Khesed News #85

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• A newsletter telling a little of what God is doing
in and through indigenous Australian Christians (•

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The
next step from reconciliation

is recognition and

resourcing our people

so they can go

into the nations

Tim Edwards @ Praise
Corroboree 1998

Understanding God's Word

Kimberley Aboriginal Bible
translator, Rodney Rivers, recently said when he was young, he felt Christians were confused. They said they worshipped one God, but their Bible said that their God was:

.
* a light, bread, a rock, & the morning star;

* a lion, a lamb, a shepherd & the door of the sheep yard;

* the tree of life, a vine, & the living water;

* Father, Son, king, prince, priest, judge, & word;

* a shield, a two edged sword, a fortress & a hiding place….

He finally came to realise that English and many other languages use metaphors, and the Bible was using things in our world that we can see and know to help us see what God is like. Metaphors are not really part of Aboriginal languages, since they think in more concrete terms.

Rod also spoke of being told that God's word is sweeter than honey, but when someone actually ate pages of the Bible, they didn't find it sweet, but it gave them a stomach ache for days!

CHOGM – Commonwealth Prayer Initiative

The Commonwealth Prayer Initiative came into being as a means of getting prayer for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting – CHOGM – held in Perth in October 2011. Ongoing prayer commenced throughout the 54 nations of the Commonwealth, involving many thousands of groups and individuals, with 24/7 prayer and celebrations leading up to the actual CHOGM meetings.

At the Opening Celebration, four Bibles were carried into Challenge Stadium.

1. A Bible which came on the British First Fleet to New South Wales in 1788, which is housed at St Phillips Anglican Church in York St Sydney, carried by the rector of the church, Justin Moffatt.

2. Two Australian indigenous language translations – Kriol Holi Baibul, and Ngaanyatjarra Mama Kuurku Wangka – carried by Kimberley Aboriginal Bible translator, Rodney Rivers.

3. The Shine Bible, commissioned especially for the Shine Commonwealth Prayer Initiative – carried by Gillean Smiley from the Bible Society.

A declaration was made by Ps Tim Edwards on behalf of
Australian indigenous Christians as a voice-over to be played as the Bibles were carried into the stadium. Unfortunately, it was not played, due to technical problems, but the words are important:

Great Britain brought the Word of God to all the nations of the Commonwealth.

Indigenous Australians are very thankful that the Holy Bible came to Australia

on the first fleet with the original settlers.

We are even more thankful that it has been translated into a number of

Aboriginal languages so we can really experience God's light and power in our lives.

This third Bible – the Shine Bible – was commissioned for this special event

where 54 Commonwealth nations have come together in prayer.

It is our prayer that many more millions of people throughout the Commonwealth

will also experience God's light and power in their lives through God's Word.

Making the film, A Pocket of Fire John Blacket

I have lived and worked with indigenous Australians for most of my life, and it was out of personal experience of revival, as well as personally collecting Aboriginal people's stories, that I wrote the book, Fire in the Outback. In that book, I really tried to let Aborigines in Arnhem Land and Central Australia tell their own stories of their revival.

When it was finished, I realised that it met my aim of inspiring non-indigenous people, but missed out on a lot of the tribal and less literate indigenous people. One old man in Kalgoorlie said his eyesight was going and he wanted to hear that story.

I became increasingly filled with a desire to see indigenous Christians telling their own stories in their own ways through audio-visual media.

Then, about eight years ago, Ps Tim Edwards' brother, Terry, told June and I a little of another revival story at Pinnacle Pocket, a tiny indigenous community on a farm in North Queensland, and something stirred in our hearts for this story to be told. But it just sat there until the end of February last year, when a friend introduced us to a retired Christian film producer, Es Giddy. We decided to make it our project together – as the first of a series called GOD's FIRE, in which indigenous Christians not only tell their experiences of God, but also produce the films themselves.

I mentioned it briefly to our pastor, Tim Edwards, and suddenly things started to happen.

I was really concerned that we should not be too late to meet one of the key people there before he died, and within two months of our first meeting, Es and I took an indigenous crew to north Queensland to film the story. That key leader, Pastor Arnold Con-Goo, died five days after we met him and filmed him, and we had a sense of awe at God's hand on the project.

We have been

absolutely awestruck at what God has done through a small group of Aboriginal and Islander Christians who were prepared to be whole-hearted in prayer, putting aside absolutely everything for prayer - all night and day - until God acted. These people were 'nobodies' in the eyes of the world, but the results were that God took some of them to many parts of the world, hundreds of thousands of Muslims, as well as indigenous and non-indigenous Australians have committed their lives to Jesus Christ, and tens of thousands have had dramatic healings and totally transformed lives.

