

Naden News

with Neville & Kathie Naden



May 2024

Since assuming this role, I have been a staunch advocate for the participation of our First Nations people in ministry. As I travel across the country, I am heartened by the growing movement to empower Indigenous people to lead ministries within their own communities. We must shift our perspective of Indigenous people from being seen merely as a mission field to being recognised as a mission force. A change in mindset leads to a change in action.

It's incredibly encouraging to see the identification, training, and integration of Indigenous people into the church's life. BCA is committed to this approach and to supporting First Nations Ministry Training. Our prime focus continues to be the work at Nungalinga College as we strive towards Indigenous empowerment. As we do this, I aim to help our Field Staff adopt an empowerment mindset in areas with significant Indigenous presence.

In this edition, I outline some of the work that supports ministry to and by First Nations people. I hope this newsletter inspires you to support this vital work through prayer and financial support.



We are immensely grateful to our link churches and individual supporters. Without you, our ministry in the bush would face significant challenges. Thank you.

AEF Men's Fishing Weekend

In March, about 30 men gathered in Eden for fellowship with a fishing rod in hand. Although fishing isn't my cup of tea, I attend to encourage attendees in their walk with God. It's always a delight to see good fellowship centred around Bible talks, which this year were delivered by Pastor Darren Wighton, with plenty of seafood to enjoy.

Speaking engagements

Over the last quarter, I've engaged in numerous speaking events; some highlights include:

ARV Village: Catching up with our supporters at the Anglican Retirement Village is always a pleasure. The older we get, the more we focus on praying for God's mission in gospel-focused ministry nationwide.

Penrith Anglican Church: It was wonderful to reconnect with the congregation at Penrith Anglican Church, which is a long-time supporter of our ministry. Engaging in meaningful conversations with those present is always a joy.

Walgett Anglican Church: Visiting George & Carmel Fergusson in the Barwon District area was enriching. Over the weekend of the Walgett show, we seized the opportunity to proclaim the Gospel at the showground and later in Collarenebri.



BCA Connect – Indigenous Empowerment

Someone who shares my passion for Indigenous Empowerment is SAINT Regional Officer John Warner. John, like me, is keen to see Indigenous people raised to work among their people. As a result, John organised a BCA Connect week with this in mind.

Four churches in the Adelaide area were the focus of these events, and those in attendance were treated to information regarding the BCA Indigenous Ministry program.

People in attendance got to hear about the work of Jack & Lill Harradine in South Australia, Ruth & Lee Walton in the Top End, and the work Kathie & I do in this space. All meetings were well attended, particularly the last meeting at Trinity City, where over 60 people gathered to hear about work in the Indigenous space.



Cultural Awareness Training

As many know, Kathie & I have a Cultural Awareness Program that we have been rolling out nationwide. Churches and colleges have been the recipients of these programs. We are thankful for the opportunity to help people think through ministry in the Indigenous space.

This year we've led training at the Queensland Theological College, Brisbane School of Theology, and Bible College of South Australia.

Local churches have asked us to help them think through ministry to Indigenous people, especially churches with a large population of Indigenous people.

Other groups, like Christian Women Communicating International (CWCi) in South Australia and their counterparts in Queensland, seek to maximise their ministry's impact on our First Nations people.

We thank God for these opportunities.



Catch Up with Indigenous Clergy

One of the joys of my role is catching up with our Indigenous leaders. This last quarter, I had the opportunity to catch up with The Revd Michael Duckett, who is ministering in Campbelltown, Western Sydney, and Pastor Raymond Minniecon, who is ministering in the inner suburbs of Sydney. We give thanks for such faithfulness in serving the Lord.



Attendance at other conferences

Kathie & I have been involved in other activities, such as the following:

AEF National Women's Conference

Kathie attended the AEF National Women's Conference in Victor Harbour in April this year. As a leadership team member, Kathie was very busy organising the conference. Around 40 ladies were in attendance, and there were many day visitors as well. Stella Sloane from Wellington, NSW, gave the keynote address for this event, speaking on the theme of Treasures in Earthen Vessels.

A wonderful time was had by all.

Katherine Christian Convention

The most recent event we attended was the Katherine Christian Convention, where I helped with the sound for the weekend. It was wonderful to see many of the communities present for this gathering. Numbers were up on last year. I estimate that around 600 people were present for the weekend. This meant that services at night finished around 11 pm.

One of the convention's highlights was having four pastors from various communities help with the keynote address, again emphasising Indigenous empowerment. Those who spoke, spoke on the theme of living water. It was so encouraging to see our Indigenous people taking up the challenge and being there to encourage it.

God is good.

With Christian love,

Neville (& Kathie)



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