

January 2024

Happy New Year!

The Kimberley reached

FNMT's goal of reaching the Kimberley with Bible Training is a reality.

Dennis & Valda journeyed to Broome to conduct Bible training with Chris & Karen Webb from the Broome People's Church which operates under Broome Anglican Church. Chris is the Pastor of the Broome People's Church with a ministry to Aboriginal people in the region and across the Kimberley.



Even though Dennis & Chris we were excited about the prospect of rolling out Bible training, there wasn't any assurance of who would respond to the invitation to attend. We could only trust in the good Lord to open up the way for His people to be trained. After the flyer went out advertising the Bible Training in late November, 15 people registered to attend. This was the first training course run by FNMT outside the Perth metropolitan area.

When the first day of the training came, 16 people arrived to participate – "Oh what a feeling!"

The training program was intense and the course compact. Seven weeks of Bible training were condensed into just five days, it was full-on. You would have expected a drop-off rate of about 30-50 per cent. We were pleasantly surprised again, out of the 16 students, only one pulled out after the first day. From all reports,



she had a tooth problem which was causing awful pain. 15 students made it through the course reaching the achievement of 'COMPETENT', one student was given a participation certificate due to not attending the full course but was there on the last day.



Pastor Chris shared that he learned much from preparing for the course and that he was excited about the next instalment. One of the female students said, "I have been waiting for a long time for something like this [Bible training]".

Please pray with us as it takes a lot of planning, time, travel, and finances to reach our Aboriginal Christians for Bible training.

From the Principal's Desk

In 2024 FNMT will continue Discipleship training with two groups of students simultaneously participating in our Discipleship 1 Course and the new Discipleship 4 course.

We'll work on a Practical Ministry Training short course which will run for 16 weeks.

We will also talk to leaders in the Kimberley to see how we can complement their current leadership training with FNMT's Practical Ministry Training, to give it a bit more emphasis and relevance. We'll also work through Discipleship 2 in the Kimberley.

In the short history of AEF/FNMT, there have been five celebrations of achievement after courses.

Discipleship 1: Three celebrations – two in Perth where 18 students received certificates (12 in group 1 and six in group 2). One in Broome where 15 students received certificates.

Discipleship 2: One celebration where 14 students received certificates.

Life of Jesus: One celebration where 10 students received certificates.

FNMT has seen a total of 57 students participate and complete a Bible training short course over 12–14 months. We give God all the praise and glory for His guidance and direction, and for providing for all our needs.

I am weary but my God is strong, as long as I walk close to Him. Valda has been a strong support for me, along with Rich & Rio Handley, plus the Advisory/Consultative Committee of FNMT. We do look forward to what God has in store for us in 2024, should He tarry.

Praise God for:

- Answered prayer in reaching the Kimberley with Bible training.
- The resounding success of the first Bible training class outside of Perth.
- The prayerful and financial support of all FNMT donors including like-minded organisations, churches, and individuals. We are so blessed to have help in building strong Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Christians for His Kingdom's growth.

Pray for:

- The finances needed to employ extra staff as FNMT grows.
- A travel budget to enable more training in regions outside Perth.
- A 4x4 vehicle to tow the caravan we purchased last year.

In Christian love.

Dennis & Valda



Our Ministry with First Nations Ministry Training is supported by <u>Bush Church Aid</u>

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