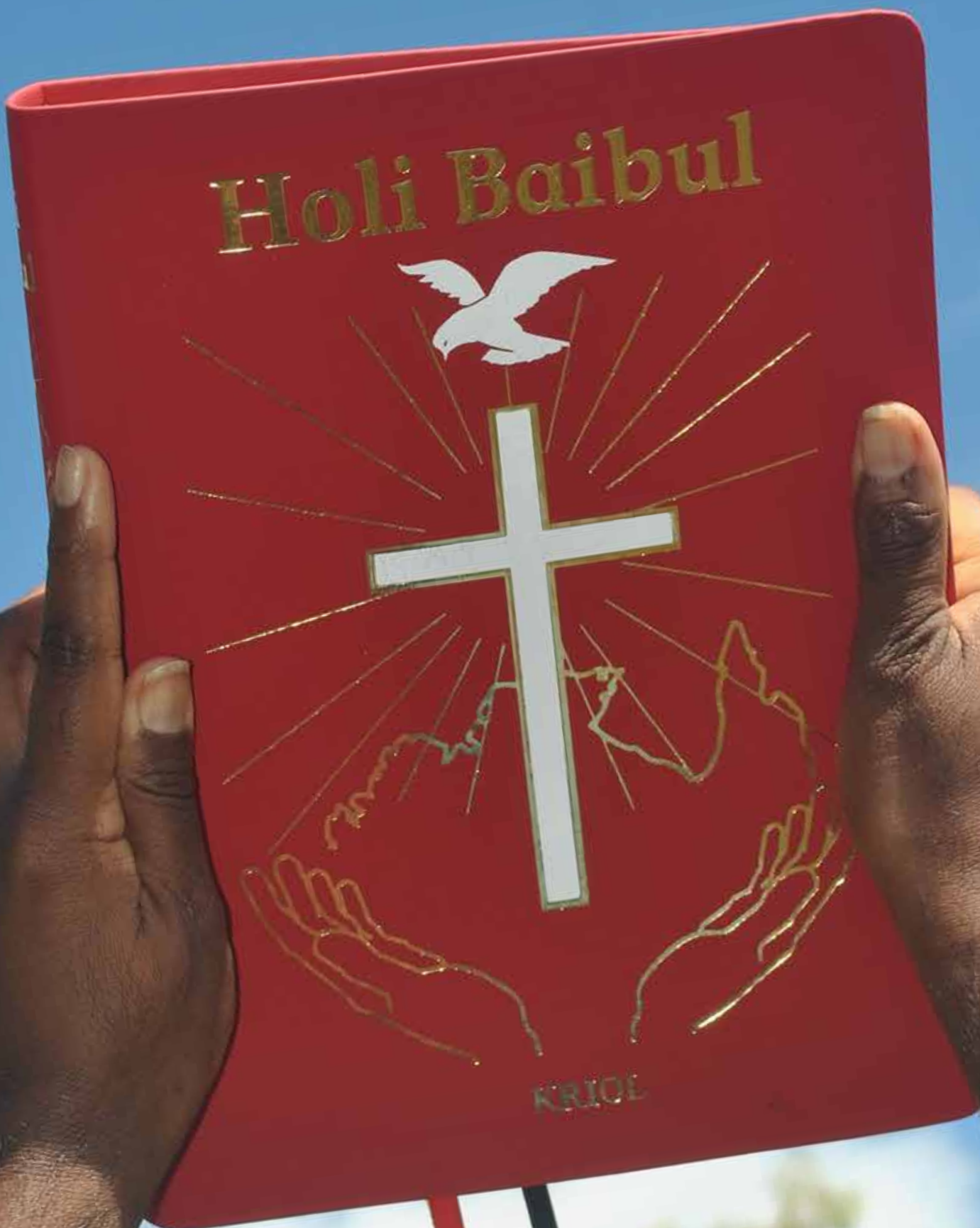


June – August 2019



AUSTRALIAN INDIGENOUS MINISTRIES

Planting – Partnering – Participating





Tennant Creek group

KCC 2019

Travelling, gathering, singing, sharing, fellowship, encouragement... sounds like a convention to me! And travel and gather they did from all over the NT. There were even some Aboriginal people from South Australia who came for the May 4-5th Katherine Christian Convention themed 'Walking in the Light'.

Late season rains caused some flooding which stopped a group of 85 from getting to Katherine. But with a count of over 800 in attendance, the large group of Aboriginal, European, and few other nationalities joining in, it made KCC a great lighthouse of God's love and family. It really is quite a unique convention.

One of the usual features are the items from communities and individuals both evenings after the main meeting. There have been some interesting changes over the years. Some time ago there was mainly acoustic guitars used. Then the electronic keyboards became popular. It takes awhile to get them set up for each song but not quite as long as tuning the guitars in the past! The music has gone from a strong country and western style to often the more modern worship songs and choruses now. Whatever style, it is always good to hear the songs sung in the different Aboriginal languages.

