

# Alice Springs

BAPTIST CHURCH

# 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2019

# MISSION STATEMENT

GATHERED FOR HIS GLORY AND  
CONNECTING WITH ALL CENTRAL DESERT  
BELIEVERS, WE EQUIP GOD'S PEOPLE,  
ENABLING THE SCATTERED CHURCH TO BE  
IN MISSION EVERY DAY.



“

OUR HIGHEST CALLING IS TO WORSHIP  
OUR KING IN THE WAY HE INTENDS.

”



## LEAD PASTOR REPORT

*Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshippers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks. (John 4:23)*

A key truth that the Spirit has bubbled up inside me this past year is of the Father seeking out worshippers who worship in Spirit and in Truth. Our highest calling is to worship our king in the way he intends. This gives Jesus Christ our Lord the glory as well as transforms our own hearts.

As part of the “Biblical Tension” preaching series for 2019 we examined this need to be both a Word church that emphasises truth and a Spirit church that depends on the power and working of the Holy Spirit in our midst. A biblical tension is not a 50/50 balancing of ideas but a wholehearted, total embracing of both sides of a tension. Sitting only on one side of a tension results in an extreme position that robs us of the maturity we are called to in Christ.

How grateful I am for so many willing servants in our church who give regularly of their time and gifts for the building up of the body. We have had some wonderful worship times where the body sensed a strong pulling together by the Spirit as we lifted up the name of Christ. A real anthem at both

services this year has been “What a beautiful name it is” which rises to a crescendo when we sing “You have no rival!” Beautiful.

Special events such as baptisms and dedications have enhanced our sense of family as we celebrated together. On one occasion we had the amazing experience of oldest son Jonathan Davies being baptised as well as seeing Suzanna his younger sister dedicated. A special memory was baby Malachi being dedicated by his parents Freneta and Shane from Nyirripi with Great Grandmother Freda Jurra being able to share in the moment.

The sharing together of the Scriptures in local indigenous languages has enabled a stronger sense of unity as we enter more fully into being a Desert Church. We have also been learning the Warlpiri song “Come and Stand By Me Lord” (Yandani Karrinjaku Ngaju-Wana Wapirra) while beginning to learn John 3:16 (Akngeyel Alerikw ikwerenh-antey thwenew) in Alyawarr.

As an equipped church we have offered such modules as Freedom In Christ, Divorce Care, Making Marriage Better, Man to Man, Intercessory prayer seminars and of course all the training that goes on in the Children’s and Youth departments.

Our emphasis on the Scattered church whereby we view all church members as active engagers with the community is gaining ground as each person sees the church as being who we all are during the week as we live our lives by the Spirit out in front of others.

God Bless.

– ROD HOLMES

WE HAVE ALSO BEEN LEARNING THE WARLPIRI  
SONG “COME AND STAND BY ME LORD”  
YANDANI KARRINJAKU NGAJU-WANA WAPIRRA



# GENERATIONS PASTOR REPORT



For those who have had the privilege of journeying with a group of youth or kids, you would be familiar with what I am presently experiencing as I approach three years at ASBC – all the kids suddenly look so much older! It's hard to believe, but it's also wonderful, for I know that over these years we have had an incredible and dedicated volunteer team who continue to invest their time, energy and love so that the young people of our church can grow in their love and understanding of Jesus. So, from both myself and parents alike, thank you.

This year has seen Generational Ministries continue to consolidate the healthy rhythms within our programs: articulating shared values, and embracing a foundational strategy of generational alignment in our efforts *to see families flourish as God intends*. Here are some brief highlights to celebrate:

## "EVIDENCE THAT SIGNIFICANT INTENTIONAL INVESTMENT IS ALREADY TAKING PLACE"

### Partnering with Parents

Recognising that parents should always be the primary discipler of young people, communicating with parents has still been at the forefront of our priorities. Printed calendars, regular SMS, emails, and providing the Parents Portal are all avenues that we have used to help create alignment between what happens at church and the conversations that take place in

the home. This was consolidated with training events such as *"It's Time We Talked"* upskilling parents in proactive conversations around pornography and digital media.

