



NATIONAL DIRECTOR'S ANNUAL ADDRESS MAY 2009

2008

2008 commenced with strong determination to put many of the mission initiatives created in the previous year into place. It was a year of consolidation in the field with a number of newly candidated Field Staff commencing well in new fields of endeavour.

- Captains Stuart & Kathy Haynes with daughter Christina moved to the township of Blackwater in central Queensland. BCA had been involved in the early days of the coal and cattle boom. Now in a 'fresh expression' partnership with the Diocese of Rockhampton and Church Army, are seeking to establish a mission base ministry to reach out to the 'unchurched'. The Haynes' Healthy Soul Ministries concept of reaching people with a healthy life and good well being approach has seen the church go from just 2 to about 40 over the course of the year.

- Rev Bruce & Mrs Jodi Chapman with their 4 children made the move to Darwin where Bruce took up the huge task of Diocesan Youth Worker based out of the Nightcliff congregation. Bruce has the whole of the Northern Territory in his sights. Engaging with urban and town people as well as those on the Communities, Bruce is seeking to disciple and build the leadership skills of local Christian young people. The early signs are encouraging.

- The first of three of the Tasmanian IMAGINE projects was quickly underway with Revd Will & Mrs Gillian Briggs and their four children, Hannah, Samuel, Ethan & Miriam being accepted as BCA Field Staff working in Somerset Tasmania. Will and Gill are, in reality, church planting a new congregation with Gen X and Y people right under the gaze of two existing church congregations who have specialized in reaching the boomer and builder generations. The IMAGINE project clearly identifies the need to address the old paradigm of 'one size has to fit all'. After some initial teething problems the new congregation has been forced to move location twice as a consequence of fast growth.

- West Darling has seen a number of small starts that has put it on the map. The Dusty Boots Programme under the vision and leadership of the Stubbs makes its first steps into the region. Robert and Jennifer lead a group of school children in a short term mission venture, blending gospel outreach, community service to Tibooburra linking it

into the kid's curriculum for Higher School Certificate achievement.

Neville Naden, our supported indigenous worker in the Hill, advances the ministry and substance abuse programme by pioneering a community garden in the backyard of BCA house Broken Hill a successful and popular move with the local community providing many opportunities to speak about the claims of Christ and the Spindlers proceed to ordination which adds significant credentials and opportunities for Gospel engagement with local communities.

Collectively the Field Staff are moving forward in seeking to implement their local strategies in the knowledge that they were well supported in their ministry and that their families underpinned by a huge raft of prayer from supporters, the home based staff and Regional Committees. This is a re-occurring theme of their communications and was very evident in the feedback from the occasional Field Staff conference held in Launceston in October. This conference unknowingly on the eve of the Global Financial Crisis (GFC) was well timed. Stressing the need to be mission minded Bishop Graham Cray from the UK encouraged the BCA families to be exceptionally well focused on the fact that this world's lost-ness had impacted the divine plan so much that Jesus gave up that which was rightfully His; to give Himself as a servant to others. That this sole fact of history and basis of our faith was our example for today and would see the BCA Field Staff well placed to carry on the telling of the saving news of Christ in hard and difficult times and places.

BCA and the GFC

The 2008 year has proven to be an emotional rollercoaster as a result of the GFC. Most 'not for profit' agencies and charities have reported uncertainty as to the future levels of donation and support. This position was further complicated by the natural disasters in Victoria and Queensland in early 2009 and the resultant outpouring of benevolence across the nation.

Whilst this report focuses on the year under review (and should be read in conjunction with the Hon. Treasurer's reports) it is important to set this against the situation as seen in the first quarter of 2009.

The donation support to BCA in this period has defied the trends predicted in late 2008 and the situation experienced by other agencies. In fact it appears

that the supporter donation levels for the first 4 months of 2009 are above those of the corresponding period in 2008; the expenses in each of the regions has also been reduced. We must give thanks to God for the faithful steadfastness of our supporters who have maintained a priority for supporting the Gospel outreach and intentional mission activities of the Society. Of course the value of investments certainly has been impacted along with interest and dividends.

