



May 2019

Dear friends,



2019 is flying and there are many things to share from Wickham in the North-West. To start with, the weather has broken – meaning that the heat of our long hot Pilbara summer has finished for another year, giving way to day-after-day of glorious 33 degree days. This past hot season is the hottest we've had, but thankfully *not* the longest, breaking in the middle of April, when other years have continued to give us 40+ until as late as the middle of May! This past season saw a record in December of 49.3, and the all-time hottest day March day (since records have been kept) the world has seen of 48.3. Anyway, enough of boring stats – if you have time to sit down with a cuppa, let me share with you some great stuff to give thanks for, and some points for much-needed prayer.

Tropical Cyclone Veronica

Thank you to all who upheld us in prayer during TC Veronica – also the longest cyclone (on red alert) in Australia since records have been kept.

Praise God that what was forecast to be extreme with a predicted 1.5m tidal surge through our homes in this part of Wickham, did not eventuate as the system went via Whim Creek, and stalled before coming our way. Winds were 50–60km/h less than TC Christine (240km/h – 30/12/13), but because it went for so long, there was still quite a bit of damage and fallen trees.

Prisoners at Roebourne Regional Prison had to remain locked in their cells for the whole of the red alert – so they were in lockdown for over three days! A shed we were being allowed to use for bulk storage was severely damaged, with many hands needed to get all the gear out before it collapsed.

Please give thanks for the great mercy of the Lord through this time, and the wonderful rainfall to renew this dry land (500mm).



Left: Cyclone Veronica getting started; Right: Cleaning up after Veronica



The reason why you shouldn't let your Chaplain store stuff in your shed!

Roebourne Regional Prison

Please give thanks with us for the wonderful development of ministry at Roebourne Regional Prison. Over 30 inmates attended the Good Friday Service at Easter, but even more encouraging is the growing numbers at Bible Studies each week.

Please pray for those who are really engaging with the gospel and putting their trust in Jesus. Give thanks for the men and women who want to see deep transformation in their lives, and realise this comes from the Spirit applying the truth of God's word.

Wickham Community Projects

Please give thanks for the development of Wickham Community Projects (WCP). Council have approved the workshop aspect of WCP and we had a donation of materials for the community kitchen. Please pray this is set-up in time for Dusty Boots (DB19) from 28 June to 10 July.

Work has commenced on establishing the garden beds, fire pit and yarning circle by the prison work camp. Please pray for the opportunities the Projects will provide for local inmates when they go through re-entry. Pray also for the opportunities that the DB19 Team will have to engage with the community through the Projects.



Holy Trinity the most exposed building in Roebourne

Holy Trinity Anglican Church Roebourne

Give thanks for the continued progress on the Restoration Project at Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Roebourne. The building survived its first big test – TC Veronica – since the roof was completed just last year.

The final internal render is almost complete, and work has begun on constructing the custom shutters. Things

are well advanced on the transportation of all the stained glass to Fremantle for restoration before reglazing. Praise God that the project is well on target for completion later this year. Pray that the building will form part of a new era of ministry in Roebourne in the years ahead, and that regular services will see the name of Jesus exalted; His praises sung; His gospel declared; and His saving grace received.

The church in Wickham

Give thanks for the Lord's blessing of His church here in Wickham, especially for those who are new to the faith – give thanks for their joy, their devotion to the Lord and the path of discipleship as they begin to endure trials, hardships, and persecutions.

Give thanks too, for the life of Phyllis Marshall, the oldest and longest member of the church here in Wickham. She passed away during Cyclone Veronica, while 'camping with friends', and her funeral service brought such glory to God, and a clear declaration of faith and the work of Jesus in her life. This went right through to the playing of, 'O When The Saints Go Marching In' (four versions, including Johnny Cash, Louis Armstrong and Bruce Springsteen), as her casket was lowered! ☺ Praise God!

Matt & Naomi Warth

Please give thanks with us for the ministry development of Matt and Naomi Warth who have been recognised as chaplains in the prison. Give thanks for their gifts and effectiveness in this context. Matt continues his involvement in the local school and he is held in high esteem there. Please pray for moves to see him formally established with YouthCare as a paid Chaplain in the school.

Pray for Matt as he leads initiatives and develops teams to work on various aspects of the WCP. In this vein, pray especially for him, as the Community Kitchen begins, and feeds are provided for folk of all ages. Pray for effective engagement around this food ministry.

Please pray for provision of support for Matt and Naomi so that financial pressure is not an inhibiting factor in their ministry. Pray for applications and conversations with possible supporting agencies.

Establishment of a Mission to Seafarers

Please continue to pray for the establishment of a Mission to Seafarers Centre in Wickham. This project has not moved forward in over two years, and I was recently asked to write a letter to senior management of Rio Tinto in Perth to escalate and reprioritise the project. Give thanks that this letter, though strongly worded, has been well received. Pray the Lord will work in those who must make decisions to bring this to pass.



The Church on our 10th Anniversary!

10 years in the North-West

Give thanks too that we recently marked 10 years in the North-West, serving the people of the Pilbara. It has been a privilege for us to see God's work in so many here in Wickham, Roebourne, and surrounding communities over this last decade. We give great praise to the Father of our Lord who has led us with great mercy.

Though the needs continue to be great, and we would love to be here for another 10 years, we have come to the decision that it is time for us to leave, and we will finish our

time in August this year. This has been such a hard decision, for the Pilbara and its people will always be in our hearts, but one we feel is clear. Please pray that we will trust the Lord with the sadness this brings, and with the future of ministry here. Pray too for our transition back to NSW, especially the change in culture. Incarnational ministry among Indigenous people here has wrought a permanent change in us, and makes us feel even more like 'aliens and exiles' (1 Peter 2) as we serve the Lord wherever He places us.

Pray that Long Service Leave we are taking during May and June will be a time of rest and refreshment, and that we will then finish ministry well here as we 'handover' responsibilities.



Left: Introducing Bowen Adam; Middle: Four Generations! Right: Proud Grandparents

And some brief news-bites from the Gozzie Gang

- Bowen Adam Delint was born to Sarah & Josh on 2 February 2019, at 11:24pm, weighing 3.14kg (6lb 14oz). First grandchild is extremely handsome, clearly blessed with his Grampa's looks. ;-)
- Tracy, Effie, and I had a great time in the SW of WA, while waiting for the great arrival.
- Just days before the birth, after we had returned to Perth, Tracy suffered a debilitating bout of vertigo. She was hospitalised for a fortnight, missed the birth, and was only well enough to travel back home to the Pilbara in April. It was diagnosed as Vestibular Neuritis. Though improvement has been slow, at least she was able to spend some great time getting to know Bowen and supporting Sarah. She just drove a car for the first time recently. Pray for her continued recovery to full health.



- Rich has been grateful not to be on his 'lonesome' these past two months, as Rachel has been here while renovating a house they purchased (see right).

Thank you all for your support in prayer.

With all our love, in Christ Jesus,

Rich & Tracy



Our ministry here is supported by **Bush Church Aid**.

Click here to **make an online donation**.

Reaching Australia for Christ since 1919