Items of expressive dance to the Christian music are being used more and more. Some are learning them from the internet and Youtube. And now at the Convention all they have to do is plug in their mobile

phones and play the music through the sound system. Great to see them embracing technology! At first it was mainly children doing the 'action songs', then adult groups and a few individuals started sharing in this way. It was really encouraging to see a couple of teenage groups giving items this year — and even a couple of young fellows did solo dance items.

The Kriol Baibul has been revised and reprinted since the original one sold out in 2017. A large group had worked with SIL translator *Margaret Mickan* on the project. They joined together on the stage and thanked God during a special dedication service on the Saturday night. The map outline on the Bible cover shows the vast area where the language is used today (see photo on front page). **Pray that God will use it to strengthen His Church in these areas and help them to daily be walking in the light.**



To The Work!

by John Keane — AIM Council Chairman

I was reading through the story of Dorcas in Acts 9:39, how, after she died, *'All the widows stood around Peter, crying and showing him the robes and other clothes that Dorcas had made while she was still with them.'*

The 'robes and other clothes' were an outward visible expression of this lady's love for Jesus as she ministered to needy people in demonstrating the love of Jesus for them.

I have been to two Memorial Services in past weeks, a man and a lady, both at Nowra, both resided in the same nursing home, and both retired missionaries to the Aboriginal people.

The man was *Howard Miles* and among things on display was his draftsman's T-square, for Howard was a designer, builder and repairer of AIM churches and mission houses. Also on display was his box of chalks, and I well remembered watching in awe as he sketched to illustrate his sermons or tell us about the latest MPA project.

The lady was *Mavis Granfield*. She was a UAM missionary at Burnt Bridge, near Kempsey, and at MPA. Among things on display were her prayer cards held together with a big bulldog clip. She was a 'prayer warrior' and she used these cards to pray for different ministries and people on a daily basis.

Like Dorcas, Howard and Mavis left behind special personal possessions that spoke of their ministry for the Lord.

I wondered what could be displayed to tell something about our ministry for the Lord. Of course, it may be something that couldn't be easily displayed — like kindness, compassion, a listening ear, a readiness to show our love for Jesus by ministering to the needs of others in some other way.

Our roles and ministry involvement may change from time to time or from season to season, but we are all called to faithfully live a life of service for Jesus to others. Each of us has gifts that God has given us. Let us use them for His glory and to bless the lives of others.

How can you be part of the ministry of AIM? By praying, giving, by your interest and by going. Ask us how you can be involved in the rewarding work of AIM to the indigenous people of our land.

An old hymn written by *Fanny Crosby* says:

*To the work! To the work! We are servants of God;
Let us follow the path that our Master has trod;
With the balm of His counsel our strength to renew,
Let us do with our might what our hands find to do.*

*To the work! To the work! Let the hungry be fed;
To the fountain of life let the weary be led;
In the cross and its banner our glory shall be,
While we herald the tidings, "Salvation is free!"*

Ecclesiastes 9:10 tells us: *Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might.*

And in 1 Corinthians 15:58 we find this challenge: *So, my dear brothers and sisters be strong and immovable. Always work enthusiastically for the Lord, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless.*



Katherine group

Remembering Howard Miles

14-4-1930 to 10-4-2019

Some things are difficult to imagine...like *Howard Miles* having a bad temper. But he did before he became a Christian — and it was the Lord's victory over it that was a main influence in his father becoming a Christian.

Over the years he and his late wife *Evelyn* did endless deputation meetings both in Australia and USA, and he often preached and taught. It is hard to imagine that in his younger years Howard had suffered from a stuttering problem.

And imagine ... that the student who twice failed English expression (writing essays) would be the man God used to write Sunday school lessons (still used today) and head up a Christian literature ministry not just throughout Australia, but around the world!

For 43 years Howard served with AIM. Even after retirement he was keenly interested though never intrusive in the ongoing ministry, and always faithful in his prayers and support of the work and workers.

He had a true missionary heart — always serving and always longing to see people, particularly the Aboriginal people, come to faith in Christ and then have the tools to help them grow and develop their leadership abilities.

During his time with AIM Howard wore many 'hats'. His ministry began with being a lecturer at Singleton Bible Institute. Teaching was one of his great loves. But when other tasks needed to be done and he could lend a hand to it, he unselfishly stepped into the role.

For 30 years he served as manager of MPA. Former worker *Esther Mackintosh* recalls: *If he was made aware of a problem he noted it down. Then when possible he dealt with it straightaway, otherwise ASAP. He didn't procrastinate.*

He had an uncanny knack of going into the printshop and immediately seeing anything not being collated correctly or being printed wrongly.

