



AUSTRALIAN INDIGENOUS MINISTRIES

Strong Aboriginal Churches

Holy Bible

Plain English Version



Portions of the Old Testament and New Testament

Bible Dedication at KCC

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Rivers Convention

by former AIM worker Lucy Quinn

Over the Easter school holidays *Bob* and I attended the NW NSW Rivers Convention. This annual convention began about 60 years ago by *Pastor Ike Gordon's* father, and entails visiting a number of towns and communities over 17 days.

The program includes a meeting most evenings and some mornings, with a youth program in the afternoons. Many meals were communal with

people contributing a dish or two. A typical meeting consisted of a lot of music (there are some very talented musicians out there), testimonies, and a main message. At the end of the evening meetings there was often an appeal for people to repent and believe in the Lord.

The places we visited ranged from the inland city of Dubbo to the very small communities (Enngonia and Weilmoringle) with just a primary school (one with only nine students), and a post office or police station. Venues ranged from outdoors under the stars and gum trees or out in the warm sun during the day, to community or church halls.

If you are anything like us some of these towns were unknown and sounded exotic and small. If we



Feeding body and soul



Enngonia



wanted to describe something as remote when we were growing up, we would say it was 'beyond the Black Stump' or it was 'the back of Bourke'. Well, we found that Enngonia is *definitely* that as we travelled past the 'Back O' Bourke' Visitors Information Centre to get there!

Weilmoringle is not even listed on Google maps. Goodooga was once named the most boring town in NSW but now has a lovely artesian bore bath that attracts tourists. Lightning Ridge is world famous for its opals.

There were some health and comfort challenges for us during the convention. We quickly came to the conclusion that sleeping in the back of our IMax van and trekking across a paddock of prickles to the

amenities was just a bit too much for two weeks! Consequently, we ended up staying in motels more than we expected and commuting to the more remote destinations. We certainly clocked up the kilometres and were very thankful for safe travel for us and everyone on convention. We were also thankful that we did not have any close encounters with wildlife while driving at night!

Some of the highlights of the convention were being encouraged once or twice a day by the preaching of God's Word, meeting lots of different people, and seeing some very interesting parts of Australia. The absolute highlight for both of us was a beautiful evening under the stars at Weilmoringle when an Aboriginal Aunty decided to follow Christ for the first time. Praise God!



afternoon youth program

KCC 2023

Numbers of Aboriginal attendees were significantly down this year at Katherine Christian Convention which was disappointing to everyone. There were various reasons for this – some couldn't travel due to swollen rivers blocking their way and others had the usual transportation problems. Sickness and aging also played a part in the lower numbers.

A usual highlight of the Convention is the items from individuals or groups from communities and Aboriginal churches after the evening message. On the first night there were only three on the list for sharing. But there was a lot of encouragement to be found from those who did share.

One of the groups doing an item was from Urapunga which is about 250 kms from Katherine. A group of young people spread across the stage to do actions and dance to a Christian song with a significant message. A white-haired Aboriginal lady who is helping them, stepped up to the microphone and shared that all these teens are following Jesus. There had been a tragedy in the community which sparked the turning to the Lord. After seeing the news night after night filled with stories of escalating youth crime, it was a real joy to see these young people standing up for Jesus. It affirmed again that Jesus truly is the answer! Pray they will keep going in their faith.

It was scheduled to have the dedication of the new PEV (Plain English Version) mini-Bible which will contain some stories from the Old Testament and a large portion of the New Testament. Sadly, getting them printed in Singapore, shipped to Sydney, then transported up to Darwin to get to Katherine for the Convention didn't happen!

While the translators were there and a dedication did take place, there were only five PEV's available to view. These had been put together by hand and fast-forwarded from Singapore to be available for the dedication. Bible League has been overseeing the printing process and have made it possible for orders to be taken once they have arrived in Australia. There were copies of the individual Bible books already translated which were available for everyone at the Convention.

Dave Glasgow who has been heading up the PEV translation was able to be there. It was good to see him at aged 90 still passionate about God's Word. He was able to explain some of the whys and wherefores of the translation.



