

Aboriginal Evangelical Fellowship
Australia Newsletter



Shakita Williamson of Nethercote NSW

April—July 2015

Chairman's Message

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We thank you for your ongoing support of the fellowship. The administration staff have been busy designing brochures and posters along with their usual responsibilities. Can I say how excited I am about the upcoming Convention and Testimonial Dinner. There is a lot of interest in what we are doing in honouring our foundational founding council. Koorong and Surrender have come on board to help raise funds for this event, for which we give thanks to God.

If you are planning on attending the testimonial dinner then you need to secure tickets ASAP, as there is quite a number of people enquiring about them. We are only selling 100 tickets, If you would like to attend then I suggest you secure your tickets sooner rather than later.

To AEF members, you will notice that you are being sent three copies of the news letter. We are wanting you to give them to others in your community. If you would like more copies then please feel free to either download from our website and print them out or write and request that more copies be sent. As you no doubt are aware, this can be very costly and we are trusting the Lord

that he would provide everything that we need to continue to build up and encourage our people in their walk with God, any donations are kindly accepted.

In this edition of our April news letter, you will see some of the work that is happening in the various parts of our nation. Jack Harradine and his wife Lil have been very busy in a small community called Murrin Bridge, NSW. Their story is well worth a read. Terry Manton Snr, is also serving in an itinerant ministry across the east coast of Australia. Read some of what Terry is doing, Get on board and pray for these couples and if possible sup-



Pastor Don & Mrs Karlie Hayward

port their ministry.

We would like to send greetings to our Aboriginal Christian brothers and sister throughout QLD. The Rev Shane and Lurleen Blackman in Cairns. Max and Tracey Conlon in Murgon. Aunty Jean Phillips in

Brisbane, Rev Graham and Iris Paulson and their families, Pastor John and Maria Tonga, Woodridge Brisbane. We also want to say hi to Goma Conlon, Billy Williams and their respective wives. A big shout out to our Brethren in Walgett and Brewarrina to Ike Gordon and all our folk at Gilgandra and Dubbo. To our brethren



Mr Goma & Mrs Stacey Conlon

in Condobolin and Wellington, Eden as well as Tony and Francine Riches in Melbourne.

A special hello to our UAICC mob down in Adelaide, the Rev Dean Wittika and Pastor Don Hayward from the Borean Church along with Robert Taylor and Basil Colman, Alban and Donna Kartinyeri. A big shout out to Pastor Albert Knapp and his dear wife Maxine as well as Jarred Dimer and Pastor Gerald and Jacqueline Eades, and to the rest of our brethren in the west, God bless you as you seek to be the people of God that he wants.

I love the scene in Revelation 7. John ushers us into the very throne room of God and note what he sees, in verse

9, *“After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.”*

What a great scene. People from every tongue and nation worshipping God. One can't wait for the return of our Lord. But until then, there is work for us to do. Plan to join us at our next convention in Port Augusta in January 2016. Be encouraged as Pastor Bob Brown shares with us our responsibility as we await our Saviour's return.

GOD BLESS

Rev Neville Naden



Rev. Neville & Mrs Kathy Naden

Country Gospel Sounds

At least 100 people gathered at the Aboriginal Keeping Place on Jigamy Farm, located on the shores of beautiful Pambula Lake, for the annual Country and Western Gospel Sounds from 9 to 11 January 2015. This popular event was again hosted by the local Eden AEC.



Mr Nathaniel Naden—Compare

The main event commenced with a delicious BBQ. The musical competition drew visitors and locals alike. Nathaniel Naden was the compare for the event. Nathaniel is in his first year of studies at Moore Theological College in Sydney.

This is a big event for the local Christians; it is also a great outreach tool. Pastor Greg Kelly of Perth was the main speaker for the weekend. He



Pastor Greg & Mrs Jeanette Kelly

based his messages around the theme, “Christ died for us” from Romans 5:6.

There were a large number of campers, enjoying the beautiful surrounds on Pambula Lake.