I did a lot of work on the documentary in 2010, with several trips to Sydney to work with Es, but in September last year, it became clear that the computer and software I was using were inadequate for the job, and I had to go to professional editing software and upgrade the computer. That was a huge jump that I did not want to take, but I felt God wanted me to work on this project myself in every phase, so I would be able to help release indigenous Christians into film-making.

All of this, plus health and family issues, including the death of June's mother, was a major challenge to me and delayed the project until the end of May this year. I needed some incentive to get it finished.

That was when Wendy Yapp rang me unexpectedly and asked about the film and when it might be finished: Would it be ready to screen at the CHOGM Commonwealth Prayer Initiative on 28 October? In faith, knowing that that was the incentive I needed, I said 'Yes' - …then I really called out to the Lord with renewed vigour.

He directed me to Ephesians 3:14-21, and so I read those verses every morning before I started work until it was finished.

Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

I have been constantly amazed as we have experienced the truth of these words and GOD's assurance to me that He has given me all I need to produce this film. I have learnt a huge amount about what is involved in making a film, and I know the final result is not a professional job, but this documentary is a powerful incentive to me - and to all our Christian lives. Get serious with GOD – ask GOD, trust Him, and expect GOD to do incredibly more than we can conceive in all our wildest dreams!

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are eight international development goals that all 192 United Nations member states and at least 23 international organizations

have agreed to achieve by the year 2015. They include eradicating extreme poverty, reducing child mortality rates, fighting disease epidemics such as AIDS, and developing a global partnership for development.

The MDG were developed out of the eight chapters of the United Nations, signed in September 2000. There are eight goals with 21 targets,[10] and a series of measurable indicators for each target.[11][12]

Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education

Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women

Goal 4: Reduce child mortality rates

Goal 5: Improve maternal health

Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases

Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability

Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development

NATSIEC have put out a list of Australian Indigenous MDGs (National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Ecumenical Commission) see their website: http://www.ncca.org.au/departments/natsiec/advocacy/indigenous-poverty/143-australian-indigenous-mdgs?showall=1

Make Indigenous Poverty History Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women

EDUCATION

Women are less likely than their male counterparts to have a post-school qualification. Less than 10 % of Indigenous women have a post-school qualification.

EMPLOYMENT

Indigenous
women are the least likely to be in the labour force with a participation rate of 43 %.

Of
those employed more than one half worked in government administration, education or health and community services. The same industries accounted for only around one third of all female employment.

IMPRISONMENT

Indigenous
women are 19 times more likely than non-Indigenous women to be imprisoned. This is on the increase there is a 25 % increase in prison rates for women between 2000 and 2004.

VIOLENCE

Indigenous
women sought refuge from family violence at a rate of 45 per 1000 population, compared with 3 per 1000 population of non-Indigenous women.

SUICIDE

Suicide
rates for Indigenous women are between 7 to 17 per 100 000, as opposed to 4 to 5 per 100 000 in the non-Indigenous female population.

Jisas wantaim Aboriginal Art Exhibition 2011

Webpage
link: http://surrender.org.au/2011/09/jisas-wantaim-aboriginal-art-exhibition-2011-2/

An Exhibition of recent works by Max and Robin (Goma)
Conlon

Friday
28th October – Wednesday 9 November 2011

Opening: Friday 28th
October, 6:00-8:00pm Join us to
meet and hear from the artists

Location: Chapel on Station Gallery
3 Ellingworth Parade Box Hill

Aboriginal
artists workshop with Max Conlon:

Saturday
29th October, 9:30am – 12:30pm with morning tea. Cost $15 p/p.

A
great chance to hear from and see artist Max Conlon in action. Max will be sharing about his distinctive style of painting as well as demonstrating his approach that powerfully combines spirituality, story, history and theology.

Artists’
bios:

Brothers
Max and Robin (Goma) Conlon were raised amongst 14 siblings in the Cherbourg Aboriginal settlement in south east Queensland and are descendants of the Kabi Kabi/Kullali tribes.

Max
is an established artist and has been painting for 35 years, Robin has been painting for the last 14 years. They have exhibited extensively throughout the east coast of Australia, collaborating on murals and art projects with cultural community outcomes.

Their
family traditions have inspired a unique body of work which utilises traditional and contemporary symbols to communicate stories of life experiences.

Proceeds:

Funds
raised from the sales of artworks from the Jisas wantaim Art Exhibition will go towards supporting the training of emerging Aboriginal and Torres Straight Islander Christian leaders. This is a fantastic way of not only owning a unique work of Aboriginal art, but you’ll also be supporting a significant ministry of Indigenous leadership development.

HOLLINGSWORTH
FAMILY

Please
pray for safe traveling for Lloyd and Gay Marie and children as they make the

long return trip to Melbourne from Cairns this week.

