



Naden News

with Neville & Kathie Naden



September 2024

Editor's note: BCA apologises for the late publication of this newsletter.

One of the greatest privileges of working with BCA is witnessing the remarkable dedication of our Field Staff as they faithfully proclaim the Gospel. Despite the challenges of remote living and the isolation many of them face, they remain committed to the mission God has called them to.

Isolation isn't just about location; it also extends to spiritual support. The distance can be a significant challenge for many of our people, which is why we continually ask our supporters to uphold them in prayer.

In this newsletter, I will share some of our activities from June to August. My hope is that you will be encouraged to support and pray for the work being done in Indigenous ministry. I will highlight both the blessings and the challenges we have encountered along the way.

Preaching engagements

In my role with BCA, I have the privilege of visiting some wonderful churches. These churches vary in size – some are quite large, while others are much smaller. The purpose of my visits are twofold: to open the Bible and share God's Word when invited, and to speak about the work of BCA to those gathered.

A great example of a smaller church is the Aboriginal Inland Ministries in Gilgandra. This congregation is lovingly cared for by elderly ladies, who have a deep love for Jesus and a strong desire to see others come to know Him. My heart goes out to churches like these. In the past, they have had male leadership, most of whom have since been promoted to glory. It is my desire to encourage this small congregation and the ladies who serve there so faithfully.

Alice Springs

In June and August, I had the opportunity to visit several churches, including Alice Springs Anglican. While Alice Springs isn't a particularly large town, the church there plays a significant role in the community. Topher & Chica Hallyburton are ministering alongside former BCA Field Staff Kristan Slack. I was invited to preach on the topic of 'Reconciliation,' where I shared that a Biblical

understanding of reconciliation begins with the relationship between God and humanity. When a person is reconciled to God, they are also reconciled to other members of His family. Biblical reconciliation is a positional truth – our standing before a righteous and holy God. It has little to do with unity among people. While unity within the church is something God desires, true unity with others only happens when we come to faith in Him. This is the type of reconciliation we are called to be ambassadors for today, not the kind of reconciliation often promoted in the broader community.

Many in my community believe that reconciliation outside the church is impossible. Why? Because there was never a relationship to begin with. Reconciliation can only occur when a relationship that once existed has been broken and then restored.

Port Augusta Gospel Chapel

Occasionally, I get the chance to visit churches outside the Anglican tradition. One such church is the Port Augusta Gospel Chapel, which is Kathie's home church. Established in the early 1960s by missionaries from Sydney and New Zealand, this church has seen many of its founding members pass on to glory. However, a faithful couple remained, who hadn't had a break from ministry in a very long time. We offered to spend some time in Port Augusta to look after their congregation while they took a well-deserved break. It was heartening to see the congregation step up and maintain the church's ministry in the absence of their long-serving leaders.



The faithful remnant in Port Augusta

Living Water Church

While much of BCA's work focuses on ministry in remote and isolated areas, city churches can serve as excellent training grounds for some of our Indigenous young people. One such church is the Living Water Church in Redfern. Terrence Lennon, one of BCA's bursary students, attends this church and applies what he's learning at Youthworks College. Witnessing the growth in Terrence's Christian walk has been incredibly encouraging.

Deputations

BCA and its work, are highly valued by many churches that are committed to ensuring ministry in the bush is well resourced. Our senior staff work tirelessly to inform the wider church about how bush ministry is being supported.

I am often asked to present a BCA segment at churches, where I focus on ministry in the Indigenous space. Supporters are eager to see Indigenous people rise up and take their place within the wider church. This is also BCA's desire.

Lower Mountains Anglican Parish

In June, through the invitation of Ken Nokes, Senior Minister at Lower Mountains Anglican Parish, I was able to share about BCA's work among Indigenous people. I spoke to the congregation about the happenings at Nungalinga College in Darwin, particularly the chaplaincy program and the co-teaching arrangement that has been introduced.

I also spoke about BCA's bursary program and how it is helping to support those who want to train for ministry. Additionally, I shared the work of Jack & Lill Harradine and George & Carmel Ferguson,

I highlighted the work of Dennis & Valda Taylor, and their efforts in First Nations Ministry Training. People were encouraged to hear that individuals are being equipped for ministry. While some of this work is progressing slowly, we are seeing meaningful advancements as people learn the Bible.

Aboriginal Evangelical Fellowship (AEF) Federal Council

Earlier in June, Kathie & I travelled to Perth to attend the AEF Federal Council Meetings. While there, we attended the book launch of *For Such a Time as This*, a PhD paper written by the late Maxine Knapp. Dr Knapp outlined the history of the AEF of Australia, emphasising that God brought this body into existence for His purposes. If you'd like to get a copy, you can visit the AEF website at aef.org.au.

BCA Field Staff Conference

In July, it was wonderful to gather with the BCA family at Collaroy. It was a refreshing experience as we served the Field Staff throughout the week. Paul Harrington was the keynote speaker for the conference, focusing on Paul's ministry to young Timothy. It was encouraging to learn from Paul about how to train and nurture the next generation of leaders.

Cultural Awareness Training – CWCI Cairns

One of our key roles is to help people think through Indigenous ministry. Kathie & I have developed a Biblically based cultural awareness program, which we have been rolling out across the country. So far, we have conducted this training at the Bible College of South Australia, the Brisbane School of Theology, the Queensland Theological College, various churches around the country, and most recently in Cairns for a group of ladies from CWCI (Christian Women Communicating International). About 16 women attended, and we had a great time exploring the topic of culture together.



Neville, Kathie and the CWCI Cairns group who did cultural awareness training

Dinner with BCACFT tour group

One of BCA's partners, Christian Fellowship Tours, organises BCA tours around the country. These tours allow participants to visit various ministry centres, carefully arranged by the tour company. Recently, we had the opportunity to join one of these tour groups for dinner as they passed through Dubbo. The tour then continued on through NSW and into South Australia where they visited Roxby Downs and Coober Pedy.

We too, recently travelled to SA and met with Glen & Beth McDonald at the Pimba Roadhouse. They made the trip out to join us for a coffee, and it was a true blessing to sit down with them and hear how God is working through their family to share the Good News of His Son.



Meeting with the McDonalds at Pimba Roadhouse; visiting the Catacomb Church and the Woods in Coober Pedy

We then travelled to Coober Pedy, where we reconnected with Dave & Margie Wood. They told us about the connections they've been fostering in the community, many of whom we remember from our time at Umeewarra Mission in Port Augusta. Dave & Margie are committed to long-term ministry and have started building some strong and meaningful relationships.

With Christian love,

Neville (& Kathie)



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