This is always a fun weekend; locals and visitors alike love to dress up in their western style gear, along with a few American Indian outfits. Well done to the folk at Eden for your hard work and commitment in holding this event.



Mr Dennis & Mrs Esmee Cruse

ABORIGINAL EVANGELICAL FELLOWSHIP AUSTRALIA

A Celebration of God's Faithfulness

HONOURING OUR AEF FOUNDATION COUNCIL OF 1970



ALONG WITH THOSE MEN AND WOMEN WHO HAVE BEEN INFLUENTIAL IN SHAPING THE FELLOWSHIP OVER THE PAST 40 PLUS YEARS

TESTIMONIAL DINNER & CELEBRATORY CONVENTION

SATURDAY 2ND JANUARY AND 3-9 JANUARY 2016

PORT AUGUSTA, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

AEF was set up in the early 1970s with a set purpose of bringing Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander peoples together for fellowship from across the denominational divide, and to encourage Aboriginal people to take up their rightful place within the church. Join us for a week long celebration of the first National Council and the united fellowship, as we worship God together and bring praise to His son, our saviour Jesus.

THEME: **OCCUPY TILL I COME** LUKE 19:12-13

SPEAKER: **PASTOR BOB BROWN** WAGGA WAGGA, NSW

LOCATION: **LEE MEMORIAL THEATRE** HANNAGAN STREET, PORT AUGUSTA 5700

CONTACT US AT:

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THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS



LET US COME BOLDLY TO THE THRONE OF GRACE

Please pray with us for the following people, ministries and programs:

- 1 2014 was a challenging year for AEF, we praise God for His grace, patience, wisdom and strength that was given just when it was needed. Despite disappointments the Lord continues to bless the vital work of the Community Chaplains, the exciting ministry among the youth and women in the Eastern States.
- 2 Pastor Gerald and Mrs Jackie Eades have now moved from the Christian School at Coolgardie to Perth. They **would value your prayers as they recuperate from the hard work of the boarding school and seek God's will for future ministry.**
- 3 Pray for Aboriginal Christians in remote areas, that they will stand strong in the Lord and that other local Christians will come along side them and support them as they strive to live for Him.
- 4 The AEF Federal Council has a number of pressing issues that they are working through. Rev Neville Naden, who is the Chairman of the National Council, is a strong and godly leader. Council members represent a wide area of ministries in Australia. Neville and his wife, Kathy are doing a great work in Broken Hill.
- 5 The 2016 Testimonial Dinner and National Convention is a big event on the AEF calendar. We are asking for prayer for this historical gathering. Pray for good health and strength for the remaining six Federal Council members of 1970. We are currently seeking sponsorship and donations for this special gathering.
- 6 We are praising God for the faithful women members who are involved in the ministry of the Eastern Area Women. In June this year the women will be holding their 44th Annual Convention. Many of the older women, who were there from the beginning, have passed away but the younger ones have filled the gap and are keeping the important ministry going.
- 7 Pastor Ossie Cruse continues to minister on the far South Coast of NSW. He is heavily involved in the local church and in a chaplaincy role. He is working hard to complete the youth camp at Jigamy. Please pray with us for funds to complete this very important project.
- 8 Mr Tony and Mrs Francine Riches and their son, Daniel of Melbourne have developed a project called Solid Chaplaincy Indigenous Youth Program. The program is set up to train young adults, based on the great need to provide chaplains, mainly to sporting clubs.
- 9 A small team of men have planned a trip to remote areas of SA and the NT during the month of May. The team will visit isolated churches and small fellowships to encourage the leaders and the Christian folk.
- 10 Mr Neville and Mrs Lorraine Lilley are so thankful for the talented people who make up the AEF Administration team. Along with running the National Office and their executive roles on National Councils, they minister as Community Chaplains. This important role has no boundaries.
- 11 Pray for the Christians in Gilgandra, NSW. Mrs Kathy Bird has asked for prayer for their new fellowship, which is showing encouraging growth. Kathy is currently recovering from major surgery. She would value your prayers for a full recovery.
- 12 Pastor Jonathan Bates holds the position of Principal of the Kimberley Bible College at Halls Gap. Jonathan is a highly respected leader in the Kimberley as well as in many other areas in the Top End. He does important outreach to many areas, in both the Kimberley and in other remote and isolated regions in WA.
- 13 Bimbadeen College staff do a wonderful job in maintaining the well-used buildings and looking after the spacious grounds of the property at Cootamundra. Rodney and Wanda Manton and Aaron and Rachael Taylor are currently on staff. Wanda would value prayer as she recovers from chemotherapy and other treatment.
- 14 To watch the rapid development and growth of the East Coast Christian Indigenous Youth Net-

“Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.” Romans 8:37

work has been amazing. The ministry continues to grow strong under the leadership of Pastor Mark and Mrs Alex Naden and their team. Pray that the Christian young people won't become sidetracked with the things of the world that often ensnare so many of our young people today.

- 15 Bimbadeen College at Cootamundra will continue with their on-campus and by-distance training programs in 2015. The college is seeking help from people who can contribute to building restoration and general maintenance. If you can assist please contact Rodney or Aaron at Bimbadeen on 02 6942 1129.
- 16 The Community Chaplaincy ministry is vital for our people. Chaplains have a huge impact in Aboriginal communities around Australia. Even though financial support for this ministry suffered a \$10,000 short fall last financial year, we believe the Lord will provide to keep the ten Chaplains on the ground in 2015.
- 17 Many Christians in remote and isolated areas of SA were greatly encouraged by the visits of Chaplains John and Dorothy Caton. John would value prayer as he waits to have a knee replacement operation.
- 18 Chaplains, Pastor Denis and Mrs Maureen Atkinson are based at Cummeragunja. They have a wide ministry in regional Victoria, which also takes them into the city of Melbourne. Denis and Maureen are keeping well.
- 19 Chaplains, Pastor Dennis and Mrs Wilma Jetta minister in the local community south of Perth and to Aboriginal people who come to Perth hospitals for treatment as well as to those in prison. As in many areas, alcohol and drug abuse in the southern areas of WA is rife.
- 20 Chaplains, Pastor Denzil and Mrs Shirley Humphreys are based in Perth. They mainly do counselling and encouraging Christians. Visitors from country areas often visit them in Perth to seek guidance and support.
- 21 Chaplains, Pastor Albert and Mrs Maxine Knapp do extensive hospital visitation in Perth, in counselling, and outreach to country areas. Maxine is hopeful of soon completing her important book on the history of AEF.
- 22 Pastor Lyle Browning, his wife, Fay, and the faithful Christians of the Fingal Christian Fellowship, in northern NSW, are going through testing times. They value your prayers for the situation with their church manse.
- 23 Pastor Darren and Mrs Michelle Wighton minister at Albury. **Darren is very involved in men's ministry. They both serve on the Bimbadeen College Board.**
- 24 Pray for Mr Leon and Mrs Sheryn Turvey as they minister in the Indigenous Church in Western Sydney. Their main role is working with children and young people.
- 25 Pastor Frank and Mrs Rose Johnson of Tamworth NSW, would value your prayers for the ministry. Frank has recently spent some time in hospital suffering pneumonia. He also has regular dialysis treatment.
- 26 Rev Rick Manton of Mount Druitt is recovering after being very ill in hospital for some weeks. He is currently at home recuperating and building up his strength. Please pray for Rick and Kayleen and family.
- 27 Pastor Jim and Mrs Maxine Lawrence do personal evangelism as well as their Community Chaplain ministry.
- 28 Pastor Ray and Mrs Sharon Minniecon of Sydney have a vital ministry in Redfern. They also help run a program to support the thousands of Aboriginal children who have been removed from their families.
- 29 Evangelist Jack Harradine and his wife, Lil have an exciting new ministry at Murrin Bridge in NSW.
- 30 Pray with us that the Lord will provide the financial resources needed to support the ministry of the Aboriginal Evangelical Fellowship. We believe that the ministry, which God began in 1970, will continue.
- 31 Our email prayer chain ministry is going very well for those who shy away from social media programs. You can also find us on Facebook, Aboriginal Evangelical Fellowship.