### Discipleship through Relationship

This year we have seen not only an increase in numbers but also high levels of retention in EPIC, among both youth and leaders. This is of course critical to building discipling relationships but is also evidence that significant intentional investment is already taking place. As can never be done enough, I want to commend our incredible youth leadership team, most of whom work full time, for their commitment to our youth, and their priceless faith investment at a critical phase of life.

### Provoking Encounter and Excitement

One of the highlights of this year was Easter Camp at Yirara College – the

theme: Survivor. Speaking into the topic of resilience. Not only did we exceed our faith target of 50 campers (13.5% total increase) but church-wide participation through sponsorship and volunteering grew significantly as well. What a blessing it is to have the entire church supporting an event that connects young people through incredible fun, and brings with it, significant spiritual breakthrough in the lives of our youth.

### Building Faith Foundations for Life

What a blessing it is to offer environments that speak the language that kids understand and bring incredible joy to the journey of faith formation. This year there has been a noticeable increase in engagement in Kids Church worship, the delight is infectious! We are seeing the kids thrive within a shared environment with musical worship that is both accessible and powerful. We have also seen the TTL (Teen Team Leaders) cohort grow again, as well as youth and kids increasingly taking on volunteer opportunities in our services – particularly in the areas of music and production.

Between ongoing programs, exciting projects, regular preaching, and the multitude of conversations that inevitably take place, my days often end with a sense of satisfaction. I'm incredibly grateful for the supportive and creative staff I work alongside.

We can thank God that here in Alice Springs we have a unique opportunity to invite kingdom impact across the generations. He will always be the fuel behind our efforts, and the catalyst in any breakthrough. By his grace and inspiration, may he continue to use us.

- GAVIN BROWN



AVERAGE YOUTH  
ATTENDANCE

41 +17%



AVERAGE KIDS  
ATTENDANCE

72



TOTAL IMPACT  
HOURS

5058



# DEACON FOR ADMINISTRATION REPORT

At the last members meeting I mentioned how pleased I was to see the activities that had taken place at the weekend, a men's event followed by a Just Love film showing. I think the challenge for us as a church continues to be how we can show Christ's love both to those who are part of our church community and to those who are part of the wider community of Alice Springs and beyond.

One of the high points for me this year was attending the 'Shockwave Olympics'. To see 30 plus children from varying backgrounds all having fun together in the church with family in attendance and ably supported by a team of church volunteers, was a real pleasure. I'm very conscious of all the work, planning and discussions that have had to take place for this to become a reality.

One of the key challenges of this year has been to try and increase our focus on the Health and Safety aspects of running a church. I realise

this might sometimes be viewed as something that 'gets in the way' of doing church activities, but it is a key responsibility for all of us, both as individuals, and within the various ministry areas to operate in a healthy and safe environment. In my view our focus has indeed sharpened this year, but the challenge continues...

In seeing all of the many activities of the church come together, I have been very conscious of the role that various teams have played in the life of the church. Ministry teams like Shockwave, Missions, Just Love, Prison Ministry, Men's Group as well as other teams that underpin everything we are trying to do as a church, like hospitality/welcoming, the office team, leadership team, operational team, the eldership team and so many more. For myself, I feel incredibly supported by the teams I am a part of, and I want to thank everyone for their encouragement and commitment. I am reminded that we don't 'do church' in isolation, we constantly need to rely on the varying skills,

abilities and gifts of others and in return seek to support, encourage and use our gifts as best we can.

It is good to see this all come together as we seek to serve God in Alice Springs. I look forward to what God has in store for us in 2019-20.

To God be the Glory.

- CLIFF RILEY

“

“YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD... LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE BEFORE OTHERS, THAT THEY MAY SEE YOUR GOOD DEEDS AND GLORIFY YOUR FATHER IN HEAVEN.” ”

MATTHEW 5: 14,16 NIV

“THIS HAS OFTEN NECESSITATED SEEING BOTH SIDES OF ARGUMENTS AND BEING ABLE TO PROVIDE SOME BALANCE TO THE WHOLE PICTURE”

## ELDERS REPORT

This year there has been just the two Elders, with Gordon and I continuing into the second year of our two-year elected term. Gordon is completing his fourth year in this role and has made a significant contribution over that time.

