



UAM Ministries

July - September 2000

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

Head Office:

23 Pine Way, East Doncaster, Victoria 3109.

Phone: (03) 9841 6029 Fax: (03) 9841 6033

Email address: uam@uam.org.au

Postal address: PO Box 1071, East Doncaster,
Vic 3109

President: Mr C. Jones

Vice-President: Mr B. Challoner

Secretary: Mr B. Hammen

Prayer Convener: Mr R. Smith

Editor: Mr C. Jones, email: editor@uam.org.au

Queensland:

Mr. S. P. Walker, 99 Waverley Road, Camp Hill
4152

New Zealand:

Mr G. Scott, PO Box 52, Paeroa

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

'Toward an Indigenous Church'

In the closing decades of the 20th century the western world seemed to become far more aware of cultural issues and the importance of culture in the lives and consciousness of indigenous peoples. However, often there seemed to be a time lag in adjusting strategies in line with this new awareness. This would be true of both the secular world and to Christian organizations.

As Christians desirous of promoting true Christianity among the Aborigines we need to be aware that there are cultural factors which affect both the proclamation and the understanding of the gospel of Christ. While this is not a new challenge we must be ready to respond to the indigenous church in a way which is relevant to them.

As a part of this response we must encourage the indigenous church to find its own form and to continue to develop its own practice, not merely copying the western cultural model of Christianity, but giving expression to biblical truths in terms and ways culturally relevant to the Aboriginal people.

The establishment of the Aboriginal Evangelical Church by the AEF is a welcome step in the development of the Australian indigenous church. Independent churches established through the missionary endeavors of the UAM and the AIM over the past 100 years now have an excellent opportunity to affiliate with a national body which is free from the dominance of non Aboriginal people.

Individual Aboriginal people must take responsibility for their worship and the development of the congregation. To this end they must be prepared to commit themselves to the work of the gospel with their whole lives. This will take courage and will cost them something, but the work of the gospel has never been any different.

One significant hindrance to this happening is the involvement of non indigenous people who have a tendency to take over and run things along western lines, believing this is best. While this is happening Aboriginal people tend to become less involved.

While we would not argue that mixed congregations are not a good thing, we would argue that it is more important for Aboriginal Christians to have the opportunity to meet and worship in a way which is most suitable to them, which may differ from the western norm. To this extent white folk who wish to worship with an Aboriginal congregation should seek to 'fit in'.

The motto which appeared on our letterhead many years ago read, 'toward an indigenous church'. The hope for this to happen must now give way to the realization that the indigenous church has emerged and we should now do all we can to encourage its growth and strength.

Christopher Jones
President

The Prayer Convenor

As prayer convenor it is at times easy to become discouraged when prayer is not answered in the way one thinks it should. But we learn in God's Word that His ways and thoughts are higher than ours and that we should trust rather than try to understand in our humanness.

Over the past few years the deputation team have had many opportunities to attend churches, Bible colleges and conventions making known the work and needs of the UAM. Many new prayer partners have been added to the mailing list, if you would like to have the prayer notes sent to you please contact the office with your details.

It has been a real blessing to hear of the faithfulness of God's people as they continue to pray for the work amongst Aboriginal Australians. I have been asked to meet with folk in July and August while the usual leader is away and I'm told that this prayer meeting for the work of UAM started back in 1916 and has prayed for the work each month since.

We are intending to hold another "Day of Prayer" at the Mission Centre, 23 Pine Way Doncaster East on Saturday 14th October. This will coincide with the UAM Biennial Conference, missionaries will be in attendance and all prayer partners are invited. If you are unable to attend please pray for us as we gather together to thank and praise the Lord for what He has done and is going to do in the days ahead.

There are many Aboriginal people with concerns, facing difficult situations, perhaps hurting, young people with a desire to go on with the Lord but needing nurture and older folk wanting missionaries to come back. These needs can only be solved by the one who knows our sorrows and cares.

"If my people who are called by my name shall humble themselves and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sins, and will heal their land." 2 Chronicles 7:14

At the moment I am reading an old book called, "A Quest for Souls" by George W Truett. He writes, "It is needful for us to remember that prayer is far more than a privilege, a privilege priceless and incomparable, one of the highest ever allowed to us. But it is a bounden obligation, it is an inescapable duty. See how Jesus puts it: 'men ought always to pray, and not to faint.' Mark the word 'ought'. That means duty a duty of measureless importance."

Prayer brings results. Prayer wins victories. Prayer achieves.

Ron Smith
Prayer Convenor

Berry Good News

Some of the older Primary children would like to be a part of God's family. They were ready at the end of last term and we left them with little booklets to read and keep their interest. This term we hope that they will join the family. We need you to pray that they will be able to stand up to family and community pressure which could cause them to change their minds.

