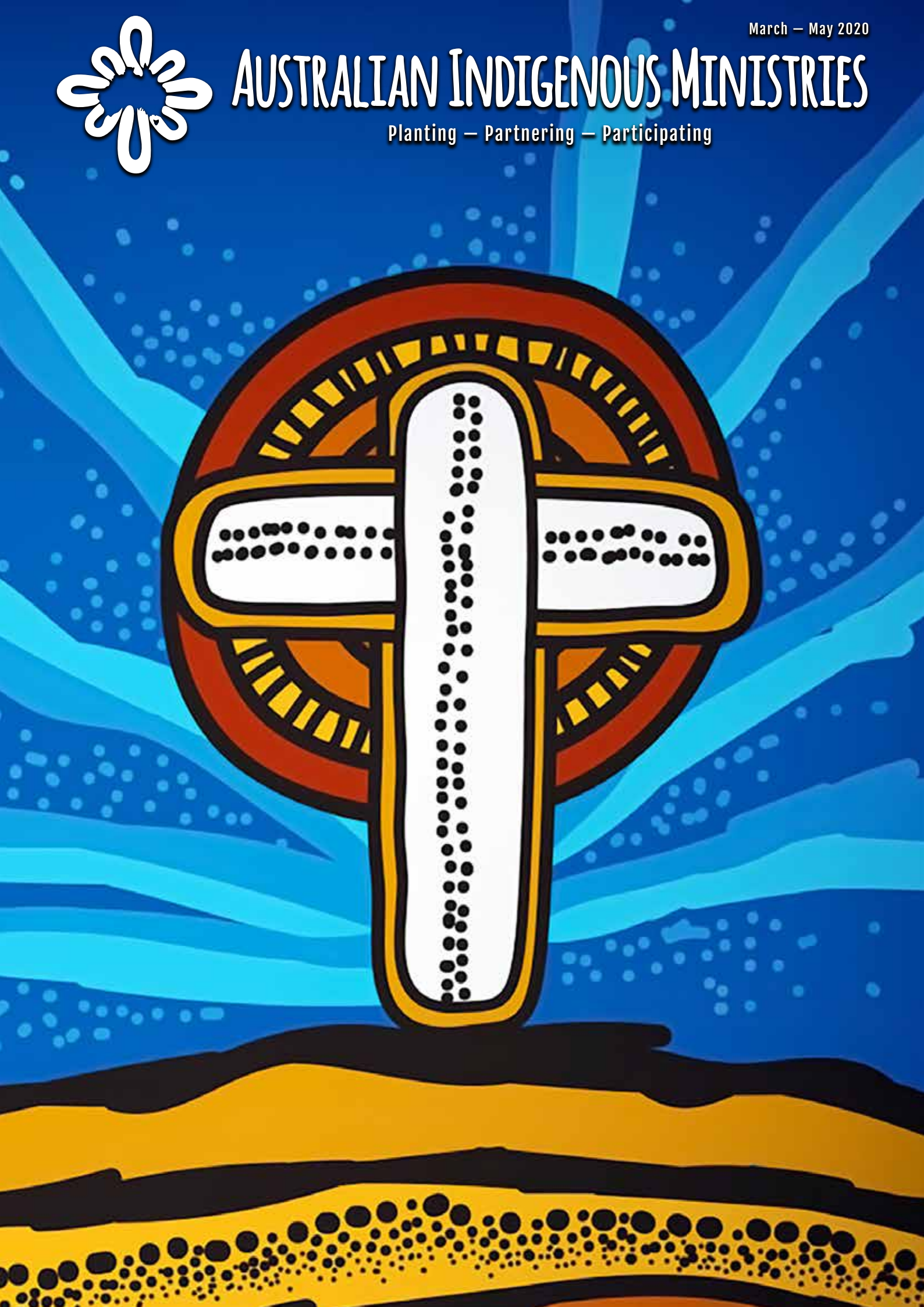




March — May 2020

AUSTRALIAN INDIGENOUS MINISTRIES

Planting — Partnering — Participating



God's steadfast love

by Jono Wright

I found the word love a difficult one to describe during our early days in Camooweal. It can have so many different meanings and sometimes none of them are all that clear. Couple this with the fact that many desert Indigenous languages don't have abstract nouns and you are faced with further complications. It means the word love is often used for things that are inaccurate, unhelpful and confuses the true meaning even more.