We have continued to meet on a regular basis with the two pastors to discuss issues related to church management and pastoral care needs. The role has been to support the pastors, to be a “sounding board” for both their ideas and their forward planning initiatives. In working together co-operatively as a team with the pastors we have gotten to know each other well; including our respective strengths and weaknesses.

Proverbs 27:23 says, “Be sure you know the condition of your flocks: give careful attention to your herds.” In order to achieve this, we have needed to be “on the ground” and involved with members of the church congregation in a variety of settings; to be listening and aware of what has been happening.

The role has required a sensitivity in recognising that people are operating at different levels of their emotional and spiritual growth and development. We have had to be dependent upon God's wisdom, and that of others, and to be guided by Scripture in our decision making. This has often necessitated seeing both sides of arguments and being able to provide some balance “to the whole picture” so that more than one point of view is seriously considered.

We have met with the deacons for full leadership meetings and also to provide some support to them in their particular roles.

We both feel that we have been challenged in our spiritual growth and we thank the members for entrusting us with this responsibility.

- PHILIP NIPPRESS



# GATHERED CHURCH

GATHERED BY GOD  
FOR HIS GLORY.

I believe something powerful happens when we come together to worship God. It's like God wants a relationship with you, and you want it with him – and in the service it's expressed both ways. I love to sing, when I do, I experience the Holy Spirit and an overwhelming peace. And even though I may not be the best singer, I feel a call to lead people in worship, hoping that they can experience this same peace that I do.

Alice Springs is unique in many ways. I love that you can come in a church and have so many cultures and nationalities represented. Especially here in Alice Springs, people often leave their family behind, so they have to develop new friendships and I think that our church is pretty good in doing that. Friendship and relationship are something that people always talk about no matter how long they are here.

On one side it's hard because you make good friends and then people move on at times. (It's harder to stay than to go!) On the other side, it's always so encouraging to hear the stories of people who have left us but are now being used by God in the places they go. That is worth celebrating together.

- CORY THOMPSON



## PARTNERING TO STRENGTHEN HEALTHY DESERT CHRISTIAN NETWORKS.

# DESERT CHURCH

There are so many things that I love about serving in Shockwave. I get to work with kids coming from all sorts of places, and to see them having a go at new things, volunteering, and getting excited about God is amazing! Some go from not listening at all to wanting to get involved, sometimes all I can say is "We're so proud of you!"

connect me with the other kids as well. Events like the Shockwave Olympics are great ways that we can help bridge the gap, and I would love to see more of them! It can sometimes be complicated working with Indigenous kids but in my eyes they are beautiful children of God and it's a privilege to get to know them.



Some of my 4-8yo kids group I recognise from our Sunday services, and what's great is they

- AMY BIELBY



HOSPITAL  
VISITATION



LANGUAGE  
READINGS



# EQUIPPED CHURCH

SPIRITUAL EQUIPPING TOWARD  
MATURITY IN CHRIST.

I joined Teen Team Leaders (TTL) because I used to love the leaders when I was in Kids Church. My favourites were the leaders who were around my age right now. I needed something to do, and mum was like, "You're really good with kids. You should do kids church." And I was like, "Oh yeah, ok that's interesting," so I started, and it's been really good.

When you have a kid you see each week and he runs up to you and goes, "ABRAHAM! You're here!" I love it when that happens. And then you see the kids that like you but are like, "Oh no, he's here," in that joking kind of way...but then they end up spending the whole day with you.

Every week you'll get that one

kid who just doesn't want to listen. I've learnt to deal with that and help them to get back on track. When I started TTL I don't think I would have been able to do anything about that. So now I wake up on Sunday and I'm like, "I've got Kids Church!" so I can talk with the kids and hang out with the kids.

- ABRAHAM LENNIE

12  
TEEN TEAM  
LEADERS



SENT BY CHRIST TO  
BE IN MISSION EVERY DAY.

# SCATTERED CHURCH

As I read the Bible and look at the life of Jesus it is clear to me that faith was never meant to be limited to a specific time or place: like a Sunday service, or church small group. Faith and our relationship with God is intended to permeate all of our lives and the idea that life can be divided into what is sacred and what is secular is a lie that the devil tells us to limit the activity of God. Colossians 3:17 says "whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name

of the Lord Jesus".