Also two or three teenagers came to church for the whole term. That's the first time its happened! God is answering your prayers.

Sue was thrilled with her Special Education course gaining a Distinction for her first assignment! She has also been able to put some new games into our work with good results.

I'm sorry I haven't been able to keep up corresponding to everyone who prays for a particular child and our work. I'll write you a note with each newsletter or as often as I can. We are very thankful for your prayers and we see the results.

Heather is now on 'P' plates and driving confidently. Its strange seeing her drive the boys to school sometimes without us! Mark can't wait to get his license.

Peter's art lessons went well with more teenagers than Primaries. Its good practise for him as well. He was especially encouraged to sell a painting over the Easter break.

Mark started surfboard riding at the beginning of the year and has progressed really well. Its now the love of his life, he'd even like to be a surfboard maker.

Scott moved his drum kit into the living room downstairs and began playing it every day with great improvement. Then it became a great attraction to the Koori kids who started coming over all the time. It was pretty noisy there for a while!

Colin Buchanan songs are a regular part of our children's work. They are well presented and the kids love them, so it was a real blessing to have him come to Nowra to do some concerts. We were able to organise a sleepover for the kids that night and the entertainment was to go to the concert. Heaps of kids were there and they sang every word he sang! We bought another of his albums that night and back home the kids kept singing. Thank you Lord!

The Brian Marshall saga continues with him being out of touch with us for a couple of months. I have decided not to be his carer but he could still come to this area because there is a good carer available. I don't think he's gone in to have his liver transplant yet because he would have told us. And he would have organised for temporary nursing home care. So I expect he'll ring up out of the blue and tell us what's happening.

Koori young people are coming to our Friday night youthgroup now. Its changed the way we do things because they are not Christians yet. We let the year six and upwards come and its something we've been working towards for a long time.

LATE NEWS: We were all very upset over the Mother's Day weekend because our pet dog Buddy got killed on the road. He was a constant companion and friend and we all miss him. Our cat is a bit lonely too because buddy used to give him a lot of attention.

The Story of my Life!

I once lived in 'tents of wickedness' Psalm 84:10

And walked according to 'the course of this world' Ephesians 2:2

**But my conversion was like in Ephesians 2:4-5,
I was 'made alive with Christ'.**

I heard of a mansion being built for me to dwell in at John 14:2

By one who lives. Hebrews 4:14

**I called at Matthew 11:28 as my prospects according
to Romans 3:10,19 were very bad.**

The house I sought for I found at 2 Corinthians 5:1

This house has but one door, which I found at John 10:9

It has only one knocker which I found at Matthew 7:7

My address for the present is Ephesians 2:6

Call any day at Proverbs 8:34 and you will meet me and many others.

If you decide to call, attend to what the servant says in Luke 14:17.

**When 1 Thessalonians 4:17 is fulfilled, my home will be Revelation
21:1-2.**

And my song will be revelation 5:9-10.

Author unknown. Submitted by Lorna Hammen.

Orient Point

Ministry at Rosby Park

A number of years ago now Peter and Sue Berry moved from Nowra on the NSW South coast to Orient Point, about 25 Km away, to begin a ministry to the community living on the Rosby Park Aboriginal Reserve.

In this change of focus their strategy was to begin with a ministry to the children and young people and gradually build up contact with the parents and other adults in order to be able to share with them the good news of the Gospel message.

A youth group and Kids club were started early on and continue to meet regularly. Contact with adults is not so straight forward and opportunities to talk have to be earned through persistence and hard work. As yet there is little interest in spiritual things among the adults.

In an area by the sea with good surf beaches and excellent fishing there are plenty of activities to keep ones mind off the more serious issues of eternity. On the other hand these activities can provide opportunity for contact with the Aboriginal people and Peter and his boys enjoy fishing and surfing.

Sue has used different strategies with ministry to the women including conducting bible studies at different times. These have proved worthwhile, although they have not continued.

The youth group which meets in the Berry's home on a Friday night is a lively affair with the young ones enjoying activities suitable to the energy levels of young teenagers. Before the evening finishes with supper the group engages in a study of something from God's Word in an interactive format. They young people seem to enjoy this and are learning some important bible truths for living.

On Sunday night at Kids church held in the old hall on the Reserve (locally called "the mission", it was previously a Government run "mission", nothing to do with UAM, although UAM has had ministry in this area many years ago) the scene is not all that different with activities based on teaching from scripture. The aim of this time is to introduce the young ones to the concept of worship and of knowing God.

The Berry's have a vision for a small Aboriginal fellowship in this community and are working to that end. Through prayer and much hard work they believe this can become a reality.

Christ our King

Introduction

In two previous articles, we have explored something of what the Bible teaches about the offices of Christ as prophet and as priest. We conclude this series by considering the Bible's teaching concerning Christ the King.

What is a king?