The Executive Committee supported by the home base and regional networks decided to maintain its commitment to all the existing field work, and to honour commitments and arrangements for new work planned and approved to be commenced in 2009. The thinking was simple; in tough times the freshness of the gospel message is never more relevant to people hurting as a result of circumstances outside their control, be it the GFC, unemployment, downturn in markets or rural and regional changes. The Society is certain that it must hold its outreach initiatives in place wherever possible, it is confident that the support will continue, as in the past and so in the future we see the Society's endeavour to reach Australians for Christ continuing in these uncertain financial days. This is not the first time the Society has had to rely heavily its supporters and the acumen of the Council and committees to find God's way through the tough times ahead.

90 years as Bush Church Aid Society

BCA has come of age; making its way as a wholly Australian operation for 90 years. For 83 years it was under the umbrella of the "Col and Con" (part of the direct lineal descent from the first mission activity in the Swan Colony in 1836) being cared for and assisted with steady flow on ministry agents and funding from the British supporter base. In 1919 the apron strings were untied but the missional DNA of the parent body continues to find expression in the Australian culture, a people that today have few connections with the gentle to the eye green rolling downs of 'home' and soft in the ear cultured voice of the many who came and gave us the foundations for our mission imperative as an Australian mission body.

4 'genes' from that missional DNA of those who have gone before us have been identified. They find expression today in what BCA does and will do in the days to come.

- Planting Missional hearts is a 'must do'.
- Activating Local Mission is essential.
- Boosting Diocesan capacity for Mission is critical.

- Presenting God's way of finding 'life that lasts' in times of hardship and change brings meaningful contract and opportunity for gospel engagement.

Missional hearts must be planted

BCA Field Staff are about planting a vision for mission in the hearts of local people; it is not that different from 'Enabling', Missional shaping and equipping of leaders, young and older mission models currently being ramped up by others.

The new Tasmanian Imagine Project in Launceston that will be launched in the later half of 2009 is "a project where missional thinking and heart knowledge will be embedded in young teachers and health worker and others at Uni so that they will be effective workers in regional and rural parts when they are professionally deployed; not just doing a missional work themselves and leaving a gaping hole when they move on, but having a priority in their given time in that small place of identifying and growing local Christian leadership.

OR

..... as is happening with the Flying Chick on the Furneaux's, not going over and doing it for them but equipping the older Christians to have a fulfilling and useful ministry. People who 20 years ago just cried out saying 'we just want someone to teach us how to read and understand the Bible' today, 3 clergy later, they are doing it for themselves most times, aided and enabled by Helen Chick's regular fly in visits.

Local Mission Activity is essential

BCA Field Staff are about finding opportunities for fresh expressions of living out the faith; thinking laterally about possibilities and encouraging these to spring up in most unexpected ways.

"..... as is the case with Stuart and Kathy Haynes at Soul Time church in Blackwater a coal mining town in Queensland Seeking an entry point with young mums and older teenagers through body image and lifestyle needs.

"..... or Neville Naden in Broken Hill through substance abuse programmes and counsel, developing a community garden at BCA house, building a local mission base with aboriginal people. Already one young fellow has a commitment to train at the Church Army in a certificate IV in Local Mission, a competency based VET course, and looks like being identified as having the leadership potential to go further.

Diocesan capacity for Mission to be boosted

BCA is continually seeking out opportuni-

ties to boost the local Diocesan capacity for mission

"...in Willochra. We are providing an Intentional Interim Ministry to refocus and shape the local resources missionally. To prepare them for the next stage of their ministry in Roxby. Rev Bob McKay has facilitated over an 18-24 month period; it is a move towards a collaborative and team approach, away from a clergy dominated model which so often expends huge amounts of energy rubbing up against and sparking with the traditional matriarchal/patriarchal leadership which is so much part of small communities in regional Australia.