In this season, that looks different for me depending on the day. On my paid work-days I have the opportunity to serve patients and remote community health care staff; trying to be the hands and feet of Jesus by doing my job with excellence and making love and humility key aspects of the care I provide. On other days it means raising our 18-month-old to know that Jesus loves him, to grow in character

and to make our home a safe place where I hope one day he knows he can ask me the tough questions of life. I also have the privilege of spending time with other parents and journeying with them in the highs and lows of raising pre-schoolers.

Although I am not a 'missionary' in the traditional sense I believe I am on mission every day.

- MEGAN BROWN



ASBC SHOW  
STALL



WORKPLACE  
MISSION

I wanted to get baptised as essentially it was the greatest thing that I could do to proclaim my faith. I was already serving in Kids Church, going to youth, being part of the services – but something that I am always reminded of, is that faith without action is nothing (James 2:17).

I could have gone to a remote area, there are plenty around, but if I did that, very few people would actually witness it! Instead I wanted to get baptised in the church so that I could share my story with

someone else and so that many people could witness it.

Was the water cold? YES! But so glad to have taken the step!

- JONATHAN DAVIES



"FAITH WITHOUT ACTION IS NOTHING."



# BAPTISMS

6

BAPTISMS  
THIS YEAR



# MEMBERSHIP

5

NEW MEMBERS

90

TOTAL MEMBERS

While I've been part of the church since 2010, more recently I have been gaining interest in the goings-on of the church: the administration and

"PROVIDING A YOUNGER VOICE  
FOR THE CHURCH"

decision-making...essentially how is run. So with this in mind, I decided to become a member and felt that providing a younger

voice for the church would be both refreshing and might also encourage more younger members to come on board as well. Turns out that Members Meetings aren't as scary as what I thought they might be!

- MICHAEL LINDSEY

# GENERATIONAL MINISTRIES



## KIDS CHURCH

We want our kids to LOVE coming to church. It can be a challenge, no doubt, but every week dedicated volunteers serving in Creche, Preschool and Primary help make this possible.

Already this year in our primary-age group we have been able to dive deep into the topics of Confidence, Service, Friendship, Self-Control and Individuality. Interactivity and fun allow these creative lessons to stick in the minds of our kids and hopefully find application throughout the week.

Our vision, however, is not just a great Sunday program, but we want to continue to reach out to families through the online Parents Portal and help families share in the

journey of faith together. We look forward to even greater levels of engagement across the nation as this portal continues to expand.

The kids' joy during worship has been a highlight of this year. Seeing the older and younger kids declaring truth together, passionate and completely comfortable, is a powerful thing.

With new Kids Church Leader t-shirts about to be printed, soon our presence will be unavoidable! More importantly we hope this will help in the regular celebration of our kids and the significant contribution they make to the life of the church.

If you have a heart for kids we would love for you to join the team. You may be the safe place and/or mentor that our kids need.

- GAVIN BROWN

“ FRIDAY COMES AROUND, AND I'M LIKE "YAY, I DON'T HAVE SCIENCE...AND THEN...ONLY THREE MORE HOURS UNTIL EPIC!" ”

## EPIC YOUTH

Friday comes around, and I'm like "Yay, I don't have science...and then, only three more hours until EPIC!" Friday is like one of the best days for me.

Events like the Digital Scavenger Hunt are so memorable, going around town – kicking a donut, singing Happy Birthday in McDonalds to a stranger – anything that is random. Such fun times spent together. Our youth leaders are funny. We share some interests so I can relate to them really well. When they fully get involved in games and stuff it's a pretty inspiring role model. Some are more like a "dad" or "mum" figure, like not

great at everything, but give great advice – kind of wise. In small groups they explain and give space to talk about topics rather than just giving the answers.

I like EPIC because if I haven't really thought about God much in the week it will remind me to think about him more or in some new way. One of the things that I love about EPIC is we learn great things that are understandable. Sometimes when I sit in the Sunday service listening to a sermon, it might be the same message but it's a whole lot easier to understand when I'm at youth. It's *our* language, not adult language.

