

September - November 2026

Australian Indigenous Ministries

Strong Aboriginal Churches



**Pray to the Lord who owns the harvest,
that He will send more workers to gather His harvest.**

Matthew 9:38ncv



Filling the Gaps

Right across AIM the gaps are growing. Workers close to or past retirement age. Church leaders struggling with weariness from deaths and funerals, chronic disease, age, and years of serving. Churches are suffering from lack of encouragement, biblical teaching, and guidance.

Where are the people God wants to 'stand in the gaps' (Ezekiel 22:30)? As a more modern version puts it, 'God says, I looked for someone ... *but I could not find anyone*.'...(NCV). Can God find anyone equipped and willing to stand in the growing gaps across the AIM work?

The need is real – the need is great. Church leaders are looking for encouragement. They need people to walk alongside them, but not to take over. The local people should be the leaders. They need to be the key people in discipling new believers and developing some into leadership. But they often need further Bible teaching and help in how best to share that with others, help with some of the practical aspects of running a church, and at times, some sharing of the local ministry to help them endure.

Will you please pray with us about the needs we are facing? Please ask God to bring people with the right gifts and training to fill the gaps, people wanting to be servants of Jesus and willing to work under the leadership of the locals while walking beside them.

Perhaps you know someone who needs to hear of the needs and consider being one who fills a gap in the AIM work. Please share this with them and pray!

Or maybe...what about you? What are your gifts and training? Do you have a willing, servant heart? Could

God be looking to use you to encourage and teach the current leaders and churches?

There are often employment opportunities for teachers, doctors, nurses, carpenters, etc. in areas where AIM works. Perhaps God would have you work in a place with the opportunity to use your gifts to encourage and support the local Aboriginal church.

Pray for Disciples

The hair of so many is now grey, and most have significant health problems, but the Christian leaders continue 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 others - especially younger ones stepping up to share in God's work.

Pray there will be new people coming to Jesus – people of all ages, and especially the young adults. Pray too for a willingness among the younger ones to be faithful in their walk and join in serving Jesus. Pray they will be willing and eager to learn and work alongside those who have been serving Jesus for a very long time.

Please pray that the health and strength of our current leaders will be sustained as they continue to serve and lead. And pray that the younger ones will look after themselves so they will have good health to be trained up and serve Jesus well into the future and then be able to train up leaders to then 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

PRAY FOR WORKERS

AIM is a faith mission with our dependence on God in the ministry among Aboriginal people and on Him to meet our needs. It is His work, and they are His people. We have the privilege of exercising the spiritual gifts entrusted to us as He builds His Church. Our motto from scripture is what we hold to – **OUR GOD IS ABLE**.

Ministry is not an individual effort. Those of us serving are very aware that first and foremost, we need strength, guidance and help day by day from Jesus. Without Him, our self-efforts will be fruitless. We are also aware of how vital our supporters are. Without the earnest, regular prayers and giving of faithful people, we cannot go forward as individuals, or as a Mission.

AIM needs people to join us in praying as Jesus told us to, *'Pray to the Lord who owns the harvest, that He will send more workers to gather His harvest.'* Matthew 9:38ncv

PRAY

We can advertise our needs through various means, do deputation meetings and speak at churches and Bible Colleges. All these efforts have value and should see good effort put into them. But mostly, we must follow the clear directive of our Lord. We must **ask Him** to fill our empty centres with trained servant workers who are willing to serve under the local leaders, to help them to be well grounded in Scripture and equipped to teach others to grow in Christ. In our desire to see new workers joining AIM, we must **pray** – and we ask you to join us in that.

In years past we had prayer groups committed to specifically and regularly praying for the work, workers and needs across AIM but they are gone now. We are grateful for the individuals and churches who pray for a particular place or worker now. But it

seems there is a parallel between the loss of prayer groups (due to illness, age, and passing) and the downward spiral of AIM – lack of workers, lack of Mission leadership, lack of local leaders in centres, lack of younger people becoming Christians and being 'grown up' in following Jesus.

TO THE LORD

We must look to the Lord our God – the God of love, the One who wants those of every tribe and tongue to be in His family. We must look to the One who gives strength when weariness visits and peace in troubled times. We must look to the One who said He would build HIS Church, and have faith to ask Him ...

TO SEND

What are we to ask for? Jesus told us to ask Him to send more workers! We need the Lord to send servant-hearted workers to AIM.

We need people who know our Lord's leading to join us. AIM is about serving Jesus by seeking to see strong Aboriginal churches and there is still work to do to encourage Aboriginal Christian leadership. We want to see Christ-like leaders equipped to serve Jesus and able to teach and help others become more like Jesus too.

Will you join us in praying to the Lord of the harvest to send workers to join AIM?

If you would like to pray regularly for AIM, **our monthly Prayer Notes can be sent via email. The QR codes for receiving them and/or the quarterly magazine can be found on the back page.** If you need them posted, please contact the AIM Office whose address is also on the back page.



Road to Dialysis

by **Miriam Charlie**

Miriam was a leader in the Borroloola Church before leaving for health reasons. It is a sad story that is all too common among Aboriginal people.



