

Noodling for Ministry Gems

in Coober Pedy with Dave & Margie Wood • October 2026



We think if we called this newsletter 'God's timing' it will sum up some of the particular breakthroughs that we have witnessed and been part of recently...

To start, here is a story about waiting on God – Story #1

A faithful Godly Aboriginal elder encouraged us when we first landed in Coobs to consider starting a worship/fellowship gathering based at the Umoona Aboriginal Community on the edge of Coober Pedy. Umoona was started in the 1970's and was based on a vision for an Aboriginal community to provide housing, services and community.

Fast forward to 2024 and as we moved around town making friends and joining groups, we gravitated to the Aboriginal need for the Gospel and a fellowship gathering. This request weighed on us to be honest. We were a bit like 'deers in the spotlight' at the start. As much as we wanted to start, to be honest, we didn't have the mileage to know who to talk to, how to start, what it should look like, who does the music and so on.

God worked through some Aboriginal Christians in town and a fellowship started in the Umoona Basketball Stadium during a weeknight. We thought yep, we can join in and support. The fellowship ran through the springs nights but as the winter approached,

it slowed down and the organisers moved to the ACC church (Pentecostal).

We parked the idea, but God kept moving 'the Umoona file' to the front of our brains. Then in July 2025 we had an answer to prayer when Faith, our wonderful young female teacher, joined our church. Faith works in a key role in the school and has been our extra cylinder in turbocharging this ministry.

Over time, together with Faith, we worked out the how to's with CP Aboriginal ministry and felt encouraged to start a fellowship at Umoona in April 2026. Fast forward to now and it has become a youth group of up to 12 (last Sunday) Aboriginal boys and girls.

Story #2

Margie has been a professional at starting and growing a church Ladies' Bible Study group, while Dave has dithered and concentrated on other areas. Again, God has taken the lead and sent two men to our church who have been an encouragement to us. I floated the idea of reading the Bible once a week and just chatting as blokes. So we now have a men's group, we hope to grow this as God leads us.

Banner Image: Kanku-Breakaways Conservation Park

Circle Image: Dave & Margie

Middle Image: Trinity Aldgate Mission Team (see story next page)

Bottom Image: Trinity team running our Sunday service

Continued from previous page...

Mission ministry

Mission ministry is having one goody bag left and then Jaqui (AFSS leader) calls saying Jasmina (6) did not get one. We say we have one left and ask "how can we get it to her?".

Mission ministry is pushing homemade slime into a balloon because Jakequan (8) thinks it's a good idea and he values this thing that a leader showed him how to make....

Mission ministry is being still while Faith tells her testimony to 22 kids over pizza lunch....

These are just some of the cool mini moments in an incredible six days with the mission team from Trinity Aldgate during the first week of the school holidays. We had a record 20 team members and we thought, how was this going to work? But God being infinitely cleverer than us had assembled the perfect mix of older/family groups/young adults and it worked amazingly.

There is a lot to pass on but we will be brief...Day 1 was settling in for the team and coming to terms with this underground grotto! Day 2 was helping run church, with Mitch (Pastor) giving us a cracker of a

talk from Galatians 5 (Fruit of the Spirit). Day 3 was prepping the Umoona Basketball Stadium for the next three days, doing tourist stuff and having a good chat about bush ministry with us and Faith. Some maintenance works around the church was thrown in! Day 4 was running the program (three hours) with 17 kids then fellowshiping over dinner. Day 5 was a picnic and walk around the Breakaways with the team and a bunch of kids (19), who complained about having to walk but actually loved it. This was followed by a big campfire and barbecue dinner at the church carpark (7pm) for many,

many kids and some parents. Day 6 was a repeat of Day 3, but more kids! (22), followed by a team dinner at the Outback Bar and Grill to give our wonderful cooks a break. On Day 7 when the team left in the morning for the nine hour drive back to Adelaide, our hearts were full and joyous!!!!!!

Please be praying with us that the seeds sown in the kids lives during these few days, and as we continue to minister to them, will grow and take root and result in many of them coming to know Jesus as their Lord and Saviour. Amen.



Trip to the Breakaways

Thanks for your prayers and support,

Dave & Margie

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**our work in
Coober Pedy**

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Going the distance to share Jesus in the bush