- EPIC MEMBERS



# ADULT MINISTRIES

## MEN'S MINISTRY



I took part in the “Man to Man” program last year, and was glad that I did! It is a well-constructed program that is both gentle and yet hard-hitting, it doesn’t shy away from

the difficult topics, but provides some clear Bible-based teaching and ideas on how to grow more into the kind of men that God calls us to be. The course provided a Biblical perspective on a range of critical issues for men, with great insights into how we operate as men, and how to navigate the struggles that we all face to some extent. There was opportunity for group discussion and also personal reflection, and a strong focus on application, challenging me to take the necessary steps to live out what I was learning.

The program was excellent, but perhaps the best part of it for me was just engaging with some other men, hearing their stories, experiences, and challenges, and learning myself to be vulnerable and honest in sharing with Christian brothers in a confidential setting. It helped me realize afresh that “guys need guys” — the importance of surrounding ourselves with other men who also want to learn and grow in true masculinity, as perfectly exemplified by Jesus.

- ANDREW BUDIMIR

30

  
MEN ATTENDED  
THE MEN'S RETREAT

7

  
DEDICATED  
MEN'S EVENTS

## WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Eight to ten ladies meet around God's word each Tuesday morning at 9:30am at the church.

The Bible studies are produced by “Know Your Bible” from the Christians Woman's Association. This year we have studied the books of Amos, Isaiah, and at the moment, 2nd Chronicles.

All ladies are invited to come and share with us.

Praise the Lord for His word, that teaches us of His great love and mercy.

- VERYL MELLORS



## PASTORAL CARE TEAM

As part of the Pastoral Care team we meet together as like-minded people from all sections of the congregation.

Our goal is to make sure that people do not “fall through the cracks” and miss out on needed pastoral care. Having other church members alert us to Pastoral needs is a great help.

Praying together and supporting one another as we care for others is essential. Being part of the group and hearing news of how God is at work here at ASBC and in the wider community always brings me great joy.

- ANITA NIPPRESS

# INDIGENOUS MINISTRIES

Ministry occurs in a number of disparate areas, rather loosely connected. The Shockwave ministry has commenced after an initial Holiday program over the summer. A big effort was made by some leaders to ensure that it happened, and especially by Kristy and Robyn who have been the initiators and leaders, backed by a good number of volunteer helpers, including some from other churches. It has been going well, and a good number of children and accompanying adults have attended. The children have been responding well to the Gospel messages presented. Some of these families have been coming to church as well.

There has been an increased number of folk coming to church, often two busloads in the morning. It has been a big challenge to meet and greet with these people, and slowly develop relationships, and a number of people have assisted,

and prayed with some of them. There is a lot of occasional attendance, rather than regular. Many of those who come are Alyawarr, and many have come to town as a family member is on dialysis.

It would be good to deal more systematically with their prayer needs, and to keep track of people's movements to and from the bush, and funerals happening. A number of people from church do fairly regular hospital visitation with prayer. Many of the patients are from the communities, and not necessarily locals.

We have had a couple of sing-alongs /BBQ events after church, and a Christmas party at the Dunns. These seem to be well attended. The recent one had some Biblical content, rather

than just singing. We haven't had a bush tucker trip for a while, but filling out a Risk Assessment form made me shudder!

I personally have been encouraged by a few events I've attended in the bush, as part of my regular AuSIL work. I have been impressed by the strong Christian participation, and testimonies. I attended two funerals, one at Utopia, one at Tara, with associated sing-alongs. I also saw that a couple of small outstations in Utopia were having worship, including Soapy Bore, which has little outside support, but continue with Bible studies and prayer. A new Lutheran church has opened at Alcoota. (Engawala) It is good to see evident faith in the bush. I see this as all part of the wider Desert Church scene, including supporting other denominations.

- DAVID STRICKLAND

## PRISON MINISTRIES

Prison ministry is a great opportunity to share the love of God and to bring the message of the gospel to people who may not know Jesus or to those who wish to reconnect with their faith. On occasions I have encountered people in a place of brokenness and despair. To be able to stand together with them before God, to bring hope and to sense His love and grace can be a humbling yet powerful experience.