Pray
for work for Lloyd and stability for the family, especially Chrissy (yr 12) and Siyon (Yr 11).

KAAL 2011

At Advent Park, 345 Kalamunda Road, MAIDA VALE, PERTH WESTERN AUSTRALIA 6957 Monday 21st to Sunday 27th of November

KAAL means 'fire' in the Noongar language. We wish to fan into flames the ashes and the coal, into a revival fire that ignites spirit, soul and body! Bringing healing and restoration to the people as we partner together! That will bridge the gap between English and Aboriginal Australia as we honor the Noongar people and strengthen our native partnerships. What we do in bringing healing will have a flow on effect over all peoples as the Aboriginal people heal.

In opening a prophetic highway between PNG and Western Australia, we are opening a way where the land of Holiness (Australia) and the land of Agreement (PNG) stand together, building up the highway!

Gloria Dyer Arrow-Head Ministries Phone 0439 851 561

Strengthening
the Faith of Indigenous Australians

…Wycliffe Bible Translators is dedicated to doing this for indigenous Australians through mother-tongue Scripture as well as worship songs, discipleship exercises, and storytelling and evangelism programs.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the first Wycliffe personnel to go to Aurukun, an indigenous community in Queensland, Australia. As part of the mid-year celebration of the anniversary, three DVDs were released: the stories of Creation, Christmas, and Easter. Audio recordings of Matthew 26-27 and John 20-21 were available as well, with accompanying booklets containing the text in Wik-Mungkan. The people of Aurukun were very happy to receive these newly- released resources.

The first highlight of the fiscal year, though, was the holding of an Adult Discipleship Course – the first one ever to be held in the Kriol-speaking area. There was an enthusiastic core of 10 participants who completed the course, as well as others who came as they were able. Many of the participants went home and shared a verse or the story and teaching with other family members.

Highlights for the staff included seeing people delve into the

Kriol Bible. Paraphrased below are comments from one team member’s report:

“’Brabli strongwan pramis!’ [I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts...] J told me as he pointed out each word to the passage in Jeremiah 31:33-34. There were tears in the Kriol man’s eyes as he read the passage in his language over and over again. He went on to read the next verse about „Whether low, or poor, or rich’, and as he read it, it was as if his heart was longing for the day when EVERYONE would know God.

“And then he continued to read: „Ai garra larramgo olabat fri brom olabat nogudbalawei, en ai kaan jinggabat ol detlot nogudwan ting weya olabat bin oldei dumbat. Mi na YAWEI bin tok dijan. [For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.] ...a BIG smile.”

Other highlights for the staff included being able to use Kriol for teach-ing and discussing topics without need for translation or interpreting, and the work of an experienced teacher (who serves with Mission Aviation Fellowship) who was instrumental in beginning to develop a children's version of the course.

In the Wik-Mungkan language group, four weeks were spent recently recording Episodes 1, 2, and 15 of Luke (covering the Christmas and Easter stories) and Episodes 1 and 2 of Genesis (covering the Creation and Fall). These were recorded for dubbing onto Scripture videos. Audio programs for Matthew (Easter) and John (the resurrection) were also recorded. The recording of the Wik-Mungkan Scriptures was particularly important as there are now very few people who read their language and many who do not read English, either. There is great need in this community for the transforming power of the Gospel, and the team rejoices to have reached this milestone toward that end.

Please remember this work in your prayers, being particularly mindful of these requests from the field:

• There are many recording sessions planned for various languages. Please pray for the editing of the material and then the choices made regarding presentation – DVD, CD, electronic devices.

• The Kriol discipleship workshops have tremendous potential. Pray that the participants in the August workshops will both grow themselves and be able to use what they learn in helping others.

• Pray that there will not be major disruptions to community life (funerals, traditional ceremonies, or sickness) that will hinder progress in the recording.

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from Wycliffe Last Languages Campaign Report

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Pray for Alan & Lucy Rogers, in their audio recording and CD distribution work – based in Humpty Doo, NT

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Jan Mountney is encouraged by the Bible Storying Workshop held at Blackstone, in the Ngaanyatjarra area recently. Participants are eager to learn the stories & to tell others in the community.

“This is really good! We should learn it properly for next Easter.” This was a comment made by participants at the Bible Storying Workshop held near Blackstone May 17-23. People of many cultures respond better to a story or drama than to listening to someone read the Scripture and for Ngaanyatjarra people, storytelling is part of life.

After reading or listening to a passage several times, participants drew a series of pictures to show the main events.(Some of the women used leaves & other materials to tell the story in the sand, which is one way women in the desert tell stories. Then they closed their Bibles and told the story using the pictures as reference, and then moved on to telling it without the pictures. Some stories, eg the crucifixion, were then acted out.

Recordings are also being made of some of the songs the Ngaanyatjarra people are writing.

