



UAM Ministries

October - December 1999

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:

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4152

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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

As we come to the end of another year we are being constantly reminded that a new millennium is about to begin. There is much speculation about what may or may not happen as the clock ticks over on midnight of 31 December. The uncertainty brings with it the prospect of change and the fear that it may see us disadvantaged in some way.

We are reminded in scripture that our God is unchanging, that is, he is the same yesterday, today and forever. The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob is the same God whom Jesus spoke of as his Father and is the very same God spoken of by the Apostles in the New Testament. We can go further, He is the same God the very early missionaries spoke about to the Aborigines so many years ago and the same God our missionaries speak about today.

Some are fearful that with the new millennium will see the end of the world as we know it. We are reminded in the Bible that God will accomplish all that He intends to in this world before the end finally comes. This is a most encouraging thought as we face the continuing task of seeking to bring Christ to the wider Aboriginal population in Australia, many of whom have not heard the gospel of Christ.

The challenge facing us is to be able to adapt to the change taking place in the world around us and to continue to bring the message of hope in an unchanging God to people whose problem they hold in common with all mankind, their need for reconciliation with God.

The Aboriginal scene is constantly changing and some may lament the changes are taking place. But one thing is for certain, Aboriginal people are now asking us to recognize their hopes and aspirations as a distinct people. They want us to respond in a way that recognizes and accepts the cultural differences that exist. We can no longer expect to set the example for the Aboriginal to follow. No longer can we expect that our model and method is the best way. Many of our past missionaries were able to recognize this and encouraged the indigenous people to take on the responsibility and leadership for their own worship.

If there is to be challenge to us for the next millennium then it is not simply that we must be more committed or try harder, but rather that we need to be sure that the strategies we adopt for the spread of the gospel among the Aboriginal people take note of the changes which are taking place in the community and adjust accordingly.

Isaiah 55:11

*So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth;
It shall not return to Me void,
But it shall accomplish what I please,
And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it. (NKJ)*

Christopher Jones
President

Over West

In July Matt Mitchell and I travelled to the Kimberleys in Western Australia to visit our personnel there. It was good to catch up with past acquaintances again, some of whom I had not seen for a number of years. It was also good to meet people I had not met before.

While in Kununurra we met with a few of the people from the UAM Peoples Church, and Don and Meg Shedley kindly took us around the next day to meet a number of the local Christian Aboriginal people. We inspected the site where the UAM mission residence had been, (destroyed by fire several years ago). We have not rebuilt this residence but are waiting to see how the Lord will lead us in the future with regards to new workers for this area. We were encouraged by a number of local people, both Aboriginal and non Aboriginal, to place missionaries to work amongst the Aboriginal people as there are very real needs in this area at present. Some training in Aboriginal languages would be important for working in this area. Consequently we lay this opportunity before you our readers for your prayer.

While there we met Rod and Ruth Schenk in a café in town, (quite unexpected) and we were able to take them out to the HCJB property next day (formerly BETHEL) and see the developments there. Mike and Sheryl Moore kindly showed us around and they are doing a marvellous job in developing the property for future ministry and we are greatly encouraged by their presence in Kununurra.

During our time in the Kimberleys we were able to attend the Kimberley Christian Fellowship Convention which was held at Halls Creek this year. The main speaker was Craig Siggins from Newman, WA, where he and his wife work as ABMS missionaries.

The meetings were well attended with people coming long distances to attend and take part. One of the notable features of these conventions is the length of the meetings. The Saturday evening meeting began at 6.30pm, and after much singing, sharing and testimonies, the speaker that night, Denzil Humphries, finally got up to speak at 11.45pm!

Another feature of our trip was to see first hand the new residence that UAM has built at Halls Creek for Jonathan and Kathleen Bates. The basic home was completed soon after Christmas with the final touches being made while we were there in July. The old original mission house built by Mr Smoker so many years ago has now been demolished.

With housing being a costly item and the cost of raw materials rather high in the Kimberleys due to transportation costs it was decided to purchase a transportable home. The new home is a four bedroom air conditioned unit which is very popular in the Kimberleys for its low cost and convenient construction.

The house was delivered to the site in two halves, having been brought by ship from Perth to Wyndham, then by road to Halls Creek by road.

The house is mounted on concrete footings that allow for air flow under the structure. This assists with cooling but is more important in that it discourages white ant activity and allows for easier inspection. As you may be aware, white ant activity is a major problem in the Kimberleys and constant vigilance is required to guard against their destructive activity.

After visiting the Aboriginal Leadership Training Centre in Derby where we met and had fellowship with Denzil and Shirley Humphries and Phil Brewster, we travelled on to Perth to catch up with more of our UAM contacts.