On my last visit I was approached by an inmate for prayer. She had decided that she wanted to commit her life to Jesus. It is a wonderful privilege to be able to share in such a significant and transformational event in someone's life.

Nowadays, there are few places outside church and Christian circles where people are open to hearing the gospel. During a period of incarceration, inmates are likely to be at a point where they are seeking change, and so the message provided may well fall on fertile ground. I feel blessed to be able to serve in a ministry that can point the way in offering new hope and meaning into the lives of these prisoners.

- LEIGH WOOLCOCK



## HETTI PERKINS

Nearly two years on, the Hetti Perkins ministry on a Thursday morning continues to be a crucial way to connect with elderly indigenous with dementia. So many of the residents only have the occasional family visit so the weekly visit by the Baptist Church team is very much appreciated. Each team member has the freedom to connect with the residents in the way that they are led. We have music where older and more contemporary style worship songs are sung which is enjoyed immensely out undercover in the courtyard. We have storytime where the bible story is told through a picture book resource from bible place with up to 4-5 at a time gathering around and enthusiastically adding their thoughts as the story is told. We also pray for the folk and just

sit and chat with them. There is usually a chance to engage with the staff as well and these relationships are especially valuable to cultivate. Sadly, some days we roll up and discover the passing away of a resident we have come to know. This makes the ministry all the more poignant as we realize some have little time left on this earth. We have seen some genuine responses to the sharing of the love of Christ though many times we care because we are called to do so by our Lord without the expectation of any particular response. The heart of Christ is for the elderly in their most vulnerable latter years and we are privileged to serve at this time in their lives.

- ROD HOLMES



# MISSIONS

## MISSION PARTNERS

Alice Springs Baptist Church continues with partnerships across Australia, Nepal and Thailand. Additions to our partnerships this year include Mat and Shannon Anderson serving with Global Interaction, and Life Impact Foundation Thailand (LIFT).

One of our highlights this year was the opportunity to be part of a pilot program with All Nations Christian College in England, through facilitating their EnVision course. Over 20 people participated in online activities and

Sunday lunch sessions throughout May and June, designed to understand God's mission in the world through developing cultural awareness and exploring different ways to initiate cross-cultural considerations. The group were challenged as we explored our own cultural bias and spent time reflecting on our personal and church activities.

Also in May, we partnered with the Uniting Church, the local Nepalese Association and International Nepal Fellowship to co-host Seasons, the INF conference; sharing in an experiential learning simulation of life in rural Nepal, in which participants took on the roles

of families forced to make choices about crops, livelihoods, environmental management and disaster risk reduction – all in the face of chronic food insecurity, hunger, impoverishment & marginalisation. This was a deeply moving experience for many, and together with the shared experiences of Ramesh and Prema, visiting from Neplagunj, along with Phil and Jenny, and Ben Thurley, CEO of INF Australia, has given many a deeper understanding of the work of INF.

A special thanks goes to Melissa van Leeuwen who faithfully compiles the Mission Musings each month, providing a vital communication and prayer link between our cross-cultural partners and our church congregation.

- SUE TUCKER



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MISSION PARTNERS



\$70 000

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

## JUST LOVE

Just.Love is passionate about seeing God's heart for justice and poverty lived out within the church and displayed before the wider Alice Springs community! The Just.Love team continue to meet every few months to eat good food, pray and plan events. The team works without a formal leadership structure and instead members take the lead in different areas/events. Dave Clark has done a fabulous job over the last 3 years in coordinating the group and the team is grateful for all his hard work.

Chantal Ezard and I have now taken over the coordinator role and look forward to supporting the team in this way.

This past year we have continued our approach of running several key events throughout the year showcasing different topics/issues that are important in showing God's heart for the

support those affected by domestic and family violence and are working alongside community services to ensure we have updated information and referrals available.

