



'I had never felt more helpless in my life, which meant it was all well and truly in God's hands!'

God used a hospital placement, and Broome Anglican Church, to teach junior doctor Esther Watts more about his love and faithfulness.

Her testimony is being used by the Christian Medical and Dental Fellowship of Australia and *Luke's Journal* to encourage other young medicos to consider working outside Australian cities.

Read her story on page 4 →

Junior doctor Esther Watts felt blessed by her new family at Broome Anglican Church

Sharing the gospel with young people

Teenagers were encouraged to meet Jesus during a recent Pilbara Outback Adventure Camp hosted at Exmouth Anglican Church.

One camper said the time re-ignited her desire to be part of church and youth group – something she'd avoided for years. Other campers were impacted by the fireside talk about God's forgiveness and Him removing our sins "as far as the east is from the west."

The Scripture Union camp was the brainchild of former long-time Pilbara residents Graeme and Sandy White from St Matthew's Port Hedland, who could see a real need for North West kids to have an opportunity to hear the gospel.

"There are around 10 000 kids who live in the Pilbara, but no Christian camps that we were aware of – all the camps seemed metro-focused," Graeme said.

A bus load of kids came from Hedland and Karratha. Camp focused on meeting Jesus in Mark's Gospel, with Bus-Church, scripture devotions, and small group studies. There was plenty of time to enjoy adventures, such as snorkelling, swimming, hiking, bonfires on the beach, and lots of good food and conversations.

Exmouth Rector Simon Roberts said there are very few opportunities for children and youth in the Pilbara to come together in a Christian environment.

"Christian holiday camps are a great way of building relationships and understanding of the Bible.



Leaders of the Pilbara holiday camp were spurred on by feedback from teenage campers

We were really pleased that two Exmouth youth signed up and had the chance to meet a bunch of other Christian kids and leaders," he said.

"As we explore how this ministry might continue in the future, please pray the Lord would raise up the right team and open up the right opportunities for school holiday camping locations in the Pilbara."

As far as the East is from the West

By Darrell Parker, Diocesan Bishop

People in the North West of Western Australia are fond of making 'lite' of the distances involved in living life here. We enjoy noting that we think little of traveling 200km's or more for a one hour meeting or to close the front gate of the farm. We delight in telling visitors that by the time we travel to our nearest town, people driving the same distance in Europe may well have crossed three international borders. The very idea of 'distance' here is our ever-present companion.

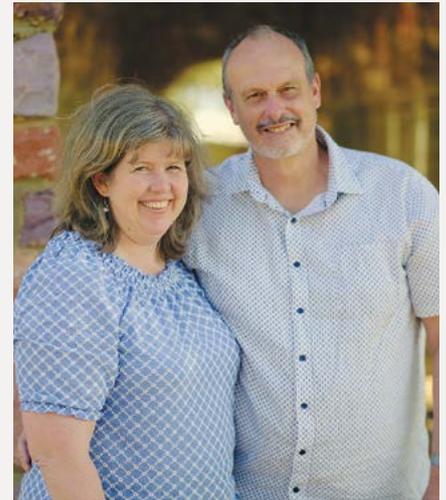
'Distance' regularly touches our North West everyday reality. Mining companies build thousands of kilometres of railway lines for the seemingly simple purpose of moving product to port. Travelling for the purpose of meetings often means a flight more often than it does a drive.

Christian ministry here is not spared this challenge of distance. Getting gospel workers to and from and keeping them serving well in isolated locations is difficult and expensive. A visit to their ageing parents usually means up to a 20 hour drive to Perth or paying thousands for a flight to Melbourne or Sydney. Being so far from family and friends means that cheap and willing baby sitters are hard to find. Our pastors regularly drive 300km one way to get to their branch churches to meet with a congregation of fewer than 10 people. Meeting with our fellow workers for encouragement and support is rare given the distances involved.

While meeting on screen is good, it's not the same as being there in person. The travel bill for bringing all our workers together for a Conference or a meeting of Synod is upwards of \$60 000.

While distances in the North West are huge and difficult to overcome, they are nothing compared to the distances we read about in the Bible. The presence of sin in the human heart means a great chasm exists between mankind and the God who created us. The Apostle John describes God as 'the one in whom there is no darkness at all' (1 John 1:5). He is pure uncorrupted truth, goodness, holiness, love, mercy, and justice. As sinners in rebellion against his rule we are as far from him as we can possibly be – as far as light is from darkness. There is no distance possible that is greater than the distance between us and our maker.

And yet, in the wonder, miracle, and majesty of what God has done in Jesus Christ, God has removed



Bishop Darrell and wife Elizabeth Parker

our sins from us 'as far as the east is from the west' (Psalm 103:12). Our sins could now not be further away from us. What stunning work is this that overcomes such a vast chasm of distance? What kindness and mercy is this that brings those who were so very 'far off' so very close – so close in fact that we are literally adopted as children and welcomed into the love shared between Father, Son, and Spirit?

All praise and glory to God for going the 'distance' in his unwavering commitment to his people. And thank you for your partnership in going the distance for Jesus here in the wonderful North West.



Invitation

Lunch with Bishop Darrell Parker

If you're within striking distance of Wyong on the Central Coast an hour North of Sydney, join us for lunch with Bishop Darrell Parker, the recently minted Bishop of North West Australia.