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. And I didn't take notice of teaching in those old Today magazines AIM used to make for us Aboriginal people. They tried to teach us about looking after ourselves so we wouldn't get kidney trouble and other kinds of sickness. They tried to tell us about not having scabies and not letting sores get infected because that hurts our kidneys.

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. That road has taken me away from my family, church and country of Borroloola and I now live in Darwin. It is very sad not to be with my family at Christmas time, and to know I will miss out on being with them for birthdays, school events, funerals and other 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. If I do want to go home sometimes for funerals, it is hard to fit in that trip and not miss my treatments. I have treatments three times a week. Borroloola is over 900 kms from Darwin mind you. It is just very hard to get back home.

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 family and friends from home are on dialysis like me, so I try to encourage them and the other patients.

Lots of sick or injured people are sent into Darwin Hospital from Borroloola. Now when I am strong enough, I go visit them and talk to them about Lord Jesus and pray for them.

They are building a dialysis unit out in Borroloola now so some will be able to return home and have treatments there. It would be really good if there was a Christian dialysis nurse to go work there! Then they could give us Christians encouragement as we lead our churches and do God's work in our communities.

Please pray for us dialysis patients who have left home and now live in places like Darwin, Katherine, Tennant Creek or Alice Springs. Pray that us Christians will keep going strong for Lord Jesus and work for Him where we are.

Pray that I can talk a really good way to family and friends to take notice of the doctors and nurses so they will look after themselves properly. I don't want them to end up on the road to dialysis too.

Please pray that Christian professionals such as nurses, doctors, and teachers will prayerfully consider seeking employment in places where AIM churches would benefit from their encouragement.



Darwin Days

by Rhonda Coats

It has been a long season of visitors this year. It started with welcome fellowship when *Peter and Karen Dixon* came at Easter. It was good to send boxes of bibles, books and resources back with them for the Tennant Creek mob.

Then came the students from Sydney Missionary Bible College and Moore Theological College to learn about Aboriginal work via the ministries based in Darwin. What a great opportunity to share about AIM! Similar opportunities followed when others visited Summer Institute of Linguistics. Two groups of caravanning friends made surprise visits - lovely fellowship and the opportunity to share the happenings and needs in AIM. One friend's husband is now involved with Mobile Mission Maintenance - a great contact for AIM!

Face-to-face interactions with people from our centres are always a highlight. *Warren Timothy* from Borroloola has come into Darwin twice this year. I appreciated hearing firsthand about the community, church, and the tragedies and deaths among so many families including his own. Looking into God's Word and praying together was so good. Hearing how his walk with Jesus remains steady, how he is helping *Vincent Charlie* with funerals and slowly getting back into other aspects of ministry was a great encouragement! On both occasions I was able to share some resources to help him continue to grow as God's servant.

It was special having time with the late *Jocelyn McCartney's* daughter *Delma* before her mother's funeral. I don't attend funerals down the track but help with photos and stories for the services when possible. Not attending was a decision I made for myself years ago. I felt that if I couldn't get to all then I shouldn't go to any.

Miriam Charlie shared that a Borroloola friend was in hospital. When I got there she had already been discharged - very disappointing. Her grandson had been stabbed to death trying to stop a fight a couple of months before. I thought she had returned to Borroloola, but a few days later God brought us

together in a crowd of over 5000 at the NAIDOC celebrations. How special! Her faith in Jesus is sustaining her, but she carries a heavy burden for family who aren't trusting Him.

Another Borroloola friend came in after having a stroke. Her daughter had been killed in a suspected domestic violence incident weeks earlier. I was thankful to sit with her, care for her, and talk about Jesus.

After several years in WA, local Larrakia man *Alfie May* is back home. One day we met for lunch and discussed opportunities and concerns around Darwin. As we talked of a particular idea I suggested approaching City Council might be worthwhile. He agreed, and you wouldn't believe who God then brought to the table behind ours...the Mayor of Darwin! Alfie was quick to introduce himself and begin the conversation. What a door of opportunity God opened! Please pray for Alfie who is a key person here being a strong Christian man and an elder of the Larrakia people.

Anita Painter from Barunga/Katherine periodically comes to Darwin for her work and it is good to have a proper catch up on news and concerns from that area. People sometimes unburden and share more freely face to face away from their communities.

The Canteen Creek ladies contact me when they come for studies and it's always enjoyable spending time with them. I was able to meet up with *Richard and Sue Davies* too when they came up to do the Bible recordings.

And besides time with visitors my days begin to fill with phone calls from people with problems and questions, working on The Aim magazine, visiting hospital, meeting with *Miriam Charlie* for fellowship and encouragement, growing relationships with some former Retta Dixon Home residents and their adult children as well as people from Bagot Community, researching information for the National Redress Scheme and histories for some of our centres.

NEWSPOTS

NEW ROOF

It was months of much prayer as the believers in Rockhampton sought help to get the church roof replaced. The interior damage had been fixed, but they were left for some time praying heavy rains away and praying for a trustworthy business to replace the roof.