" PRAISE GOD THAT HIS HEART FOR THE OPPRESSED IS BECOMING MORE KNOWN IN ALICE SPRINGS"

oppressed. This has included a Clothes Swap (Oct 2018), selling Christmas Cards (Dec 2018), Ethical chocolate display over Easter (with the church and youth group), the 'Maximum Impact' workshop (June 2019) and showing the 'Island of the Hungry Ghosts' documentary about asylum seekers on Christmas Island (Aug 2019). We have also been looking at how the church can more effectively

As a team, we are thankful to the church congregation and the church leadership for their support again this year. And praise God that His heart for the oppressed is becoming more known in Alice Springs!

- NATALIE DE JONG

## CLOTHES SWAP

(OCT 2018)

110

people attended, many from the wider community and people with young families.



2

IMMERSIVE YOUTH GROUP EXPERIENCES



11

# CREATIVE MINISTRIES

*"Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship." (Romans 12:1)*

I recently had the privilege of witnessing the Soweto Gospel Choir perform some amazing songs and dances. After the performance, I spoke to the leader of the group, commenting on how enthusiastic and involved everyone in the group was. These people weren't only singing with their voices, they were singing with their entire bodies, and it was uplifting to the soul to witness. He responded by reminding me of Romans 12:1, which talks about us offering our bodies to God in worship, and that that was what they were doing through their singing and dancing. It was wonderful to be so visibly reminded of the purpose of Creative Ministries: we are there to use all aspects of the bodies God has blessed us with, including our voices, our rhythm, our musical and vocal abilities, to bring glory to Him and help others do the same.

The last 12 months have seen many changes in the Creative Ministries area. As is common in Alice Springs, many new people have joined the volunteer team. Similarly, many people have stepped down or left town. Overall, we are still short of volunteers in some key roles, such as piano players in the morning, and tech team volunteers in both services.

Other changes that have occurred include significant upgrades to technology equipment used during services. Stage lights have been added, the projectors and projection computer have been replaced with upgraded modern new models, and the rear-facing projector has been changed to show extra information to those on stage.

Not all changes have been as visible, but still make a big difference. Worship leaders now participate in a group chat, where they collaborate with each other. Decisions were made earlier this year at the first Worship Leaders Catchup regarding how to introduce new songs.

Also, the AM service has seen and will continue to see an increased focus on Indigenous inclusion. Teams have a greater focus on maintaining the central theme of the sermon throughout the entire service. The song library, too, has received a makeover and tidy up, which will greatly benefit many of our volunteers. Lastly, plans are underway to run regular training sessions for various positions to better facilitate new volunteers coming on board.

Plans for 2020 include implementing more training opportunities, upgrading our technology, continue increasing the level of Indigenous inclusion in the AM service, continue with keeping the same theme/message throughout the whole service.

*Psalm 100, "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord." May you continue to worship the Lord loudly with all of your body, be open to His leading you into new ways to serve, and together continue to "equip the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ." (Ephesians 4:12)*

- JOSHUA HOWARD

# HOSPITALITY



I returned to the leadership this year as an Enabling Deacon and was allocated the hospitality and welcoming ministries as my portfolio.

I praise God for the many people involved in the hospitality and welcoming ministries within the church. Many of these volunteer regularly to serve our congregation and welcome all who attend. These are important acts of service and I would encourage anyone else who is interested to join the teams.

There are also many who regularly bring cakes for birthdays and food to share for special morning teas. A special thankyou to Veryl Mellors who brings sandwiches and biscuits weekly to

provide for those who may not have had food at home. This is something she started doing herself and I think it would be good for the wider church to take this on.

I'd like to especially thank Sam Yendall and Wendy Harris for leading the Show Stall this year. Even though neither had actually been to the show before they organised the stall and co-ordinated the team to serve meals and provide a resting place at the show. This is an excellent witness to the community, as well as allowing various members of the church to serve and spend time together when they otherwise may not.

- SOPHIE HIGGINS

"DO NOT FORGET TO SHOW HOSPITALITY TO STRANGERS, FOR BY SO DOING SOME PEOPLE HAVE SHOWN HOSPITALITY TO ANGELS WITHOUT KNOWING IT." (HEB 13:2)

# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

## MAINLY MUSIC

Mainly music is about Connection. We seek to build a strong community amongst our families. We create moments in the music part of the program for parents to connect with their children positively, and we also take moments to connect our people with God, praying over all things.