OR

".... In Darwin with Bruce Chapman developing a diocesan wide mission awareness with young people of all racial groupings and countries. Not just running a youth group and playing pool like so many youth leaders found themselves doing in the past but discipling young leaders who have a missional outlook and a heart for those of their own generation and grouping.

OR

.....as we have done and will do in North West Australia with transitional minister hand over. The 'apprentice' becoming the 'master' and the 'master' stepping back or out. It has just happened at Port Hedland and is underway in Kununurra with the Alexanders going to work alongside the Johnsons.

God's way of finding 'life that lasts' must be presented in times of hardship and change

Drought fire flood, agribusiness changes/demographic changes/environmental induced stressors/fiscal meltdown flow on pressures all set the context for the last 'gene' from the missional DNA inherited. That it is through service that costs time, energy and effort as well as finance that people take notice of our service in the name of our Lord

"...such as with the BCA drought appeal where \$750,000 of fodder was marshaled and distributed with significant gospel core value as well as social and wellbeing support.

OR

"...with the SRE support programme run from our accumulation of outback education funds allowing young people in over 50 parishes or ministry districts to keep that God person contact in their lives when the local resources are pressuring the local church to cut RE out of the parish programme for financial reasons. That programme is about to step up with a partnership with Soul Survivor's "Soul in the Bush" programme. A joint partnering launched after Easter in Canberra in the

presence of 550 missional focused young people. The rationale of both of these is 'the keeping of the God person in the lives of young Australians who are also impacted by change'.

OR

"...in recent fire and flood events:... with Ernest and Ida in a small way in the Kinglake Ranges in Victoria and the ongoing negotiations with Wangaratta regarding Marysville and the Diocese of North Queensland helping them with their appeal for assistance and funds.

OR

".....in the Northern Territory, post 'the intervention', BCA is at the table with the other agencies and the local leaders and Bishop working to maximize the resources and marshal a response to the needs of the aboriginal communities in the Top End and central areas, some 600 communities in all.

I as National Director can say with confidence, when I see the work pushing forward under the care and energy of the great body of BCA supported Field Staff, maintained and nurtured by the keenly focused endeavours of the home based staff and supported by the raft of prayer and support of nearly 40,000 supporters nationally that God is at work in new ways in His church, Jesus is exciting us as an Anglican agency and His Holy Spirit is driving us forward on this journey into new ways of doing mission.

During these 90 years of being fully Australian we, BCA, have shed our infant status.

We have grown thru our teenage years of greatness and ambition.

We, in a way which is today appropriate, are addressing the call to be Christian in this place with the same missional determination, respect for people and the justice that came to our shores through Louis Giustiniani, the first "BCA" missionary in 1836.

The biblical clarity and authority we know set our forebears of the WAMS, and the 'Col and Con' to the task of winning Australians to Christ; we see today in that our Lord is doing a new thing amongst us.

He is making a new way in the desert and living streams in the lives of women and men, boys and girls. We as part of this movement of God should humble ourselves and continue to praise Him for the assistance He gives the BCA and the acumen of the Council and committees to find God's way through the tough times ahead.

**Brian Roberts National Director
20th May 2009**

The Year in Review

Autumn 2008

- ◆ Cpts Stuart & Kathy Haynes with daughter Christina move to Blackwater in a “Fresh Expression” ministry to the “unchurched”.
- ◆ Fires ravage Kangaroo Island SA. The Evans provide invaluable local assistance.
- ◆ Revd Philip & Mrs Elke Knight, Annabella & Lilly move to Port Hedland, Philip as Assistant Minister to work alongside long time BCA Field Staff Bill & Jocelyn Ross.
- ◆ Publication of Kriol Bible in Northern Territory, Joy Sandefur’s behind the scene support acknowledged.
- ◆ School Chaplaincy’s start in Gilgandra & Gullargambone with Rich Lanham & Mark Doyle appointed.
- ◆ Revd Dennis & Mrs Lois Quinn leave Winton to make their home in Hobart.
- ◆ Mr Kevin Davidson farewelled from Regional Committee & National Council.
- ◆ The death of Mrs Mary Kirkby, wife of our Archivist Clem, is received with sadness.
- ◆ Revd Mike & Mrs Chantalle Keith with daughter Rachel arrive in Lightning Ridge to take up ministry, intending to build on the firm foundations laid by the Maudes.
- ◆ The parish of Sunraysia South celebrates their first birthday. The Barclays are delighted that many have been added to the church.

