

Noodling for Ministry Gems

in Coober Pedy

with Dave & Margie Wood • December 2025



Welcome to our last newsletter for 2025. Some very exciting things have happened since you last heard from us: our first baptism; a mission team visit; a chance to reach out to the community and school; and increased opportunities to help the Aboriginal Family Support Services.

God did a mighty work, and we had our first child baptism in November. A family was seeking baptism for their four-year-old and through the help of our Bishop, I was able to do my first church baptism. It was, and is, such a blessing to walk a mum through the Gospel and dive into what water baptism means and where the truth of the Gospel is really found.

We were blessed to have another mission team from Southern Vales Christian College come up in mid-November. Again, they were a group of amazing young men and women and three wonderful teachers (Shane, Tilana and Johnno). The group helped me put together two Dusty Radio Shows (thanks guys), run another free sausage sizzle at the IGA carpark in town, and run church. There were many more interactions but the biggest thing for me and Margy was to be alongside these kids for five days and see the impact it had on them. You might think five days is not long enough, but trust me, when God is working, it is plenty of time. Some big steps forward by a couple of the boys and

girls and fellowship between the whole group was a joy to witness and praise God for.

With our wonderful new church member Faith, we have helped out at AFSS (Aboriginal Family Support Services) sports days. We got right into a new wide game with shaving cream (thanks Faith for the idea) – such an impactful way to be alongside the Aboriginal youth and show good parental and male role models.



We had our second town Christmas event, where the churches had the last one-hour slot. Again, having all the churches in unison praise God, pray to God and hear from God (through His Word) ends up putting God back into the town square so to speak.

Main Image: Kanku-Breakaways Conservation Park

Circle Image: Dave & Margie

Middle Image: Our first child baptism

Bottom Image: The team from SVCC

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A memorial service for those people who have lost someone this year was planned and run once again by our local Catholic priest. He is a godly man and we work together well. Core beliefs drive these friendships and fellowship gatherings.

Again, with Brother Paul, we ran the Christmas seminar at school which had around 20 kids attend. We pulled out an old-fashioned felt board which one of our congregation members had gifted the church. Dave wanted to try something different and get the kids to do a hands-on activity. They responded so well to a presentation not based on a smart TV or some other 21st century whiz bang device.

We have noticed that our pastoral footprint and lived experience has developed such that we are seeing more relationships blossom and friends are seeking help and pastoral comfort, especially in the networks that we have both formed. These catch ups mean a lot to us as we serve God here.

We have completed our second year of frontline ministry here and it's time to reflect on the

changes and the milestones that have come our way and ask the question, what would God have us do going forward?

Well, the short answer is, preach the Word, love our neighbours and grow in the knowledge of God's Word more and more within our church community. The long answer is that we will find out as God unveils it to us. Perhaps we will head out to the pastoral stations; our involvement with Aboriginal communities might deepen and increase; maybe we will see more openings for helping the weary and hurting here in town and telling them the Good News about Jesus...

Finally, we want to thank both the Diocese of Willochra and BCA for the partnership that enables us to do what God has us here for.

To all our supporters and friends, we send a heartfelt thank you and wish you a blessed time over the Christmas break as you all serve and worship our Holy God.



Memorial service



Coober Pedy Christmas event

God's rich blessings,
Dave & Margie

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