

Naden News

with Neville & Kathie Naden



February 2024

I would like to begin by wishing everyone a Happy New Year.

2023

Last year was challenging in many ways. We, like many, experienced the loss of loved ones. But for believers, death is simply a transition into the presence of God. Although the journey may be difficult, the view from the other side must be spectacular. The apostle Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 2:9 (KJV), *"Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him."* What a wonderful concept. God's preparations for His people are something to look forward to.

As mentioned, many have experienced the loss of loved ones, but many others have welcomed new members into their families. We are one such family. Last year, Samuel Naden was born, making him the first son of Jum & Pip. He is a bright and healthy little boy who is deeply loved by his grandparents on both sides. We are overjoyed that our family is expanding. Thank you, Lord.

Nadens on the move

Over the past year, we have moved twice. First, into a more affordable rental property in East Maitland, and then back to Dubbo. God has been gracious to us, allowing us to return to Dubbo to support the family and grieve the many losses of last year. Thank you to those who regularly pray for our family.

Since our last newsletter, in November 2023, we took some much-needed time off. We stayed in one place, spending time together with family and friends at home. We were thrilled when Kathie's two brothers and nieces joined us for Christmas. It was a wonderful time with them. While they were here, they also helped us with the move to Dubbo.

We have hit the ground running in 2024. The move back to Dubbo was challenging, as we had accumulated so many belongings that we ended up giving many away to needy families. The move still required a large truck and car trailer. In times like these, we are grateful for the help of friends and family who did all the heavy lifting. Thank you to our brothers and sisters at MEC, as well as my brother-in-law and his sons.

February – Cultural Awareness Training and Senior Officers Retreat

It was great to spend time recently with the faculty at Macquarie Anglican School in Dubbo. We spent the morning exploring the concept of culture. Using the Bible as our measuring stick, we examined questions such as "Where did culture originate?" and "How does culture develop?" We also looked at Australian culture and Indigenous culture, as well as what others have said about culture. It was a rewarding learning experience for everyone involved.

At the beginning of February, Neville travelled to Brisbane to lead training at the Queensland Theological College. Around 20 students and a few staff members took part in the training. Mike Uptin, assisted in organising and participating in the training. We believe this was his third time conducting the training.



At the start of the year, BCA's Senior Officers gathered at the Yarra Valley for their annual retreat. This was a time of fellowship, encouragement, and planning for 2024 and beyond. All Senior Officers were present and actively engaged in various discussions. Everyone left feeling encouraged, strengthened, and prepared for the challenges of the upcoming year.



Neville & Kathie's commitments for the next quarter

- March 24 – Men's Breakfast at Dubbo Christian Family Church
- March 29 – April 4 – AEF Men's Gathering at Eden
- March 9 – AEF State Council meeting at NSW Family Camp
- March 17 – Preaching/Deputation at Penrith Anglican Church
- March 18–21 – BCA Connect at various churches around Sydney
- April 5–8 – Visiting the Fergusons in Walgett
- April 10–15 – Kathie attending the National AEF women's conference in Adelaide
- April 17 – Neville Running Cultural Awareness Training at Brisbane School of Theology
- April 23 – Visiting the Hurleys in Broken Hill on our way to Adelaide
- April 24 – Travel day to Adelaide
- April 25- May 1 – BCA Connect: Empowering Indigenous Leadership
- May 2–6 – Katherine Christian Convention
- May 11 – Peak Hill Ladies gathering, attended by Kathie
- May 18–20 – Lithgow Anglican Church: Cultural Awareness Training and preaching
- May 24–27 – Armidale Diocese Indigenous Weekend

As you can see, there is a lot of work to be done, and we would greatly appreciate your prayers and financial support going forward.

Theological Bursary Students & Chaplaincy support

BCA is an amazing organisation with a focus on Indigenous ministry. We now have three Indigenous Bursary students. Lonny Bendessi who will complete his studies in the middle of the year. Terrence Lennon at Anglican Youth Works College and Derek Maher studying at Brisbane School of Theology. Without your prayers and financial support, this would not have been possible. Thank you very much, your contributions are making a difference.

BCA has also partnered with Nungalinga College to establish an Indigenous chaplaincy program. The chaplain's role is to assist the Deans in taking care of students who attend various block courses. There are six blocks per year, and each block will have an Indigenous Chaplain assigned to help Indigenous students. We are thankful to God for this initiative, as we see it as a means of empowering Indigenous people to serve in ministry. Your prayers and donations have made this program possible.

Please consider contributing to BCA to support the longevity of these two initiatives.



Lastly, we would like to thank all our faithful prayer warriors for continuously praying for us. Your love and support are greatly appreciated.

With Christian love,

Neville (& Kathie)



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