



# UAM Ministries

## January - March 2001

# Messenger

## Prayer Meetings

### VICTORIA

#### First Monday:

LADIES AUXILIARY 1.30pm  
To be advised

#### Third Sunday:

Federal Prayer Meeting  
Bimonthly 3.00 pm  
Details: Phone: Federal Office  
(03) 9841 6029

#### Third Tuesday:

2.00 pm  
Mrs H. Green  
24 Pitt Street Ringwood

#### Second Thursday:

7.45 pm  
Williamstown Gospel Mission  
8-10 Electra Street Williamstown

#### Prayer Convener:

Mr Ron Smith  
(03) 9726 0949  
0411 462 061

### SOUTH AUSTRALIA

#### Second Saturday:

Bimonthly 2.30 pm  
Jan - Nov  
Miss M Wiley  
Unit 9, James Evans Court  
122 St Bernards Road  
Magill

### WESTERN AUSTRALIA

#### Second Thursday:

2.30 pm

If you would like to become a prayer partner and receive regular prayer notes to update you on the prayer needs of our workers please get in touch with our office and leave your details.

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#### British Isles:

Mr R. Hughes, 110 Gowing Road, Norwich, Norfolk NR6 6UH England

For mailing: Add 'UAM Ministries' before given address.

#### NEW SOUTH WALES:

##### North Nowra, Unit 3

3/207 Illaroo Rd 2541

Adams, Miss A.

##### Orient Point, 25 Orsova Ave 2540

Berry, Mr & Mrs P.

##### Walgett, 47 Namoi Street 2832

Mitchell, Mr & Mrs M.

#### SOUTH AUSTRALIA:

Vacant

#### WESTERN AUSTRALIA:

KIMBERLEY:

#### Kununurra (PO Box 38) 6743

C/- Shedley, Mr & Mrs D.

#### Halls Creek (PO Box 17) 6770

Bates, Pastor & Mrs J.

#### Fitzroy Crossing (PO Box 13) 6765

Cranwell, Mr & Mrs G.

#### Wyndham 6740

In association with The Peoples Church

#### SOUTHERN:

##### Gnowangerup,

##### 7 Macdonald Street 6335

Way, Mr & Mrs L.

#### DESERT DISTRICT:

##### Leonora 6438

Vacant



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# President's Comments

Within the Australian society we have a great many heroes. It seems to be a fact of human society that we look for those people who we can hold high and admire and seek to emulate.

Recently as this nation has celebrated its centenary of Federation there has been a reflection on our national past and in particular on those individuals who made great contributions to the formation and establishment of this nation.

We have also recently remembered our fallen soldiers on ANZAC day, the men and women of Australia who gave their lives in order that we may enjoy the freedom which this country offers.

Last year at the Sydney Olympics new and younger heroes emerged as these elite athletes performed to the highest standards in their events.

In the Bible there are heroes too. In fact there are a seemingly endless number of people who are counted as heroes of the faith and many of them are listed in the book of Hebrews chapter 11. The writer to the Hebrews lists person after person as those who, by faith, stepped out in response to God's call on their lives. All of the people mentioned in this chapter of Hebrews are worthy of hero status in their own right, because of their faith and trust in God through seemingly impossible circumstances.

This long line of faithful men and women does not end with those listed in the scriptures. Indeed, the line of those counted worthy heroes of the faith has continued through history to our own day.

As I have been prompted to reflect on the great work done by missionaries of the UAM in the past I am struck by the fact that their service was marked by the same thing that made the names mentioned in Hebrews great, they lived by faith.

In the great army of people who have served in UAM in over 100 years of history, living by faith in the power of God to keep them, there have been those who will be especially remembered for the great love and kindness they showed as they spent their lives in the service of the great Jehovah among the Aboriginal people of Australia.

Prominent among them would be the missionaries who worked in the children's homes at Bomaderry, NSW and Colebrook at Quorn, SA. These missionaries were predominantly single ladies who gave their lives in service to aboriginal children, loving them, caring for them in health and in sickness and telling them of the saving love of Jesus.

These dear servants of God surely are 'great Australian heroes'.

Christopher Jones  
President

# Rohrbach's Return

It was with some surprise and joy that we received a letter from Charles and Wilma Rohrbach last December requesting that they be accepted back into the work of the UAM at Fitzroy crossing.

It had been sixteen years since they had left the mission after spending nearly four years ministering in the Kimberley region. Their ministry at that time was mainly with children and in literacy work in the Kriol language. Charles had also studied the Bunaba language with some of the older men at Fitzroy crossing and wrote a significant introduction to that language, which at that time had not been translated. There are very few speakers of this language now.