In Perth we were able to visit and spend time with Esther Milnes, Charlie and Beryle Lanham, Wilf and Beth Douglas and down in Albany we caught up with Gordon and Maureen Webster and their family. It was good to see Gordon making good progress in his battle with Leukaemia. Please continue to pray for Gordon that he will have a full recovery.

The last people we visited on this trip was with Laurie and John Way in Gnowangerup. Eris was not there as she was visiting her elderly mother in Brisbane at the time. Laurie and Eris continue to encourage the Aboriginal believers in this area and are a continuing point of contact for the other Aboriginal people. We praise God for their steadfast witness in this area.

As we have reviewed the work in the West we were impressed by two things, one, the dedication and commitment of those who have served in the past and of those who are serving at present; and 2, the many opportunities for service for the Christian church to respond to today.

Will you pray with us that God would raise up new workers to join with us in this important work for God.

News Update

Geralton

We are pleased to be able to report that Geralton is now back on our list of UAM centres. At the end of this year, after school finishes, the Cranwell family will be leaving Fitzroy Crossing and moving to Geralton to re-establish the UAM Recordings ministry. This is a major move and the family would appreciate your prayer support in the coming months as they make the transition to a new community and new schools for the children.

UAM is in the process of having a small two bedroom cottage built which will be used for a studio, recording and storage/despatch. This will be used by the Cranwell's while they build their own home. We are thankful to the Lord for his provisions in this project.

Fitzroy Crossing

As mentioned above the Cranwell family will be leaving Fitzroy Crossing at the end of this year to move to Geralton. Glyn has served at this centre continuously for well over 20 years and Pam has been there for nearly 15 years. After such a long time it will be hard to leave but Glyn and Pam are sure the Lord is leading them into this new area of ministry. Educational opportunities will be better in Geralton for the children as well.

Halls Creek

The new house at Halls Creek is now finished and Jonathan and Kathleen are now enjoying their new house. Jonathan has had medical treatment in Perth and so they have had to be away from the area for some time. The Peoples Church has had an MMM team come and complete extensive work on the church building. We extend our thanks to MMM for this practical help. The church is now looking for a Young People's worker and they are praying that they will be able to appoint an Aboriginal Pastor. Please join with us in praying with them that the Lord will make it clear who should take up this role.

Kununurra

Over the past few years the congregation has got smaller and those who remain are looking to the Lord for growth. Paddy McGinty, one of the senior and long time Aboriginal members died last Christmas time and his passing was a big loss to the church. Christians, both Aboriginal and non Aboriginal in the area have encouraged us to consider placing a missionary couple in this area as there is so much that could be done. Please pray concerning this matter.

HCJB continue to develop the Bethel property just out of Kununurra for their ministry and continue to wait on the Lord for the necessary approvals to enable their ministry to reach its full potential.

Walgett

The Mitchell's are kept busy in Walgett with the many activities they are involved in. While church attendance is relatively small, they hold morning and evening services, Sunday School in the afternoon in the church and at Gingy, just out of town. Young peoples group happens on a Friday evening and Wednesday evening sees a good number at the mid week Bible study. Other activities include teaching scripture in the local schools, counselling and visiting which can be required at any time, and the inevitable weddings and funerals. Matt and the boys are all involved in local sporting activities in the community and so have little spare time.

Gnowangerup

Laurie and Eris continue to seek to encourage the local Nyoonga believers and travel to nearby Tambellup for a Tuesday evening Bible study. John continues to do well at High School even though his mum has been away for a few months in Brisbane to care for his grandma.

News Update

Nowra

Alicia Adams reports that her ministry among her people is going well with the Tuesday night home outreach meetings recommencing again recently. Alicia continues to be kept busy with counselling, visitation and hospitality.

Melbourne Office

We continue to be blessed by God as He provides for our every need. We have a good team of contributors in our office and it is good to be a part of a team that is working together. We hold regular telephone hook ups with our field personnel to consult on various issues. Matt Mitchell, Glyn Cranwell and Jonathan Bates are all members of the Executive of UAM Ministries so we have a good input from those with real hands on experience on the field.

If you would like someone from our office to visit your church or home group please ring the office and we will be pleased to make suitable arrangements.

Mission Publications of Australia

After nearly 40 years of joint partnership with AIM in MPA the two missions have reached agreement to dissolve this partnership. MPA will continue to operate as a printing arm of AIM. MPA is best known for its Sunday school lessons and free literature produced for the Aboriginal community.

Perth

Our older readers will be saddened to learn of the passing of Arthur Henderson in Perth on the 16th October 1999. Arthur had been a member of the WA State council of UAM and was President for many years. We thank God for his life of service.