They were thrilled when the job was finally completed in early August. They were so thankful that no hidden surprises needing extra attention and money were found – bringing the project in under budget! We thank God that the physical church has been strengthened and pray the living church will continue to be as well.



TRIP UP NORTH

As reported in the last issue, *Richard and Sue Davies* set off for Canteen Creek NT in late May. They found some of the roads through western NSW and Queensland challenging and sustained minor damage to the van. Even though the road to the community had been graded, it still took 6 ½ hours to drive the 180 kms towing their van.



Debbie, Peter, and Richard

Diphtheria has become an issue in the NT, so a visit to the clinic for vaccination was needed. There have been a few cases in the community which were treated

quickly and effectively. However, one man was flown out to the special unit at St Vincent's hospital in Sydney for treatment. His recovery has been a long and difficult one and the family are grateful for

the many people who prayed and supported them.

Brenda Thompson and Sue worked together on the Barkly Bible translation, checking both 1 and 2 Samuel ready for the consultant. When he was able, Harry came and worked with Richard and they checked through the book of Acts so that also is ready for the consultant. The books of Esther and Ruth had arrived in time to distribute.

In mid-July six ladies from Canteen Creek attended courses at Nungalinya Bible College in Darwin. They all enjoyed their time of teaching and fellowship. At the same time, Richard and Sue drove up to Darwin to work with *Debbie Simpson*, a Barkly Tableland lady living in Darwin, to record the books of Mark, Esther and Ruth. When *Peter Hacquoil* from Bible Society has finished editing those recordings, they will be available on the Australian Bible App.

Richard and Sue headed home on 8th August and arrived safely after eight days of travel.

NEW SYSTEM

The previous computer program AIM has used for years (dTracker) was becoming obsolete. It has been a most affordable and wonderful program to keep track of donations for many many years, and we at AIM want to express huge thanks to the team at dTracker for supporting this software for as long as they have.

Council member *Andrew Billing* with assistance from former Council member *Roni Parlindungan* worked hard to secure another company to meet our needs at an affordable cost. We appreciate all their efforts in this and especially acknowledge the work and patience of *Anne Darragh* at Head Office as the new program (Monday.com) was implemented. All AIM data has now been transferred over.

Training for setting up the automating workflows and best use of the new CRM will now be provided to Anne, Andrew and Roni as it is a big change between systems. We are grateful that Roni continues as a Member of AIM, though no longer on Council, and offers his assistance for many of our technology issues.

HENRY'S HEALTH

Henry Louie of Gilgandra continues to gain strength and recover well after his major heart surgery. He has been able to visit with folk in Pilliga and Gulargambone again. He is looking forward to the **Rivers Convention in Gulargambone 3-5th October** with Isaac Gordon from Brewarrina heading that up. Friends from Sydney will again help with meetings for the young people and catering. Please continue to pray for a return to full health and strength for Henry.

Off to Sydney

shared by **Karen Dixon**

In late June Annie Morrison and I, who together present the Language and Culture Program at Tennant Creek Public School, travelled to Sydney as part of the school team visiting our city partner. Through the organisation Yadha Muru our school has been paired with Roseville College, an Anglican Girls' School on Sydney's North Shore.

Roseville has come to Tennant and among other things, helped develop our robotics program and revitalised our library. In return, Annie and I presented Aboriginal Perspectives to Roseville students from pre-school to Year 12.

The girls in the Year 12 Culture and Society class had deep and thoughtful questions which gave Annie the opportunity to share the realities, positive and negative, of life in Tennant and the many roles she plays. It was gratifying to have some girls from the Year 10 history class spot us in the mall one evening and come up to talk to us some more.

The staff showed their appreciation of Annie by giving her a warm jacket and beanie of her beloved Sydney Swans!



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Australian Indigenous Ministries

Strong Aboriginal Churches

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The Aim Magazine subscriptions are \$20 a year (inclusive of GST). Please send to AIM Office.

The requested amount of \$20 per year helps fund the printing and posting of this quarterly magazine.

Teach them Young

by Karen Dixon

Karlena Brodie and Renita Morrison remember being brought to Sunday School by their grandparents. They loved it - the stories, the singing, the people who cared for them. They also learned to love Kampaju, the Father. Now they are training to teach their own children and the other children who come along.

They started helping with practical things, then reading out the story that had been prepared for them, practising all those tricky names to get it just right. The story is told in the church service, so simply getting up in front of everyone was a brave step.

Now they meet to prepare themselves, praying, reading the Bible and discussing what it means. They read the suggested text and say it their own way, writing it on the back of the pictures in words our children will understand.

As they have grown in confidence, they have grown their skills to look at the children directly and talk about the pictures. They have taken over from the older women in leading the children's singing in church, including the old favourites and introducing the new songs we are learning out the back. In the class time, they talk with the children about what they are learning.

The women say that they want their children to grow up knowing Kampaju as they did, and hopefully, one day teach their children. Renita is happy to report that if she forgets to pray with them at home, her children remind her! Karlena says that as they teach the children, they learn more themselves.



**Renita with
SS children**



**Annie Morrison
and Karlena
with SS children**