Charles and Wilma came to Melbourne for two weeks in February to become reacquainted with the mission and the changes which have taken place since they were last with us. While in Melbourne we visited the Wycliffe headquarters at Kangaroo Ground where Charles and Wilma were able to get up to date information on available materials in Aboriginal languages.

Wilma is keen to do children's work, having been trained in child evangelism and extensive experience in this area. She is also keen to use the Kriol language in communicating the message of God's love to the Aboriginal people in the Fitzroy Crossing area.

Charles has acquired a 16mm movie projector and over 100 Christian films and hopes to be able to use these films in ministry as well.

Charles and Wilma arrived in Fitzroy Crossing on 9<sup>th</sup> April. They noticed many changes in the community since they were last there in 1984.

After obtaining the key to the UAM property they were ready to start settling in. Wilma writes:

*"First to the broom dust and grim amass in an abandoned abode! But the gas stove works and the power is on, and ceiling fans work in all the rooms, but not the air-conditioner. A-OK.- the rooms are airy and ample. Just two appliances conspicuous by their absence, a fridge and washing machine. But those arrogant little white ants don't wait to be asked in and have been working arduously! Charlie has spent ages under the bathroom, reinforcing the shower recess base."*

Charles and Wilma would value your prayers and support as they seek to set up their new home and re-establish contact with the Aboriginal people of that area and the out-lying communities.

CJ

# News Update

## Walgett

Matt and Jan's busy program has been in full swing now for some months with them involved in scripture in schools, distance education (via school of the air), church meetings, prayer meetings, Sunday school, occasional weddings, funerals, and counselling. Amazingly they still manage to find time to be involved in community activities like sport etc.

## Nowra

Alicia continues her visitation activities and finds a continuing need for ministry to the significant aboriginal population of the Nowra area. As she is working on her own and she does not drive she finds it difficult to organise activities and meetings. She and Aunty Bell McLeod ,meet together for prayer and hold cottage meetings as they can.

## Orient Point

Life at Orient point always seems to be idyllic but the difficulties of ministry provide a reality check. The boys continue to enjoy the outdoor life with surfing high on the agenda. Heather is studying with YWAM in Rooty Hill and the family were able to visit her at the end of April to do some needed catching up after being away from home for several months. The local church has been helping Peter and Sue with a once a month outdoor outreach to attract adults and youth as well as more children. Please pray that this will be effective.

## Halls Creek

Jonathan and Kathleen Bates have been able to get away for a well deserved holiday starting from the Easter break into May. They remained in Halls Creek right through the hot summer period and were glad to be able to go south to visit Jonathan's mother at Kalgoorlie. They were then going to pick up their camper trailer at Esperance where it had been for some modifications. Jonathan is keen to get back to visit some of the more isolated communities where there are reports of a work of God's spirit in peoples lives.

## Fitzroy Crossing

Charles and Wilma are settling in to life in Fitzroy Crossing and were able to attend the Bayulu Easter convention. There will be a report on this convention in the next edition of the Messenger. Charles and Wilma ask that you pray for the Christians in the outlying communities where there may be only one or two committed Christians and times of fellowship is infrequent. Reports have been coming in from several of the outlying communities of a movement of God's spirit in the lives of people. Please pray that this will spread and produce enduring results.

# News Update .../contd

## **Geraldton**

Glyne and Pam Cranwell are making progress with the setting up of the new facilities for the revived tape ministry. Glyne is in the process of acquiring new equipment for the studio and becoming familiar with the demands of modern technology. Progress on the issue of copy right is slow and involved. All the old UAM Recordings must now be covered by copy right before they can be reproduced and sold.

## **Gnowangerup**

Laurie and Eris Way continue to be available to the local aboriginal people and encourage them to attend the local Baptist church which is very supportive. Laurie continues with his mid week bible study which is well attended.

## **Melbourne**

The Council continues to meet in Melbourne with conference phone calls to our field workers every second month. This way we keep in touch and they are involved in the decisions of the council. Currently Matt Mitchell, Glyne Cranwell and Jonathan Bates are members of the council executive. These times prove to be a blessing and a time of prayer is included in our meeting. Prayer meetings continue in Melbourne with Mrs Green's monthly meeting continuing with faithful prayers and the Williamstown Gospel Mission continuing a UAM prayer meeting each month. This meeting began with the establishment of the WGM in 1916 and has continued to the present day, which at 85 years must be something of a record.

# Centenary at Kempsey

On Easter Monday last Bill Hammen and I set off from Melbourne to travel to Kempsey, NSW, to join with Bob Shanney and his friends in remembering 100 years of evangelical Christian outreach to the Aboriginal people of the Kempsey area and the surrounding districts.