What comes to your mind when you think about the meaning of the word love? Sadly lots of people think of love simply as a feeling, but feelings come and go all the time! How many marriages do you know of where people say they have lost that feeling? But true love, God's love, is different. God's love is everlasting, it is steadfast (unwavering, immovable, fixed in place), something we can depend on even when everything else in life falls apart.

The writer of Psalm 33 starts off on a high note pointing to the need to praise God and honour Him in a variety of ways and closing off the section with the words

"The earth is full of the steadfast love of the LORD".

This love of God is steadfast and it fills the earth. The psalmist goes on to talk about God's wonderful acts of creating everything and His sovereign power over all creation and even the actions of man.

All the governments of the world, all the plans of the people, all the actions of man are all in the hands of God. Some people find it difficult to accept that God is in control of all that, but the psalmist is clear, he lays it out straight for us.

What a comfort it is to know that God is in control and that whatever we see happening around us we can know that our Father has got that situation in His hands. Because ***'the eye of the Lord is on those who fear Him, on those who hope in his steadfast love'.***

God has set His love on us in a special way. We are His people and need to remember that. He has a special focus on those who trust in Him. His love is a commitment to us. God is intentionally watching us. He is watching and is ready to act. His love for us never fails.

No matter where we find ourselves, God's eye is on those who fear Him and hope in His steadfast love. This is true even for those who have just lost everything in the horrific summer bushfires or the floods, whether your country is plagued with drought or crushed by the abuses of men. God's eye is on you and you can trust in Him.

"That He may deliver their soul from death and keep them alive in famine".

Of course this verse is ultimately fulfilled in what God has done for us in sending Jesus His only Son to die on the cross for our sins, and to rise again three days later all for the salvation of our souls. It is only through Jesus that we can truly be saved from death.

I began to realise afresh in Camooweal that God's love is His actions towards us, His people.

He shows us His love by the way He treats us and the things He does in our lives to make us more like Jesus. He keeps His eye on us because He loves us.

God's love is much, much more than a feeling, it is the way He treats us and it is wonderful. Can you say with the writer ***'Our souls waits for the Lord, he is our help and our shield. For our heart is glad in Him, because we trust in His holy name. Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us, even as we hope in you.'?***

What an awesome God we have!



AIM is seeking a new General — Director

(A full-time position based in Sydney)

We are an evangelical mission organisation who has partnered and participated in Gospel ministry with the Aboriginal people of Australia for the past 114 years.

We are seeking to appoint a mature Christian leader as the General Director. Reporting to the AIM Council, this key executive leadership position provides essential guidance and oversight across the organisation for mission and management.

To be successful in this role you will have:

- A passion and commitment for working with the Indigenous people of Australia.
- Minimum of 2 years theological training (desirable)
- Demonstrated excellent communication and leadership skills with experience
- Experience working closely with Indigenous people (desirable)
- A willingness to raise part of your financial support

Key areas of responsibilities:

- Give initiative, guidance and direction to the overall work of AIM
- Speak on behalf of AIM to the wider Church
- Represent AIM at appropriate forums, and before government agencies
- Oversee the ministries of AIM representatives
- Recruit new personnel in consultation with the Field Director and Representatives
- Develop and maintain strategic partnerships with like-minded organisations

To apply for this key role, please forward your CV and cover letter to: Yane Damanik at AIM.director@mail.com For further information please call Yane on 0424 743 034

Road to Dialysis

by Miriam Charlie

The road to dialysis is one that leads us away from our home, our country, family, friends, and church. It can be a very sad and lonely road.

Some of us get on this road because of our choices. That's my story anyway. I remember the nurses and doctors telling me over many years about what I should eat and not eat and drink, telling me I should get more exercise and look after myself when I got diabetes. I didn't listen to them. They tried to tell us about not having scabies and not letting sores get infected. I heard these stories and read the papers, but I didn't take notice. I just kept going my own way and doing what I wanted to do, eating and drinking what I wanted. I didn't really look after myself properly like they tried to help me to do.

And now, I've had to take that road to dialysis. It has taken me away from my family, church and country of Borroloola and I now live in Darwin. It was very sad not to be with my family at Christmas time, and to know I will miss out on a lot of things. I think about when the bush tucker will be ready and I can't go out hunting for it or enjoy fresh fish, turtle or kangaroo when family bring it back from hunting. I can go home sometimes, but it is hard to fit in a visit and not miss my treatments which I have to have 3 times a week. Borroloola is over 900 kms from Darwin mind you.

But as a Christian, I am trying to look on the bright side. I do have some family and friends here in Darwin. It is good to have fellowship with my Christian friends. Some people from home are on dialysis like me, so I try to encourage them and the other patients.