Terry and Olga Manton's Outreach Ministry



Dear AEF and Church Family, we are kept very busy with our outreach ministry. The fellowship at Goodooga is going really well. We started out with 40 people and the last report I received was about 65 people were gathering together for fellowship. Praise God for the encouraging numbers that are now coming along to the meetings.

At Brewarrina we had a lot of meetings and sing-alongs but now there are young men who are hungry for the word of God and are having prayer meetings down by the river every Wednesday evening. We thank God for these young men and for those that they bring along to the meetings.

There are still a lot of funerals, 3 to 4 a week at Brewarrina. Walgett is a very hard place in which to minister, but we will continue to minister there. On the Queen's Birthday weekend 2014, we had what we call a river convention, and people

came from Dubbo, Brewarrina, Moree, Goodooga, Tasmania, Eden, and Sydney it was a real blessing to see friends we hadn't seen for many years. After the convention we prepared for the Walkabout ministry in July at Dubbo where I was the guest speaker I spoke about our Aboriginal soldiers coming back from the war. I combined that theme with being a good soldier for Jesus Christ. I also had the opportunity to visit the Juvenile Justice centre where I spoke to the young men about the Lord. From Dubbo we then drove on to Karuah for a convention on 19th, 20th, 21st September, I again was guest speaker Sunday morning the theme was taken from Matthew 9:35-38 "*The harvest is plentiful but the labourers are few*". On Friday night 90 people attended the meeting. On Saturday the men and women held separate meetings. Saturday night we all came together for the gospel meeting we had over 100 people in attendance. They came from Kempsey, Taree, Perth, Newcastle, Eden, Cootamundra and Tea Gardens, it was a great time of fellowship.

On the Monday after the convention Olga and I drove out to Cootamundra for a Bimbadeen College Board meeting. After the board meeting we drove home to Eden for a rest and to prepare for our convention at Wellington in October. The conven-

Chaplain Story



*Mr Aaron & Mrs Rachael Taylor
Administration Bimbadeen*

tion at Wellington went really well, we had four speakers share the Word of God it was a real good time of blessing. After the convention we drove back to Cootamundra for the Bimbadeen AGM. We then drove home to Eden for a short rest. We decided to pack up and move to Sydney to live. We will not forget what our Church family at Bega and Tathra have done for us and our ministry. We can't thank them enough. We give our Lord all the praise and glory. Thank you, we love you all. Yours in His mighty and wonderful name.

***Bimbadeen Christian Training
and Conference Centre
Cootamundra NSW***

***For information on the training programs and bookings for the Conference Centre please contact
Bimbadeen,***

***PO Box 313
Cootamundra NSW 2590***

Telephone: 02 6942 1129

Email: admin@bimbadeen.org

I have a prison ministry at the Bunbury Regional Prison, I spend all day on Monday of each week at the Prison, and I conduct a Worship Service every 4th Sunday of the Month on Sunday afternoon. There are times when I have been asked to do Memorial Services within the Prison, because the new rules do not allow prisoners to attend family funerals, except immediate family, sometimes even then they get refused, depending on the offence committed, so a Memorial Service is the next best thing for them. Sometimes their families are allowed to attend these Services.

Please pray for the prison ministry as most of the prisoners are Aboriginal and a lot of them have never had the opportunity to hear or know about the Word of God because of family influences and situations. Pray especially for our youth as figures show that 80% of youth in Western Australia Prisons are Aboriginal. Every second month all Prison Chaplains meet together to discuss each others ministry and issues and we assist each other as prisoners are transferred from one prison to another.