He was very helpful in suggesting improvements to one's written articles but he didn't always take kindly



to anyone criticising his own! However he was always ready to accept suggestions of new projects if it would help Christians and churches in their ministry.

His greatest joy was in hearing that someone had been helped or brought to know Christ through a piece of MPA literature. He was a missionary through and through with a far-reaching ministry.

A real asset to the mission was his previous training and experience as a draftsman. He spent countless hours drawing up plans for churches and mission houses. Whenever possible, he was more than willing to give 'hands on' help in erecting the new buildings or repairing the old ones as well.

He was very practical and used this to express his care and concern. For example, once when visiting workers he noticed the wife trying to cook on a very old stove. He immediately organised for an efficient replacement. He would often check up on how many kms workers had travelled in our vehicles and how old the car was. *'It might be time you got a new one'* he would say, and then try and help make that happen.

As news of Howard's passing was shared around the field, numerous people — especially the Aboriginal Christians — immediately commented on his chalk drawings. They shared about how clever they were and how much they helped them understand and remember the teaching he gave.

His gifts of administration were not only used at MPA. For many years he served on the Council of AIM. He filled the then position of Vice-President for many years, and reluctantly accepted the role of President for a time.

He was excellent at chairing meetings — getting straight to the heart of a matter or helping people keep to the point. He was willing to bear the brunt of difficult Council decisions.

Former longstanding Chairman of the Queensland Church Council *Bill Power* shares: *Brother Howard wrote and taught from the booklet 'Mission or Church' so that we could understand the structure of the mission. In the booklet he wrote, 'Recent moves to establish the AIM Church Council in the Eastern state are a step in the right direction. The churches should group together and work together. But whatever they do, it should be their own programme revealed by the Lord Himself.'*

Brother Howard has helped me personally in all Mission and Church administration. I prayed for my brother daily. I will always remember him as a very wise, understanding, devoted and precious gift from God to our AIM organisation, and especially to our QLD Church Council.

Hardworking, kind, generous, humble, decisive, multi-talented, willing to do whatever needed to be done, a man of faith and vision, true to God's Word in his life and writings — these are but some of the qualities seen in the life of Howard Miles.

His contribution to the Lord's work through AIM and through literature cannot be measured.

He was a wonderful example of a life dedicated to his Lord and Saviour. ***'Well done, good and faithful servant.'***



Newspots

Death

This time last year we had an article celebrating the 100th birthday of *Harry Kleinschmidt*. At that time we also shared some of the contributions he made during his years of ministry with AIM.



We now extend the sympathy of the AIM family to his wife *Audrey* and family, having received the news that he went to be with the Lord on 15th March.



Elliott Update

Michael (and Jorna) Jones shared: As we thought and prayed for a long time, on the 12th February 2018 we felt God lay upon our hearts Elliott Community. We arrived in Elliott, power was cut off after wild storm hit power line somewhere. Temperature was almost 42c so we slept and cooked outside until power was fixed up for that house. Jorna and I trusted our God and our Saviour. He will provide — Philippians 4:19.

Although often called back to Tennant Creek, they are trying to spend most of their time ministering in Elliott and just out of Newcastle Waters in Marlinja. *Raymond and Thelma Dixon* live in Marlinja and are enjoying the fellowship and encouragement from Michael's help. Pray that they will grow in faith and in sharing in the ministry.

Elliott has housing known as North and South Camp. Michael holds a weekly camp meeting in each one, with different families making their place available for the meeting. *Harold and Kaye Dalywater* live in South Camp. Through the ministry and counsel of

Michael, he has been slowly getting back on track with Jesus. Pray for a growing dependence on the Lord for both Harold and Kaye.

Michael enjoyed having family and friends from Tennant Creek join them for Easter meetings. He gave the messages, God worked in hearts, and 5 people gave their lives to Jesus. Pray for Michael as he follows them up with teaching and support to help them get strong in their faith.

Filling the Gap

There have been some moves for *Alice Schroers*. She has moved from working in the hospital and is now working as a GP registrar with the town. Medical studies and exams have continued for her this term.

She is currently 'filling the gap' at The Gap! The mission has a property in this area which had been vacant for some time. Knowing AIM was been seeking a tenant, Alice and two of her friends volunteered. She says, *'I am hoping to reach out into The Gap. The AIM house is strategically placed in an historically difficult part of town. Pray for wisdom in how best to manage potential security risks with our location while seeking for the house to be a place of peace for us and our community.'*

Alice currently is helping out at Shockwave — a fortnightly group at the Baptist Church that is reaching out to Indigenous youth. She also continues to be involved in the Tuesday lunchtime 'Pray for Indigenous Ministry in Central Australia' meeting.