Lots of people are sent into Darwin hospital from Borroloola for medical reasons. It is good now because I can go visit them myself and talk to them about Lord Jesus, pray for them, and give them Christian things to read. I used to always ring



Rhonda (Coats) and Simon (McKee) or Alan (Rogers with SIL) to do that but I can serve my Lord by doing this myself now. That part is really good.

If there were renal nurses willing and available, I and many others could return home and do dialysis there. They would be a great job for Christians to do! They could also give us Christians encouragement as we lead our churches and do God's work in and around our communities too.

Please pray for all us dialysis patients who have had to leave home and now live in places like Darwin, Katherine, Tennant Creek or Alice Springs in the Territory. Pray that we will keep going strong for Lord Jesus and find ways to work for Him where we are. Pray that I can talk a really good way to family and friends to take notice to look after themselves properly. I don't want them to end up on the road to dialysis too.



Looking for Disciples

The hair of so many is now grey, and some have significant health problems. But the Christian leaders across our field carry on in sharing the Word, teaching Sunday school, driving the church bus, going on outreach, etc. because they love the Lord ... but also because there is a great lack of young ones or new believers stepping up to share in God's work.

Praying for new people to become followers of Jesus is always important, and always a part of our focus. But we also need to focus on praying they will grow as disciples and in faithfulness – in their living and in taking an active part in the church.

Across the field there is a need for more followers who are willing to be discipled, and particularly to be trained up into leadership. The younger believers need to be willing to work alongside those who have been serving Jesus for a long time. Many of our churches wisely have group leadership, so it is



Vincent Charlie discipling Gavin Miller in 2010... Sadly Gavin's health deteriorated and he has had to live away from Borroloola for many years

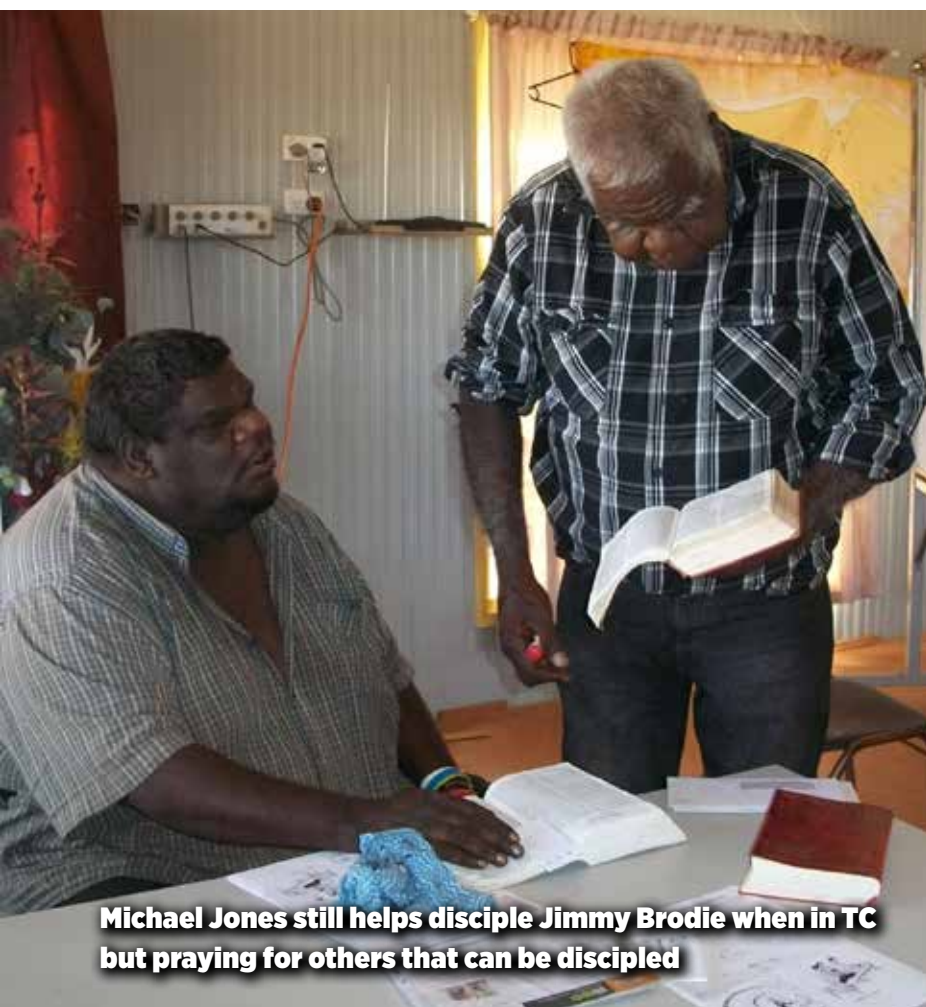
important that more than one young person steps up in each area.