We have a tough battle to fight against the influence of alcohol and drugs, which is dominating the lives of most of our Aboriginal people/communities here in the South West of Western Australia.

Jack and Lil Harradine Outreach Ministry

Hello from the Harradine's. We want to quickly introduce ourselves before telling you where we are and what we are doing. Lil and I are from Point Pearce in SA. We became Christians at an AEF Rally, at Point Pearce 30 years ago. Pastor Ben Mason was the preacher, who led us to the Lord. I thank God for the work of the AEF and their faithful ministers. Like the people to whom we minister, we were lost and a broken people before Jesus changed our lives.

I am primarily an Evangelist. I trained as an Evangelist with the Church Army in the mid 1980's. Lil and I have an itinerant ministry. We go into a place where God leads us and we basically establish a new church or, we help build up the church that is already there. We try to encourage and support and work with local pastors, where



Evangelist Jack Harradine

there is one. We do pastoral work and disciple new Christians and old ones as well. We help to train/empower a leadership group to lead the church so that we can leave and go to another place and do the same thing again.

Part of the reason that we move so often is that there is not enough workers in the field, doing God's work. As the Lord says, "*the harvest is ripe but the workers are few*". Many Aboriginal communities want their own Aboriginal pastor but, the reality is, there are not enough of us to go around. We need to pray earnestly for those workers in the field and for each other and pray the Lord of the Harvest will send more labourers.

As the moment we are establishing a church at Murrin Bridge in NSW. Murrin Bridge is a small Aboriginal community with about 200 people. It is a quiet little place and the people are very warm and welcoming. There was no church community when we came here and we couldn't find any Christian people. I praise God that many people are responding to the Gospel and are committing their lives to the Lord and trusting in Him. So, now we are having church services every Sunday and Bible Study on Tuesday nights and we have Christian fellowship every night.

We sit around until all hours of the night talking about Jesus and shar-

ing the Gospel. I praise and thank God for these opportunities.

Whilst it is the love of God that constrains us and grips us and takes a hold of us and controls and empowers us to do this work, there is also another reason that we want to serve Him. Remember the story of the two subjects who owed the master a debt. One had a considerable debt and the other had a smaller debt. Nevertheless they both had a debt. The master forgave both of them their debts. Who do you think would have been the most grateful and thankful? Obviously, the one who had the biggest debt forgiven. God has given us the biggest and most precious gift that we can ever receive. He has given us His Son, Jesus Christ, who died that my debt of sin can be wiped away and he has given me the gift of eternal life, through Jesus' resurrection. What greater gift can we receive than the gift of life? This is what motivates us and, this is our message that Jesus brings new life, to those who will believe in Him.

Please keep us in your prayer. We hope to see you at the 2016 Convention at Port Augusta.

PLEASE NOTE

We have included our bank account details on the back cover of this magazine for those wanting to make a donation by direct deposit to the ministry of the AEF Australia

AEF Eastern Area Women's 44th Annual Convention

Date: 5th to 8th June 2015

***Where: Bimbadeen Christian
Training & Conference Centre
Rinkin Street
Cootamundra NSW***

*For other details ring:
(02) 4982 4415 or 0419 500 092*



Ms Margaret Stewart of Port Augusta

WILLS AND BEQUESTS

HELP US TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Have you considered leaving a portion of your Will to support the ongoing ministry to the Aboriginal people of Australia?

*For more information contact the
AEF Office,
PO Box 118
Tanilba Bay NSW 2319
Telephone: 02 4982 4415 or
Mob: 0419 500 092
Email: aef@aef.org.au*



**Group from Redfern Church attended the Eden
Country Gospel Sounds Weekend 2015**

Please accept the enclosed gift for the work of the Aboriginal Evangelical Fellowship
Australia

YOUR NAME:

ADDRESS:

..... **Postcode**

I would like my gift to be used for:

- General Funds Where most needed
 Family & Youth Services Chaplaincy Ministry (gifts of \$2 and over are tax deductible)

Or a direct deposit can be made to our NAB Account
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