Mainly music is about celebration: We celebrate milestones with our children, birthdays, new babies, Easter and Christmas. We took our mothers out for coffee and cake in April for Mothers Day, with much positive feedback about feeling loved. We also hosted our fathers for a BBQ/picnic on Fathers Day. Each week celebrate God's goodness in his design and his love for his children through the songs and morning tea time.

Mainly music is about Creativity. We try to give space for exploration of musical

instruments and play. We also honour the creativity of our God in many of the songs. We allow space for craft between 4 and 10 times a year. We look for ways to love our people in their day to day lives depending on their needs.

Another of the values of Mainly Music is generosity. Our particular team do this so well, always with large hearts supporting all of our people and one another, acknowledging the value in each person, made in God's image is just how it goes. I am often struck by the strength of our team working together and complimenting one another. When we recognise what God is doing through one another and support that, we see the beauty of being part of God's family. We are thankful for the prayer support of the wider church family.

Many many meals have been delivered to families with new babies or in tricky spots. Many prayers have been lifted up, many many gifts have been given.

Strong friendships have formed. We have a cohesive team who make sure every person is welcomed each week and all tasks are managed.

Towards the end of last year our numbers on a Wednesday became too large and so we planned for a second session each week, this began on Tuesdays in second term. Numbers for Tuesdays have been up and down, but with recent promise of growth. We are looking for more volunteers in order to keep our ratios balanced and do this well, and seeking God on how we move forward with the new session, and ensure that our Tuesday team are well supported.

We definitely believe we are meeting a genuine need in the community, loving families through the early years, and are so blessed to be able to do so in a way that points people to God, and draws them into the beautiful community which is the bride of Christ.

- MIKAELA RATE

“ I AM OFTEN STRUCK BY THE STRENGTH OF OUR TEAM WORKING TOGETHER AND COMPLIMENTING ONE ANOTHER. ”

## INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP

The Chinese-English group was going smoothly as a monthly gathering, but now it is time to develop this into a broader international group.

The transition period was June to July with regular prayer meetings occurring. Beginning in August, fortnightly, three of us have led the group: Ming Fang Strickland, Rachel Moody and Wendy Harris.

We call these "International Friends Night." At the moment, people will come by invitation, but with future plans to be open to the whole community.

It is an outreach program and we use a Bible Study to present the truth. We have gathering time to worship then have small groups to discuss and pray for each other.

Overall, Mandarin speakers may not be the majority anymore we will accommodate various nationalities.

- MING FANG STRICKLAND



# ATTENDANCE

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE  
(2019)

315 +36%

AM SERVICE

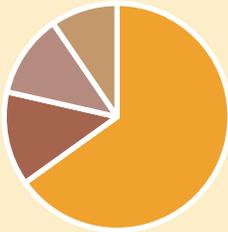
245

PM SERVICE

70

# FINANCES

BUDGET DISTRIBUTION



■ Staffing ■ Missions ■ Facilities ■ Ministries

AVERAGE WEEKLY GIVING  
(2018/19)

\$9 271 -2.1%

FULL AUDITED FINANCIAL INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE TO  
CHURCH MEMBERS UPON REQUEST

AND WHATEVER YOU DO, WHETHER IN WORD OR DEED, DO IT ALL IN THE NAME OF THE  
LORD JESUS, GIVING THANKS TO GOD THE FATHER THROUGH HIM.

COLOSSIANS 3:17



# EVENTS FROM 2018/19



MEN'S SHED NIGHTS

PRAYER SCHOOL

CLOTHES SWAP

BUSH TUCKER TRIPS

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

MAKING MARRIAGE BETTER

SHOCKWAVE OLYMPICS

SHOW STALL

SONWEST ROUNDUP

INDIGENOUS BBQS

"CALLED" CONFERENCE

DIVORCE CARE

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

ASBC CRICKET MATCH

MEN'S TESTIMONY NIGHT

MOVIE SCREENINGS

THE CASE FOR CHRIST

ISLAND OF THE HUNGRY GHOSTS

EASTER CAMP

FREEDOM IN CHRIST

ENVISION

MAXIMUM IMPACT SERVICE

BUSHDANCE