Part of the need is that of sharing the load (and the joy) of the ministry. But part of the urgency is for them to be able to learn from the elders and leaders while the current leaders still have the health and strength to disciple them. The leaders are looking for younger ones to pass their experience and knowledge onto, and to stand alongside them as they grow and develop into servant leaders. Several leaders have said that they know they are getting

old and they want young ones to do more in the church and to become leaders. They want to help grow them up into that.

Pray that centres will have new people coming to Jesus. Pray too for a willingness among them to be faithful in their walk and in doing more for Jesus. Pray they will be willing and eager to work alongside and learn from those who have serving Jesus for many years now.

Please pray that the health and strength of our current church leaders will be sustained as they continue to serve Jesus. And pray that the younger ones will look after themselves so that they will have strength and good health to be trained up in serving Jesus... and then in time be able to train up the others who will follow them. ***'And the things you have heard from me, these entrust to faithful people who will be able to teach others also.'*** 2 Timothy 2:2



Michael Jones still helps disciple Jimmy Brodie when in TC but praying for others that can be discipled

Newspots

Tennant Creek News

The Tennant Creek Church had a lead role at the town Carols by Candlelight this past Christmas. *Jimmy Brodie* and *Brendan Hines* provided the music while the rest of the AIM Church sang in English and Warumungu. Another highlight was having *Richard Driver* one of the long serving church leaders give the Christmas message on behalf of all the local churches.



The Warumungu translation project is currently stalled, but participants have been talking strongly about re-starting efforts for checking the Christmas story and continuing first draft work on the Easter Story. Please continue to pray that this important work will continue.

Aim Council

In spite of council members now living in four different states, they are managing monthly meetings via computer hook-up. Please pray for the council and the decisions and matters they must work through as they 'meet' on the 2nd Monday of each month.



**Front : David Chambers (Qld), Henry Louie (NSW), Cliff Letcher and Yane Damanik (NSW)
Back : Richard Davies (NSW), Jonathan Wright (Vic), Rhonda Coats (NT), Paul Badman (NSW)**

At the February meeting the Council welcomed *Paul Badman* as a new member. He is married with 2 daughters and a granddaughter and is a member of Riverstone Baptist Church (NSW). Paul is currently working with Baptist Financial Services and brings much useful experience, expertise, and enthusiasm to the Council.

Many years ago he visited Tennant Creek during the Davies time there and is planning a visit to Canteen Creek during their middle of the year time there. He is also willing to try and visit as many other AIM centres as possible in the future.

You are invited to an **AUSTRALIAN INDIGENOUS MINISTRIES** *Information Afternoon Tea*

**28th Saturday
Mar 2020**

**3 PM St Augustines,
Neutral bay.**

- Hear some of AIM's history • Meet some missionaries, past and present
- Hear what God is doing in the Indigenous church • Ask the questions you have always wanted to ask
- Investigate how you can be involved in helping the Indigenous people of Australia

For catering purposes please RSVP by 14 March 2020

Email: rsd Daviesaim@gmail.com **Phone:** 0401 627 835

Prayer Points

There are a variety of ways you can now access AIM Prayer Points via social media as well as through the website and monthly email.

Facebook: AIM — Australian Indigenous Ministries

Twitter: @ausindigenousministries

Instagram: ausindigenous.ministries

Pinterest: Australian Indigenous Ministries

Prayermate: details and links can be found on the AIM website — News Blog, Prayer Calendar page

Health

The latest news from former AIM Council Chairman *John Keane* was again good news regarding his battle with cancer. In early February a CT scan revealed that the cancer has not spread to any other internal organs, and that once again it has shrunk a little. His oncologist felt it might now be more beneficial for him to move from chemo to radiology and plans for that were being worked out. Join us in giving thanks to God for this, and please continue to pray for John and for the treatments to be effective, and for his wife *Rita* as they go through this journey together.

Lucy Quinn recently underwent surgery after a melanoma was discovered beside her nose. A lymph node was also taken for further testing. Scans were clear which we give thanks for. Please remember Lucy, *Bob* and the family in prayer through this. Pray for wisdom among the medical staff helping her, and ask that the Great Physician might graciously grant His healing and full recovery to her.