The king is the ruler of his people, the one who has the highest authority in the territory in which he rules. There is no greater authority than God, the creator and judge of all things, and so it is declared in Ps 103:19 that "The Lord has established his throne in heaven, and his kingdom rules over all." Since the Lord Jesus Christ is God, the second person in the Holy Trinity, he shares in this rule of God over all of his creation. In this sense Christ is truly King.

There is another kingship that belongs to Christ, however: a kingship that is all to do with the fact that he is the Saviour of his people. This is what he referred to when he told his disciples that "all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me." (Matt 28:18) Notice that this authority is given to him, and is not one which was his by original right. Why was it given to him? - because this was what was needed for God's specific purpose of getting glory to himself in the salvation of his people.

If we think about this kingship of Christ as the Saviour of his people, we will recognise that there are two aspects to it. It is a spiritual kingship, where Christ rules in the hearts of his people; but it is also a kingship in which Christ rules over the whole universe for the sake of his people.

1 Christ's spiritual kingship

The Bible speaks in many places of Christ's rule over his people. In the prophecy of his birth in Isa 9:6,7 it is declared that he will rule forever, a promise that was repeated to Mary by the angel in Luke 1:33, and spoken of by Peter in Acts 2:30-36 following the resurrection of Christ. This rule is a spiritual kingship, set up in the hearts of his people for the purpose of their salvation and administered, not by force or any other external means, but by the Word and by the Spirit. It follows, that those whom he rules over by grace are glad that he is their King!

Who are the citizens of Christ's kingdom, the people he rules over by grace? They are those for whom Christ paid the ransom when he gave his life on their behalf. Christ's people are all saved sinners! In his office of king, Christ fills out the saving work that he came to do. As prophet, he represents God with man, bringing the knowledge of God that was lost at the fall; as priest, he represents man in the presence of God, presenting a perfect righteousness and holiness that was lost at the fall; and as king he rules over all things, removing the misery of sin, destroying death, and restoring the original rule of man in God's world.

Christ our King .../contd

This kingdom is a spiritual kingdom. In the Old Testament, the way was prepared for it by means of the national kingdom of Israel, which was a symbol of the coming kingdom. In the New Testament it is described as the kingdom of God or the kingdom of heaven. Some people have confused this use of alternative terms with the idea that there is some future kingdom of Christ which has not yet begun. However, these two terms are used interchangeably. For example, when Matthew and Luke report the same statements of Jesus, Matthew says that he uses the term "kingdom of heaven" while Luke uses "kingdom of God" (compare Matthew 13 with Luke 8:1-10).

Since it is a spiritual kingdom, it can only be entered spiritually, by a new birth (John 3:3,5). It is in the hearts of people (Luke 17:21), and it is a kingdom of truth (John 18:36,37). The citizens of this kingdom are the poor in spirit (Matt 5:3).

The kingdom of heaven is not merely a change in conditions in society. It cannot be set up by any human means, because no human effort can produce the radical change of heart that is essential for entrance into this kingdom. It is important that we recognise that, and that we do not confuse the kingdom of God with moves for social reform, as many people have done over the past 100 years and more. It is as Christ sets up his rule in the hearts of his people that they respond in faith and obedience to him: and that is when real changes take place!

The kingdom of Christ is a present reality in the lives of his people (Luke 17:21); but it also has a wonderful future aspect. At the return of Christ, the establishment and acknowledgment of his rule will be perfected, the hidden forces of the kingdom will be revealed, and he will reign visibly (Phil 2:11). This will be the effect of the great events at the end of the age described for example in Matt 24:21-44 and 2 Pet 3:10-12. Since Christ is the king forever, it follows that the kingdom is eternal (Isa 9:7, 2 Pet 1:11).

2 Christ's kingship over the universe

In order to be the king over his people, it is essential that Christ is also king over all creation. From his throne in heaven, he now rules over all things, guiding individuals and nations alike, for the purpose of protecting and finally perfecting his own blood-bought people. When we consider that this world is under the power of sin and is bent on doing as much harm as possible to the cause of God and of his people, we realise that nothing less than the power of Christ is sufficient to ensure that God's purposes are carried out. Since Christ has been given "all authority in heaven and on earth" (Matt 28:18) even his enemies must finally serve his purposes. What a great encouragement to his people on earth, to know that he is actively ruling over all of the affairs of the whole creation for their sake! That is why the apostle can say "neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:38,39). This kingship of Christ over the universe will last until the victory over his enemies is complete, and even death itself is destroyed (1 Cor 15:24-28). Then. So it is that, in the sure knowledge that his purpose will be accomplished, we can now join with the heavenly chorus, shouting "Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory!" (Rev 19:6,7).