Winter 2008

- ◆ Special Religious Education assistance programmes start up; target 50+ rural towns.
- ◆ Revd Bill & Jackie France return to Sydney after 4 years in the Murchison parish. Diocese decides to cease ministry based in Mt Magnet.
- ◆ Revd Philip & Kathy Knife retire from the position of Honorary WA Regional Officers. Considerable growth in support noted; \$120,000 p.a. mark is passed.
- ◆ Revd Arthur Tanner (Leigh Creek) has started a programme as the Chaplain on the SA School of the Air.
- ◆ The Society sadly notes the passing of Joy Ctercteko and Lily Livingstone; spouses of two of the Lord’s servants; who worked hard for the cause of BCA over many years.
- ◆ Dr Joy Sandefur speaks at the Oxford Round Table Conference in the UK on indigenous language developments.
- ◆ Revd Bob & Mrs Sue Witten leave Midlands Mission Tasmania and ‘re-sign’ to serve in Winton. (Previously served in Quilpie and Furneaux Islands).
- ◆ Cpts Ron & Crystal Spindler ordained priests. Ministry opportunities expand in West Darling.
- ◆ Revd Bruce & Mrs Jodi Chapman with Matthew, Laura, Felicity & Oliver move to Darwin; Bruce to work with youth both in Nightcliff and across the Territory developing local leadership.

Spring 2008

- ◆ Another great picnic day was hosted at Bishops Court Adelaide for the South Australian region.
- ◆ Narelle MacPherson takes up the Pastoral Support Worker role at Kormilda College. Start delayed many months because of accident.
- ◆ Revd Will & Mrs Gillian Briggs and their four children, Hannah, Samuel, Ethan & Miriam accepted as BCA Field Staff working in Somerset Tasmania through the Imagine Project. Planting a church for the ‘unchurched’.
- ◆ Peter Palmer expands the ministry options in Coober Pedy, becomes Chaplain to the Prominent Hill Mine.
- ◆ Dusty Boots Programme kicks off in far western NSW. Further short term mission visits planned by the leaders Robert & Jenny Stubbs.
- ◆ Intentional Interim Ministry at Roxby Downs reports significant progress under Boy & Jan McKay.
- ◆ Irfon & Barbara Griffiths report people coming to the Lord in northern Tasmania; adult baptism and two confirmations, first in many years.

Summer 2008

- ◆ Successful ‘Christ for Campers’ programme takes place in Mallacoota Victoria over the Christmas break. Sadly the Knotts make decision to return to UK.
- ◆ Jordi Fusi of Menindee is awarded the April Bottom Scholarship.
- ◆ Grant Hay is welcomed in his role as Indigenous Prison Chaplain in SA; joint partnership Dioceses of Adelaide & Willochra & BCA.
- ◆ Neville Naden starts a Community Garden in the grounds of BCA House. Contacts multiply.
- ◆ Mark Holland (Tasmania) is ordained to the Priesthood. BCA Ministry training and formation targets reached.
- ◆ BCA Field Staff Conference is held in the Tamar Valley in Tasmania. Bishop Graham Cray UK is Keynote Speaker. Members of home staff, Council & Regional committees participate.
- ◆ Revd Dale Barclay launches “Bible in the Bush” Weekend in Red Cliffs. 60 attend.