A number of our Aboriginal leaders and faithful followers in the AIM churches are suffering from poor health, chronic conditions, and/or the toll of old age upon their bodies. Please pray for them in their limitations and times of weakness. Ask God to graciously sustain and strengthen them as they continue on willingly and faithfully serving our Lord.

Death

Pastor Ben Bird passed away 27 October 2019. He had grown up in the community of Cherbourg and came to faith in Christ there. Ben was a graduate of Singleton Bible Training Institute and married *Kathy (Naden)* who had also graduated from SBTI. They spent some years in service with AIM before joining other denominations for ministry. They spent many years in Gilgandra including his latter years before needing to go into care. The sympathy of the Aim family is extended to Kathy and the family.

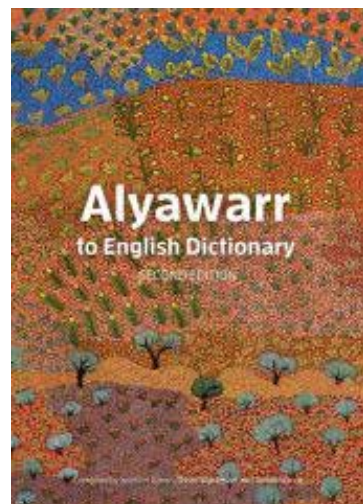


Dictionary

It was 25 years ago that the first Alyawarr to English Dictionary was compiled. On 8th November 2019 the release of a new, updated and substantially revised second edition was celebrated at Arlparra (Murray Downs). AIM worker *Peter Dixon* was able to make the 760 km round trip out from Tennant Creek for the special occasion. There are some Alyawarr speakers in TC and the church. It is also a language used in the Camooweal and Canteen Creek areas.

The dictionary has been compiled by *Jennifer Green*, *David Moore*, and *David Blackman* along with over 100 Alyawarr contributors. It includes explanations of Alyawarr grammar and pronunciation, a guide for using the dictionary, and tables of pronouns and word endings. There is also a discussion of Alyawarr kinship, updated index of scientific terms for plants and animals, and extensive English to Alyawarr finder list.

It is hoped that it will be used as a resource to help keep the language strong and help Alyawarr speakers who want to become literate in their language, by learners of the language, and by educators and interpreters.



OUR GOD IS ABLE...

**‘to do exceedingly abundantly above all we ask or think...’
(Ephesians 3:20)**

PRAY that God will open the understanding of Aboriginal people *‘so that they may turn away from the power of Satan and turn to God, so their sins will be forgiven and they will receive God’s blessing with all those who have been made holy by believing in Christ.’* Acts 26:18

THANK GOD for those who have become followers of Jesus. Thank God that His *‘grace is sufficient’* for each person and need. 1 Corinthians 12:9. Pray that each believer will know *‘Jesus is faithful’* and will trust Him *‘to keep them strong until the end.’* 1 Corinthians 1:8 -9

PRAY for ADAPTIBILITY of workers to local culture and ways as much as possible without compromising Biblical truth or Christian principles. *‘Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews...’* 1 Corinthians 9:19-22

ASK God to help each worker and leader to *‘speak in a way that will make God’s message clear.’* Colossians 4:4

PRAY that each one will have strength *‘to stand strong and give ourselves fully to the Lord’s work.’* 1 Corinthians 15:58

PRAY that all involved with AIM will *‘know God’s will, and have great wisdom and understanding of spiritual things so that we live a life which honours and pleases the Lord in every way.’* Colossians 1:9-10

PRAY that we will fully trust the Lord and not depend on ourselves and our understanding. Pray that we will look to and acknowledge God so that our ways are directed by Him. Proverbs 3:5-6

PRAY that missionaries and church leaders will set a good example by doing *‘nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others’.* Philippians 2:3-4

PRAY that the attitude of each heart will be, *‘Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to your name be the glory, because of your love and faithfulness.’* Psalm 115:1

THANK GOD that He has promised *‘I will build My Church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it.’* Matthew 16:18 **PRAY** that we will keep looking to Him to do that across the AIM field.

PRAY that our God will provide for the current needs of AIM:

- New General Director
- Field workers
- New Indigenous believers who can be disciplined into leadership
- Finance

‘OUR GOD IS ABLE’

Daniel 3:17

Partnership Your Support With



Planting — Partnering — Participating

Address:.....

P/C

I would like to join in partnership with AIM through:

- ☐ By Email at:.....

PO Box 126 Taree NSW 2430

The requested amount of \$10 per year helps fund the printing and posting of this quarterly magazine.