After the dawn service at South West Rocks and breakfast at the beach, we visited the Fig Tree Estate, a small cluster of houses for aboriginal people where we spoke to the people there and handed out Christian literature. The people here were very interested to here of the centenary celebrations as a number of them could remember some of the missionaries from the old days and they began to reminisce.

A visit to the West Kempsey Cemetery led by Bob and Georgia Shanney revealed 4 graves of missionaries who had died while serving their Lord among the aboriginal people of the area. One of those buried there was a Miss Flora Pain. Her headstone reads:

In Memory of our Beloved Daughter  
FLORA GWEN PAIN  
Missionary to Aborigines  
Who Fell Asleep in Jesus  
6<sup>th</sup> September 1908  
Aged 27 Years  
"Have Faith in God"

After laying wreaths, the reading of the scriptures and offering a prayer of thanksgiving to God for the memory of these dear saints now in glory, the small group dispersed with a real sense of awe and thankfulness for the great heritage of faithful men and women who gave their lives as living sacrifices to God that others may hear the news of Jesus saving love.

In the afternoon a small convoy of cars proceeded out of town to a place called Burnt Bridge where in the early days there had been a UAM church for the local Aboriginal community. After the UAM missionary left the area in the early 1960's, the Government removed the small church building. Much to the dismay of the Aboriginal people.

Our purpose in visiting this site was to plant a food tree on the site where the church building had stood. As we gathered our Aboriginal brother, Mr James Dungay, related the following story:

# Centenary at Kempsey .../contd

As a young boy he had lived with his parents in the aboriginal community just behind the church. It was just a short walk through the trees from his place to the little church building and he would often come over with other aboriginal children at meeting time. But being very shy, he and some of his friends would not enter the building but rather would crawl under the floor from where they could hear the music being played by Mr Hermann on the piano accordion and the bright singing. James recalled how it was then that he had a desire to be able to play a musical instrument and to sing. Mrs Hermann remembered well the small children hiding under the church during the meetings and we were all touched that God had revealed the fruit of past labour at such a moment of remembrance.

The scriptures were read by Mr Wal Shelley. We again gave thanks and praise to God in prayer and the tree was then planted by Mr James Dungay and Mrs Hermann.

The evening saw us enjoying a meal at the Presbyterian Church, provided by the ladies of the church and was greatly appreciated after a long day of activities. The minister of the church, Mr Trevor Woodland who had joined with us in the various activities of the day, made us all most welcome.

At the evening rally which followed, Mrs Hermann showed some slides of the work in the 50's and 60's and spoke of the times she and her late husband shared in the ministry. James Dungay brought a testimony in song and after a message on the need for all men to hear the gospel in order to believe, (Romans 10:17) the rally drew to a close.

It had been a long day and all were tired. It had been good to be reminded of the work of God which had gone on in years gone by. It was a great encouragement to us all to press on in the work of making known the gospel message of the saving love of Jesus to each new generation of Aboriginal people.

CJ

# A Tribute

***Isaiah 9:2 "the people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined."***

This was the vision that Mr & Mrs Wade had and it was to these people that the Lord called them to take the light of the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ.

So in 1934 they went in search of these people that walked in darkness.

This is a story about a young aboriginal girl by the name of Yikuwarra (known as Lula Nelson in later years) She was one of the first girls who came into the mission home at Warburton Ranges. She came to know the Lord and accepted him as her saviour and Lord and was baptised. She was married to a tribal man as is the aboriginal custom, a very unhappy situation, but there was no other way.

However, the husband died leaving her with three young children. She came back to the mission and used to help Mrs Wally Mack in the boys' home, and was also a great help to the mission generally.

Later she married the man of her choice and they went to work on some of the sheep stations around Laverton.

When we were in Cosmo Newbery, Lula and her husband Clem came to make their home there. Their six boys went to school and attended Church and Sunday School. Lula used to take part in ladies meetings and also at camp meetings.

Her faith in the Lord who saved her had never wavered in spite of her sad situation and the tragic loss of four of her boys.

Lula Nelson believed in prayer as the following story will tell.

One Saturday afternoon Lula and I went bush to dig for yams. My husband Claude, took us in the ute and left us at a well 10kms south of Cosmo Newbery. After we walked around and dug yams, it was time to go home. Claude came to pick us up.

Sunday morning dawned and we were getting ready to go to church. Lula came down from her home to see me and tell me that she had lost \$10 in the bush (which was quite a bit in those days) and asked if Claude would take us out again to the same place to see if we could find it, so after church and lunch we went out. During Saturday night there had been strong winds and there were doubts as to whether we would be able to find the \$10 note.