Suzanna, Kathy, Dave (SIL) and Hilton Edwards (BL)

Below are a few examples explained in the back of the PEV of modifications made to conform to the linguistic features of most Aboriginal languages:

- Minimised abstract nouns by using verbs and adjectives instead. 1 Pet 1:3 NIV 'a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead'; PEV 'Jesus died, but God brought him back to life. From that we know that God will save us too.'
- Minimised past perfect tense which English uses to switch back in time. Aboriginal languages have no equivalent for this. They have indicated the time switch-back in words. 1 Sam 1:5 NIV 'the LORD had closed her womb'; PEV 'You see, before this time, God stopped her from having kids.'
- Avoided the use of gerunds. 1 Tim 4:13 NIV 'devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture'; PEV 'Make sure you read God's book in your meetings.'

For more information on the PEV you can contact Bible League (the publisher): <https://bl.org.au/content/aboriginal-resources/gjs3y0>
PH: 1800 800 93 Email: info@bl.org.au

Kathy Dadd and *Susanna Baldwin* (SIL) who are also working on the translation shared throughout the weekend about the translation and the various ways in which the PEV can be accessed electronically. You can check it out for yourself via the following ways:



Plain English Version Bible
app on the Google Play Store



Online at
aboriginalbibles.org.au



YouVersion Bible app
Google Play Store



Apple App Store

Camooweal Flood

Usually appearing like a large quiet billabong much of the year on the north side of Camooweal, the Georgina River became a flooding torrent in early March. The torrential rains further north mixed with the widespread rains of the region saw the river swell and spread as it made its way towards Camooweal and beyond.

Hazel Lauridsen who is again living in Camooweal mission house and supporting the church, was warned by concerned relatives of the coming flood. She was able to gather a few things and get into Mt Isa before the small town was cut off. Others stayed and suffered the shortage of supplies for a time, and the worry and wonder of how high the waters would get and how far they would spread into the town, how long would it stay around, when would the roads open again?

With nothing but a broad paddock between it and the river, the slightly raised Church, ground level office, and yard had water through them. Thankfully it was only several centimetres high through the church, but some of the wooden floorboards have been buckled, and the floor covering in the small kitchen area was ruined. There was concern about the foundation posts of the upstairs house and church because the floodwater sat in the yard for some time.

Church leaders *Cyril* and *Thelma Anderson* along with Hazel were amazed at the power of the water. It toppled a cabinet filled with tools and forced it out from the ground-level office, then pushed it across the church yard and driveway, across the bitumen road, and into the neighbouring property.

The upstairs house was high enough that it did not suffer any damage, but the downstairs laundry was another story. Hazel is thankful for the new washing machine she has already been gifted with. Unfortunately, the water rose higher than the mounted outdoor section of the reverse cycle air-conditioning unit which will need replacing.

Hazel put off her scheduled hip replacement surgery to try and help Thelma with some of the clean-up (Cyril works out of town for a week at a time). They were very grateful for the help of a man linked with



Mission House and Church — buildings top right of photo



Mission House, Office, Church (blue bldg)

Mt Isa Baptist Church once the roads were opened. His building experience and advice were very helpful regarding assessing needs for the insurance claim.

You could hear the relief and gratitude as Thelma and Hazel shared about the help they received from a group of fellows from Mt Isa Baptist. They made the two-hour trip out one Saturday to assist with the clean-up. With so many willing hands, utes and trailers, soon all the upturned cupboards were righted and back in position, debris cleared and cleaned up from in and around the church and yard, buckled floorboards removed, etc. It was a great act of servanthood, and the AIM is grateful for their hard work and help.

Hazel returned to Mt Isa with them to catch the bus to Townsville for her operation. All has gone well, and she is now back in Camooweal. Pray that Cyril will soon be able to get the needed operation to relieve him of the knee pain he has been suffering.

Please continue to pray that just as in years gone by, this area will see the work of God flooding into the lives of people. Pray that the Church will grow in numbers and faith, and be spiritually anchored in Jesus, withstanding any spiritual storm or flood.

Mission Coordinator Movements

Yane Damanik has been keeping busy in her role as Mission Coordinator. She and husband *Roni* were able to visit some of the western NSW work using a hire vehicle as they were fearful their older vehicle with high mileage would not manage the long trip.