Monday 6 November Noon-3pm

Lunch: BYO lunch (Coffee, tea, fruit juice & slice provided)

Wyong Anglican Church, 25-27 Byron St, Wyong NSW

RSVP:

David Mulready **0428 030 774** or 28muls@gmail.com by October 27.

Iron sharpens iron on mission in Uganda

By Rev Daniel Faricy



Rev Daniel Faricy and retired Bishop Gary Nelson (along with Registrar Khim Harris) visited our link diocese in Karamoja to train church leaders

Karamoja is a place of great spiritual need. There is a battle going on for people's souls. Local African Traditional Religions are strong; with locals worshiping at shrines and making sacrifices to the gods of the elders.

Islam is on the rise and the Roman Catholic Church is active in recruitment. More than ever Karamojans need to hear the good news of the gospel; of how 'God is a great God, and a great King above all gods' (Psalm 95:3) and how he sent his Son Jesus into the world to save the world.

Praise God for the Anglican Church in Karamoja which seeks to faithfully proclaim the gospel. There are now 35 clergy and 25 lay leaders leading the church. They serve in challenging places with little financial support. Most don't receive a stipend as their church is too poor. Yet they serve God with joy – evangelising, preaching and running Sunday schools. When they meet, their praise is amazing, with choirs from local schools and a bit of African dancing to praise the Lord. The Anglican liturgy we know well in Australia is used, and most importantly God's word is preached.

The proverb goes, 'Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another' (Prov 27:17).

It was great to help sharpen the preaching of these faithful ministers. The mission team ran some training in biblical theology and how to preach from the Psalms. We gave them tools such as 2 ways 2 live, a tool for reading the Bible (COMA – context, observation, meaning, application) and the bible overview to use in their churches.

They look forward with hope to future visits and the announcement that we're continuing this partnership was met with great applause whenever it was mentioned.

It's worth mentioning that sharpening goes both ways. Being in the Karamoja culture showed me how our desire for comfort in the West often stops us from taking up our cross for Jesus. Lay Leader Alfred rides his push bike 40-50km in the heat to visit someone and share the gospel with them, and then does the same the next day every week. Ministers in Karamoja sign up knowing that there isn't going to be nice superannuation package when they retire and that there will be no reliable income. While they have training, many would love a much deeper understanding of the bible, and yet they keep preaching Christ. Keep denying themselves. We have much we can learn from our brothers and sisters in Karamoja.

It was hard not to be encouraged by what God is doing through his saints in the midst of great need. Please keep Karamoja and Bishop Joseph and his ministers in your prayers!



Daniel was encouraged by lay leaders' love of the gospel

Blessed by fellowship in Broome

From page 1

Dr Esther Watts shares how God strengthened her faith during a six-month stint as a junior doctor at Broome Hospital.

When I first arrived in Broome, my luggage was missing, my boxes hadn't arrived and the delivery of my car was delayed due to the floods. On top of this, my accommodation had been double booked so I needed to stay at a motel for 2 weeks, which was about an hour's walk from my work. I had never felt more helpless in my life, which meant it was all well and truly in God's hands. God continued to provide for me in so many unexpected ways. I was so blessed to have friends at Church who helped me settle in, dropped me off at work and took me along to church, some of whom had only known me for one day.

Despite being in a completely new environment and feeling overwhelmed by the anxieties of starting my first job in a new hospital, the community I had through Church was the constant in my life that created a sense of spiritual peace. It was similar to my experience at Karratha Anglican Church which I attended whilst on placement as a medical student the previous year. Broome Anglican made me feel so incredibly welcomed the minute I stepped through the door. I loved going out for coffee and chats with other young adults from such diverse backgrounds.

Broome has a way of creating strong bonds very quickly as you form friendship with people who, just like you, are working or living away from their family and friends. As a result, you often become your own little family. I found it so easy to make friends in the community through local sport, the hospital, and especially Church.

One of the things that God taught me whilst in Broome was the incredible blessing that a Church community offers through an unspoken bond formed through a shared faith in Jesus. This was compounded by the nature of a rural area like Broome where the population is so small you often get to work with your friends and fellow church goers. I enjoyed getting to work with other Christian doctors, nurses and allied health members in the Hospital, which made me feel at ease in a job which can be really emotionally draining. It was a special experience getting to serve Jesus as a doctor by serving our patients alongside my brothers and sisters in Christ.

During my time in Broome, I was able to attend both the morning services and peoples Church, as well as participate in a Wednesday night life group led by Assistant Minister Matt and Leone Morrison,

which was a major source of encouragement. Singing songs of praise with my Indigenous brothers and sisters, in their native tongue was a big highlight for me.

Though living all the way up in Broome this year was completely unexpected, I'm so thankful to God for the lessons and people he put in my life whilst I was there. When it eventually came time to leave, I found myself planning how I'd be able to come back! Broome certainly holds a very special place in my heart.

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Please post this form
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Beanie joy

Port Hedland Seafarers Chaplain Garry Hamersley said seafarers love to receive a hand-knitted beanie when they visit. "It's a very practical way to show that we care for them, as well as sharing the hope of eternal life through Jesus."

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