Health

Former AIM worker *Norm Wall* has just completed a series of radiotherapy, and continues on a course of 3 monthly injections for cancer. They are thankful for those who have been praying for them. Please pray that God might allow the treatments to have their full effect, and that God will be the strength both he and *Lola* need each day.



Tennant Creek

Peter and Karen Dixon are pleased to report that the Warumungu Bible Translation team is now working on The Easter story whilst they also keep going on with the community checking of the draft Christmas story.

In a new development, Karen is helping the church ladies to deliver the Sunday school lessons as part of the main Sunday morning church services. Continue to pray for her in her full-time work of teaching at the local primary school.

Peter has joined the Volunteer Program to listen to students read at the High School. He has been able to program four mornings a week to do that.

In early April he found it worthwhile to attend a Language and the Law Conference in Alice Springs where he enjoyed fellowship with David Blackman who oversees the Warumungu Bible project.

Peter was blessed to accept the church leaders request to share some Bible teaching on Church Leadership with them and others during the school holiday week before Easter.

Over the Easter weekend Church folk had the choice of four places to be. Some went to Amplitawatja where there are Alyawarr speakers, some to Willowra where there are Warlpiri speakers, and some went to Elliott for conventions. They all returned with strong reports of people who made commitments to Jesus. The Dixons stayed in town to be with the 'remnant' and on Good Friday watched the appropriate parts of the Kriol Jesus film. On Sunday there was a big mob, including a Barkly Work Camp group who came along and heard Richard Driver share a powerful exposition of 2 Corinthians 5:14-21.

Canteen Creek

During their pilgrimage to Canteen Creek in April, Richard and Sue Davies had a number of planned stops. One was the opportunity to share at the Mt Tamborine Easter Convention where the people were excited to hear about what Michael and Jorna Jones are doing. One can only imagine the talking, laughter, and perhaps even a misty eye or two as they met in Brisbane with Ruth Freudigman and Elizabeth Ham, both former workers in Tennant Creek.

There was a slight delay to their travels due to heavy rains in the Mitchell area, but they enjoyed the time of rest in readiness for the long journey onto the NT and Canteen Creek.

They were welcomed into the community by waves from people who were outside their homes, the braying of donkeys and legions of mosquitoes. Estelle Mick and her husband Harry had worked long and hard to get the house ready for them. That was a real blessing, as was finding most of the furniture still inside which they had scrounged last year and now having a fridge and washing machine.

Sadly one of the translation checkers has moved to Alice Springs but they hope to see her in June. And with royalty money recently received it means a lot of people are currently out of the community.

Pray for good opportunities to encourage the people during the Davies four month visit. Pray too for Richard. In mid-May he was suffering back and hip pain and had to travel into Tennant Creek. He was given some measure of help at the hospital before returning to the community, but was still limited by pain at the time of writing.



Ruth, Elizabeth and the Davies

Reaching Out from Gil

Henry and Maria Louie from Gilgandra usually make the 400km round trip to Pilliga twice a week. It all started several years ago when they held a Kid's Club there during the School holidays. Henry hoped they would get a hunger for God's word, and then start attending a local Sunday school.

They visited homes around the area before the club, and followed up afterwards. Interest saw the visits continue, adults started to get interested, and eventually a local church which is only periodically serviced in the parish was made available to them for Sunday meetings. Some people have become Christians and been baptised. Now Henry and Maria also visit once during the week to help build them up through Bible study.

Outreach through Kid's Clubs have also been held during the holidays at Gulargumbone, Coonabarabran and a small place between there and Pilliga called Baradine. He has enjoyed the help and support of church groups from Sydney and the Hunter region for these programs. Some of the people in these places now want cottage meetings but so far they are doing one on one visiting when they can.

Henry is still the leader at the Gilgandra AIM Church. He takes his turn on the preaching roster, does some RI in the school, and has a Bible study. He is also on the AIM Council and tries to make the monthly trip to Sydney for the meetings. He is grateful for the support of those in the church like *Kathy Bird and Phyllis Morgan* who fill in at things like RI when he is away. Please keep praying for good unity here that will help draw others into God's Kingdom.



Being on the local Ministers Fraternal gives Henry a lot of encouragement. He really enjoys working in together with the other churches during the year. They continue to have a week of prayer in June where a combined meeting for prayer is held in each participating church during the week. Pray that this working together and mutual respect shown will have a positive impact on those in the community who are not yet believers.

Last year Henry had a trip to New Zealand. He very much enjoyed meeting people over there and attending some classes at a small Bible College in Auckland. Mid-June will see him off to Britain for several weeks. He will be joining former Field Director *Stephen Bignall* who had many years of ministry in the UK. **Pray that it will be a positive and helpful time for Henry, and ask God to care for Maria and Josh while he is away.**



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