TORRES
STRAIT BOAT FOR SCRIPTURE USE

There are 274 islands in the Torres Strait and 17 have permanent settlements where the trade language is Yumplatok. After nearly 25 years of work, the Yumplatok Bible is set to be introduced on July 1, 2012. A two-to-three year endeavor to get Scriptures into the hands and lives of islanders will commence after the celebration.

Plans include training leaders, holding Bible studies, and recording audio Scriptures. To do this, safe, reliable water transportation is needed in the form of a 40’ to 60’ boat with living quarters for the crew and Scripture Use specialists, as well as an on-board audio recording studio.

Torres Strait Islander Simeon Harry has already seen how storytelling and audio recordings can excite people about Scriptures. While checking the translation of Genesis, Simeon retold stories at home to his extended family. Each night they waited eagerly to hear more. His family and friends also responded enthusiastically to an audio recording he did of the Gospel of Mark.

While encouraging use of the Yumplatok Bible, the boat’s crew and staff will have a significant role in teaching Torres Strait Islanders how to incorporate God’s Word in their daily lives.

Pray for the printing of the Yumplatok Bible and for provision of the boat and the right crew in time for the dedication of the Bible.

www.jaars.org/S6111 JAARS, Inc.P.O. Box 248 Waxhaw NC 28173

JAARS is an organisation supporting Wycliffe/SIL in transport and other logistic areas.

Khesed Productions have begun to make DVD/CD recordings of Eagle Rock Church Sunday services. The
messages from Ps Tim Edwards and the team are inspiring and helpful, so we are making these DVDs available each month. Some groups in remote communities are getting together to watch them together.

If you would like to receive them, we will
post a month of DVDs to you at a time.

Cost is $20 a month, or $200 for a year – ask
about sponsoring them for a remote community at our special mission rate.

CATH
SOLOMON (LAKE'S ENTRANCE) Children & Youth Ministries

Cath
Solomon is currently organizing a reunion of those who have been part of her East Gippsland kids and youth ministry programs over the years.

For
the reunion, Cath is planning a special dinner in November with Syd Thomas, who was a big part of their lives over many years. Syd is an older man and is not well now, but was delighted to be asked to be guest speaker.

Pray
for a young man - Ronald - who initially didn't want to come to the reunion because of a fall-out with a girl who will be coming. Cath urged him to forgive. Now he is eager to come as Syd will be there.

Cath's
right hand helper, Bianca is away at present .... however, someone else from the Aboriginal Art Cooperation has come to help out. This young woman used to come to kid's club herself and is now eager to be involved.

Big
renovations are happening at the Aboriginal Co-Op and everyone has been asking Cath: "where will you go for your youth meetings?"

In the
meantime, Cath was pleased to hear from the Co-Op that she is welcome to stay
and use their building Cath is thankful to God for this.

Bianca
will have younger ones in one room, Cath will have another room for older ones
+ an office for Cath - a bonus!

No
need to move and renovate the old building down the road which seemed to be the
only option over the past few years.

There
is a stove for Cath's use, but no fridge available to her. Cath said she
is not worried because she knows that somehow God will provide a fridge. Please
join her in prayer for this.

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Scriptures on Mobile Phones @ Galiwin'ku, Elcho Island

The mobile phone has become so convenient!

So in 2011, we, the Scripture workers, are seeking how to engage with Scriptures on mobile phones.
We are exploring both audio and video formats for the YolKu Scriptures, discovering how to make movies on our computers (on Windows and/or Mac) using a variety of images; photos, animation, colour drawings with recordings of God’s word.

“I have the new video

clips that are Bible picture stories on my mobile at home. The kids like to listen to it, but sometimes they will fight over watching it! Even the adults, the parents of the children, will fight over my phone with the video clips on it. One of the boys likes the clips very much. He has been listening to the stories every night as his bedtime story. The more he listens to it, the more he is memorising. He can now join along following every word that I speak as the narrator! I’ve heard the children say the words all together, following the story! ...

When I showed the youth
leaders these video clips, and spoke to them about how much the story has touched my life, they have said they want it, they are asking for it too- they are transferring them by bluetooth, those Bible video clips onto their own phone.”

It's Wet Season Again!

Indigenous
Ministry Links Australia - Carl Musch -
continues to support local ministries in Cape York and across Arnhem land through to Katherine. Carl is
seeing God moving in building up local pastors,
and in fresh moves of God’s love , power & forgiveness. There was another ‘Forgiveness Week’ in Beswick in July.

Carl & the teams travel large distances over vehicle-demolishing remote roads and tracks during the dry season. Locals minister in these areas in the wet season, but can often travel only very short distances because of swollen rivers and boggy roads. Pray for those pastoring – for protection for people & vehicles.

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