Christ our King .../contd

Conclusion

We began this series by noting that the most wonderful thing that anyone can say is "I believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God." We have considered what that statement means, by looking at some of the most important Bible teaching concerning the work Christ. We have seen that in his three offices of prophet, priest and king, our Lord Jesus Christ is shown to be the only and all-sufficient saviour of his people. The only appropriate response to that is to trust in him, to worship him, and so to serve him all of our days.

"The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. Amen." (Rev 22:21)

Our New Place

We arrived in Geraldton on the 28th December exhausted after the weeks of packing and cleaning, the farewells and the long hot trip in the two well loaded vehicles.

We have been blessed with a 3 acre property in the semi rural area just out of Geraldton, about 8 kms from the main city center and approximately 6 kms from the children's school. God has graciously enabled the children to attend the Strarthalbyn Christian College, a lovely little school of around 300 students, with committed Christian teachers and an excellent academic record. The children have all settled in well into the school now and have made good friends. Timothy is first year High, Alicia is in year 6 and Jonathan in year 2.

According to the tourist books, Geraldton, with a population of around 25,000, has sandy beaches, excellent fishing, year round sunny climate and is a popular winter holiday resort. The City of Geraldton has a busy sea port, exporting grain, ore, mineral sands, and millions of dollars worth of rock lobsters. Other local industries include vegetable and tomato growing, and sheep and wheat farming.

However, none of these attractions are the reason we have come to Geraldton. The Lord has brought us here to work with the small group of faithful committed Christians in the Aboriginal Evangelical Fellowship, and to re establish what used to be called 'UAM Recordings', the work of the late Syd and Leila Williams.

The first half of this year has seen us in a transition period. Settling in, adjusting to the climate and the very different way of life. We chose to build our own home. It was kit home, large numbered panels which fitted together for the walls and ceiling. It has been a big task but we have been amazed and thankful for the way the Lord has undertaken, and given Glyne a helper with the skills that have been needed.

By the time you read this we should have moved into our home and will be looking to the Lord for the next part of our ministry, ie, the setting up of the studio. The studio is the small building the Mission has built on our property, that we used for accommodation whilst our house is being built.

The setting up of the studio will involve acquiring cupboards and shelving, copying and editing equipment and computers etc. It will be a challenge to see what new electronic equipment is able to be acquired as the Lord provides. Along with the equipment we will need to develop the skills necessary to operate the new computer and high tech equipment.

As in Exodus 31 when God called and chose Bezalel to work as a craftsman in the Tabernacle, He also gave him the skills necessary. We are asking God to give us the skills we will need to do the work He has called us to. We will need to do some computer courses at the TAFE and there are some folk in the local churches who are interested in being involved.

Our New Place .../contd

Over the past 30 years at various Aboriginal Conventions throughout Australia, singing, testimonies and messages were recorded either on cassette or video. These were then sent to Syd Williams who edited them and produced copies for sale for a small price. By the early 90's Mr Williams was posting cassettes and videos to people all over Australia and even overseas. They were in very great demand and people particularly in the remote communities would listen to or watch them over and over again.

Since Syd went home to be with the Lord a number of years ago these several thousand audio and video tapes have been in storage. The faithful Geraldton ladies have prayed for the day when the ministry would begin again.

Due to copyright laws each cassette will need to be re edited, songs catalogued and royalties paid to the copyright organization before any cassette/video can be reproduced. Many people are eagerly awaiting the availability of these cassettes again, but as you may understand it will all take some time.

We greatly value your prayers and support as together with some of the AEF ladies we commence this ministry, and opportunity to encourage the many folk who can neither read or write or who are isolated from Christian fellowship.

We are very much aware of how the Lord has provided. Much has been provided through Christians we have met over the years, together with anonymous gifts from others, only the Lord knows. 'Living by Faith', particularly over the past 12 months, has been an interesting adventure. A year ago we didn't even have the deposit for a block of land, and yet the Lord has confirmed to us over and over again that we are where He wants us to be by the way He has so amazingly provided.

We continue to look to the Lord and His people to prayerfully support this exciting and challenging ministry.

In a world in need of God's redeeming grace we are trusting the Lord to enable us to continue this opportunity of encouraging, strengthening and introducing people to share their faith in Christ Jesus.

Glyne and Pam Cranwell
Timothy, Alicia and Jonathon

Opportunities to Serve

Opportunities to Serve in the Outback of Australia

"We would like to place suitably trained and experienced workers in some places almost immediately"

Some of the areas where possibilities exist for ministry are:

**Kimberly Western Australia
Gold Fields and Great Victoria Desert
Western Australia
Northern New South Wales
South Australia**

Please pray that God will call those He would have to serve in these or other areas. Has God called you to some sphere of service for Him among the Australian Aborigines? If you believe so then we would be happy to begin discussions with you. Please contact our office by phoning and leaving a message or writing or by sending an email to us. Refer to the Directory on page 2 for contact details.