The timing of their visit allowed them to attend the last meeting of the River's Convention held in Dubbo. She was very impressed with the estimated crowd of 60 locals gathered for the meeting along with the passion displayed by *Ike Gordon* as he shared from God's Word.



They were also able to spend time with Moree TEAM Partners *Paul* and *Erin Strahan* who were part of the Convention team. Yane is looking forward to accepting their invitation to visit and observe the Moree ministry firsthand in coming months.

Unfortunately *David* and *Rose Cox* were not in town during her Dubbo visit, however they did connect via a ZOOM meeting. A matter of mutual interest and concern is the development of training in Dubbo that could serve the wider western area.

Good fellowship was enjoyed with the ladies at the Gilgandra AIM Church. They have continued faithfully in ministry despite suffering with various health



issues in the past year or so. It is important to note their consistent work over many years in running the Sunday School, but they did express their desire to have a suitable person(s) who could give them a rest from it from time to time. Please pray with them about this need.

Although we do not currently have a ministry in Walgett, they did make the drive to this outback town. They were impressed to see the AIM church building and property there and saw firsthand the opportunity for serving the Lord. Please ask God to provide suitable workers for Walgett who will seek to establish a strong living Church in this place.

Please keep praying for Yane as she continues to develop and exercise the role of Mission Coordinator. Remember her too as she lectures one day a week at Excelsior College (Sydney) and has their live-at-home son *Ryan* in his third year of university, and daughter *Edith* working hard through her Year 12. Please pray for Roni who had an accident at work (maintenance at Bethshan). This left him with a bad fracture in the bottom of his foot. Pray he will have good healing right through to complete restoration.

Council Update

The AIM Council has been undertaking to update the AIM website with *Roni Parlindungan* heading up this work. **The Council is grateful for the work and time Paul Davies has put into the website, along with setting out the Prayer Points over these past years.** It will be good to relieve him of this responsibility as he continues with his studies at SMBC and needs time with his wife and four children as well. Council Chairman *Peter Dixon* will now be electronically distributing the Prayer Points each month.

While the admin role of Office Manager has not been filled, God is providing for that need. Two years ago Council member *Cliff Letcher* made contact with *Rod Bishop* with ECM (European Christian Mission) at their Sydney office. Some fruit is now forthcoming as Rod is currently assisting Peter Smith from Head Office and treasurer *Paul Badman* in setting up AIM accounting onto the electronic system of ZERO. This will see that side of the admin work streamlined and potentially requiring far less man hours.



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Strong Aboriginal Churches

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New Series Volume 59 No. 2

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AIM safe ministry policy and framework is an adaptation of resources from Creating Saver Communities (formerly Safe Ministry Resources P/L). For further information please contact AIM safe ministry helpline at 0491 624 606.

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The requested amount of \$15 per year helps fund the printing and posting of this quarterly magazine.



Back To The Creek

It was a safe trip to Canteen Creek for *Richard* and *Sue Davies* as they made their annual pilgrimage arriving in May. The heavy wet season rains have left the road in quite a hazardous condition from the frequent washouts. It took them 4 ½ hours to travel the last 185 kms on the dirt road. And are thankful their van travelled well through it all. They are thankful for being set up at the end of the old church building which is protecting them from the howling southeasterly winds that seemingly followed them into the community.

They expected dogs, donkeys and horses to have free range in the community, but were surprised by the small group of fattened goats found wandering around. Before they could find their way to dinner plates, they were claimed by people from about 200 kms away after seeing photos on Facebook.

Richard and Sue are back enjoying time around the fire sharing, praying, and singing with community members. *Harry* and *Brenda* is helping again this year faithfully checking through the translation of the 'Barkly Edition' of the PEV. They have already checked Jonah, Esther, Ruth and half of Exodus and are hoping to check through Malachi and some Psalms in the weeks ahead, but...it is football season and then there have been deaths and with funerals yet to happen. Please pray!

While at KCC they met the Bible Society translation consultant with Bible Society. He has offered to take on the project as their current consultant is stepping down. The Davies continue to partner with the PEV team, but work on a version of English used in the Barkly region. Both versions are designed for Indigenous Australians whose first language is an Indigenous language. Both also apply the principles of meaning-based translation, where they have sought to convey the same meaning as original authors. This means not just considering individual words, but also the message of the whole passage.