C.J. UAM

Praise & Prayer Afternoon

We continue to be encouraged by the faithfulness of God's people as they pray for the work amongst Aboriginal people. Letters are regularly received from people who have upheld the work of UAM in prayer over many years. This is most encouraging to missionaries on the field and to those backing them up at the council level.

Prayer meetings are held around the country at various times during the month even though some folk are elderly or unwell they still seem to be able to attend meetings rain hail or heat wave.

We held a special prayer afternoon on Saturday 27th November 1999 to give praise and thanks to our sovereign Lord for all His care and blessings over the past year.

This meeting was held at our Mission Centre in Doncaster East.

Paster David Reid brought a short devotion. Afternoon tea was served afterwards.

If you don't already receive our Prayer notes but would like to receive them then please send us your details and we will add you to our growing list of Prayer Partners.

Ron Smith
Prayer Convenor

Trek of Tragedy

(The following article was submitted by Roy Nash who together with his wife served with UAM for a total of over 40 years.) Thanks Roy.

The red loamy sand threw back the sun's heat onto the dusty bodies and compelled the owners of the cracked feet to escape from the burning monotony by standing on the cooler clumps of coarse grass for relief. The old men could hardly remember such a summer as this, with days of searing heat and nights of stifling silence. It was cooler when they had left Warburton Ranges, their ancestral tribal land to go walkabout to Laverton, now they must face the return journey. This meant about 480 kilometres to traverse on foot.

Laverton to them had been "townba pulkunu" (town big one) though only a few whitewashed houses made of corrugated iron, two general stores, a brick hotel and an unsympathetic community. There were also a camp of fringe dwelling aborigines. They at first welcomed their bush relatives but soon tired of supporting them. They introduced a credit squeeze of sorts to show their presence was becoming a burden. So a return to their tribal lands was inevitable, with water at windmills for only part of the way. After that the uncertain supply of rock-hole water.

Cosmo Newberry was reached without incident. This Mission outpost gave a short respite before the group faced the seemingly never ending mulga and spinifex. The women with babies and the small children would slow their progress while the men must hunt.

But who can understand the relentless urge that drove these people to undertake such a hazardous journey in mid-summer? But their piece of land had no equal and return to it they must, even though some had warned them not to go at this time.

All went well until the last Government well was passed and the first night was spent in a so called "dry camp", only water in their billy cans.

Conversation was an effort with the crooning of mothers over their babies the only comforting sound and even it finally ceased. The scraggy dogs seemed to sense the mood and laid with muzzles on paws.

Night had finally fallen, when the dogs heard a distinct thump out in the spinifex and with cunning instinct the dogs knew that a kangaroo was moving around. As they silently leapt over sleeping bodies, one kicked over a billy can of precious water, its contents quickly sinking into the hungry sand. In the morning if the men had discovered which dog was responsible, it would have been harshly beaten. The dogs lost the kangaroo.

Next morning the sun came over the rim of the horizon and its advent almost like the opening of a baker's oven. The reality was it could not be shut until sundown. The older men knew that this day would bring a test of the sternest kind and decided only to walk in the cooler hours. How they guarded the remaining water in the cans. Each small drink would be held in the mouth for as long as possible before being swallowed.

One young newly initiated man, Mintun, disdained the use of a billy can of his own. He was identified by the stiff hair bun, "pukuti" secured on the back of his head. He wore it proudly as his ancestors had done for generations before him. He was young and strong and would survive the difficult trek.

The heat of that day was almost unbearable as the sun reached its zenith. There were signs of strain and fatigue and the babies were fretful, receiving insufficient nourishment from mothers whose tense bodies cried out for water.

No one wasted words as there was little use for conversation. After a long midday rest the party set out for the next stage of their tragic trek. The following day they did not rest as relentless thirst drove them on toward their destination. Vision played them false at times as simmering mirages appeared as pools of cool water. Bandy, son of a witch-doctor, staggered along with the main party. Ahead of them was Mintun moving with unsteady steps. Strange, thought Bandy, but he seems to have fallen to his knees. Then he is staggering again between the clumps of spinifex trying to find the track and has fallen down again, and scooping up the sand thinking it is water his blackened lips insensitive to its grittiness and his mouth unable to swallow. "better that he stay there," thought Bandy as he passed the moaning man. "We can come back for him when we find water."

Mintun did not rise from that sandy grave and his bones lay bleaching in the sun. Nobody buried him and few mourned him. His aged mother received the news with mute grief at first, then dreadful wailing. This then is his story and it would never have been written if he had not distained just one small can of water.

This is not an imaginative story nor did *Jesus say* in vain, "He that drinks of this water shall thirst again but he that drinks of the water that I shall give shall never thirst." We neglect the living writer of Eternal Life at our peril, for apart from it there is no hope of real heart satisfaction. It becomes as a matter of Life and Death.

Roy Nash
Former Missionary

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.