# A Tribute .../contd

Anyway, Claude left us there and before we started looking around, Lula said in the language, "Mrs Cotterill, we pray and ask the Lord to help us". So we prayed and began our search she went in one direction and I in the other. Suddenly there was a shout and Lula said, "I found it!" She came back to where I was, so delighted. She prayed and thanked the Lord for helping her find it. In her prayer she said, "Lord Jesus, you know we had a big wind last night but you looked after this money, thank you."

Lula had a lovely nature but was no stranger to adversity. She displayed a faith that was well rooted in the Lord Jesus as her saviour. In spite of what she had been through, she had never let go of her faith and trust in the Lord.

Last Christmas some of the church ladies went up to the hospital to sing carols and bring Christmas cheer to the older patients including Lula. In between carols Lula would tell us that she learned these carols at Warburton ranges from Mr and Mrs Wade. She witnessed to a few of the nursing staff that the Lord Jesus had saved her.

On the 6<sup>th</sup> of February this year she went home to be with the Lord whom she loved. She has gone to one of the many mansions Jesus has prepared for her.

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."

(1 Corinthians 15:58)

Dora Cotterill  
Leonora

# Tank Radio

Wednesday the 18<sup>th</sup> April. Last night, Chris Jones and I arrived at Kempsey. We booked in at a caravan park, had a meal in the township, and then phoned Bob Shanney to let him know of our arrival. Bob joined us at the caravan park and gave us the itinerary for the coming day.

We rose early next morning and met Bob on the highway. We then travelled to South West Rocks on the Macleay River where we held a dawn thanksgiving service on the jetty.

E. J. Telfer, as a young man, had offered himself for service to the Lord, and on the 18<sup>th</sup> April 1901 arrived at South West Rocks on board the SS Macleay to begin Christian ministry among the Aboriginal people of the Kempsey area. When he arrived he was met and welcomed by the Mayor of Kempsey, Mr .

After the service, we gathered for breakfast on the beachfront at South West Rocks which is situated at the mouth of the Macleay River in Trial Bay. It was here that we first heard the words "Tank Radio" mentioned. Our minds began to run wild! What is "Tank Radio"? Is it a mechanically propelled bulletproof vehicle with caterpillar tracks? Could it be something like my old LTD Ford, which we nicknamed "the tank"? Or a reservoir for storing liquids?

Lunchtime saw us at a picnic area on a hill overlooking Kempsey. It was here that we were enlightened about "Tank Radio." It was the local community FM radio station built inside a large old concrete water tank, long since abandoned for storing water. With the heavy traffic of the highway going past, the thick concrete walls served as a good soundproof against the noise of the traffic.

Each fortnight Bob has a one-hour radio program for his "Time For Christ Ministries". Bob, who is an old hand in the studio, gave us quick instructions, "make sure you are only two hand widths from the microphone when speaking on air" and "no chatting in the background unless there is a record or commercial playing".

Those present in the studio were James Dungay, an Aboriginal brother in the Lord, Wallace Shelley, Mrs Ruth Hermann, a former missionary, and from Melbourne, Chris Jones and Bill Hammen. All took part in the broadcast.

Bob commenced the program with the weather forecast for the Kempsey district, and then played a hymn. James, playing the gum leaf, then played a beautiful rendition of "Amazing Grace". James testified that as a young boy he lived close to UAM church at Burnt Bridge. On Sundays he would go to the church but being too shy to go in would lie under the building where he enjoyed listening to Mr Hermann playing the accordion and the singing. James has been a born again Christian now for many years and enjoys singing and playing guitar and gum leaf in church.

# Tank Radio .../contd

Another commercial break and then the President Chris Jones brought greetings from the UAM in Melbourne on this special centenary day and gave a short message of encouragement to listeners to put their trust in the Lord.

It was my turn to speak and I gave my testimony of having been in Hitler's army as a boy of 16 at the end of WWII, and how I came to Australia where I found Christ and trusted Him for salvation, and how I eventually became involved in UAM. Before another commercial break Wal Shelley brought a Bible reading.

Mrs Ruth Hermann spoke of the time she and her husband spent as missionaries at Burnt Bridge just out of Kempsey.

Bob had asked his listeners a question, "Who was the first missionary who landed at South West Rocks 100 years ago? By the end of the program two listeners had rung in with the correct answer and were rewarded with a free copy of the book, "Challenging the Almighty-a short history of the United Aborigines Mission".

The "Time for Christ" program then drew to a close with the playing of that wonderful hymn, "Jerusalem".

Bill Hammen