

# SA/NT Prayer & News update

with John & Geetha Warner and Esther George • December 2025



Banner Image: Manning Gorge Water Falls near Mount Barnett Roadhouse, Gibb River Road, Kimberleys

Circle Image: The SA/NT team: Geetha, John & Esther

Middle Image: Georgia is baptised in Roxby

Bottom Image: The annual MOVE Conference was held in Darwin in October

**Christmas greetings and every blessing for the new year! And thank you! On behalf of Geetha, myself, the SA/NT committee, Esther and all the BCA Field Staff, thank you so much for your support, prayer, encouragement and partnership in 2025.**

Thank you to our new and existing churches and supporters partnering to make Jesus known. For those receiving prayer updates from Field Staff you'll know how so many of your prayers are being answered! People are being saved, lives transformed and trained! New creative and missional partnerships are continuing to open up to see more communities reached for Christ! The photos, video links and stories that follow are a glimpse of the year that's been – only made possible by your generous partnership, so **THANK YOU!**

**Thank God for the growth of the Gospel**

*We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all God's people – the faith and love that spring from the hope stored up for you in heaven... Colossians 1:3–4*

At least forty times, Paul effuses joyful thankfulness to God in his letters! Thirty-nine times he's thankful to God for giving people saving faith in Jesus and their subsequent love for Jesus

and his people because of the Gospel preached to them!

It seems Epaphras and Philemon had learnt the Gospel from the Apostle Paul in Ephesus and then taken it 200 kms back to the region of Colossae that resulted in a new church plant meeting in Philemon's house.



Having heard of their faith in Christ from Epaphras (1:4, 8, 9) the Apostle Paul writes to them from prison in Rome. He thanks and praises God for them as another example of how the Gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world. How is this happening?

As ordinary Epaphras-like women and men are willing to count the cost to take, tell and teach the Gospel to others!





Top row: The Lewises, The Williams, The O'Keefes and The Andersons  
Bottom Row: BCA Connect Summer edition

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### The heartbeat of BCA's mission

This continues to be the heartbeat of BCA's mission. Thank you for praying! The Lord of the harvest is hearing your prayers and along with your financial partnership with BCA. God is sending more gospel tellers and teachers to more of the 12,400+ gospel poor rural, regional and remote communities.

In 2025, for SA/NT this includes God sending Mary & Owen Lewis to Kangaroo Island, David & Margy Williams to Queenstown in Western Tasmania; Pat & Issy O'Keefe to Katherine in the NT; Annette Anderson taking up the Anglican Dean role at Nungalinya College in Darwin and Matt & Annika Winter set to plant a new Church in Goolwa, South Australia.

### A 2025 highlights reel

The year kicked off with BCA Connect Summer Edition at the Bible College of SA with some 180+ adults and children coming to hear about lives being transformed, and about some of the beautiful things God is doing in Alice Springs (Topher & Chica Hallyburton).

**You can register here for BCA Connect Summer Edition 2026.**

In March John had the great joy of being part of commissioning Mary & Owen Lewis with BCA on Kangaroo Island. Give thanks for how God is growing the Gospel through them, running services, starting mid-week Bible study groups and taking on a chaplain role in the local primary school.

Praise God for the reopening of Copley Community Church



The Lewises Commissioning

in June after being closed for five years because of asbestos. Praise God for the team from Mobile Mission Maintenance and other Christians who gave their time, skills and money to remove the asbestos and renovate the church. Pray as Jack & Lill Harradine run services and start Bible studies in Copley and also the nearby Nepabunna Community. **Click here to watch a short video of the re-opening and the baptism of Jasmina.**



Pastor Don (Aboriginal Berean Community Church) Lonny & Terrence, John, Matt Mulherin (SA/NT Committee) and Jack Harradine

Praise God for the generous financial partnership and BCA Theological Bursaries that has enabled Terrence Lennon to complete his studies at Youthworks College in Sydney, and is supporting Lonny Bendessi through his studies at the Bible College of SA. Please pray to the Lord of the Harvest to raise up many more like them! **Find out more about BCA Theological Bursaries for Bible College students.**



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July is AFES Mid-Year Conference month. Praise God for the students, the servant hearted ES staff teams, and the opportunity to speak and run BCA workshops to help students imagine the impact they can have as Christian grads living and working in the bush.

Give thanks for the impact of BCA ONTRACK supporting Christian Uni grads and young workers living and working in a rural, regional or remote community to flourish in life, faith and mission for Jesus. **Click here to find out more about BCA ONTRACK.**

Praise God for BCA Connect Spring Edition, and the 300+ people who came to hear BCA Field Staff Dave & Margie Wood along with Beth & Glen McDonald. They shared how God's word is being sown and how the Spirit is saving girls, boys and grown-ups in Coober Pedy and Roxby Downs.

Give thanks for the second BCA MOVE mission conference at Nungalinga College in October. Give thanks for those who came and how we were spurred on to consider how we might live and serve in response to God's sending heart and the Gospel

In late October John had the privilege of visiting the Woods in Coober Pedy. Give thanks for Faith B who after teaching for seven years in a large secondary



Margie, Faith & Dave

school moved to take up a role in Coober Pedy Area school as the Wellbeing Coordinator. Pray God might stir many more like Faith to consider moving for a season to a gospel-poor rural, regional or remote community for the sake of Jesus and the Gospel.

**Give thanks for the two short term mission trips in October and November**

Give thanks for the Roxby 2025 mission team lead by Dave Harrington in October; for how the youth were grown and lives in Roxby impacted. **Watch a short video here.**

Give thanks for the Coober Pedy mission team of nine graduating Year 12 students from Southern Vales Christian College, led by teachers Shane, Jono & Tilana in November. **Praise God for their enthusiasm to make this an annual trip.**

**Pray as conversations continue with growing numbers of churches about annual mission trips to BCA locations.**



Glen & Beth McDonald with John Warner at BCA Connect Spring edition

## Finance update

Praise God as giving continues to increase so more gospel workers can be trained, sent and supported to 'go the distance' to the girls, boys and grown-ups in gospel poor rural, regional and remote communities.

You can begin partnering financially with Jesus' mission to the bush through Bush Church Aid **via our website.**



# God's sending heart

*'As the Father is sending me so I am sending you...'*

**FROM 5PM**  
**FRIDAY 16 JANUARY**

Bible College of South Australia

**BCA4KIDS PROGRAM**  
Creche | Preschool | Primary

Includes dinner and refreshments



Scan QR code to find out more or to register

ADULTS \$20 | CHILDREN (under 12) FREE  
TEENAGERS & UNI STUDENT \$10

INFO & TO REGISTER [bushchurchaid.com.au/events](http://bushchurchaid.com.au/events)

Come and join us for **BCA Connect Summer Edition 2026**. Hear from God's word, stories from BCA Field Staff, mission team updates with Men in Boats & friends leading us in song. Preschool & primary-aged kids will enjoy their own BCA4Kids program. A creche will also be available.

The SA/NT Regional Office is located in Adelaide. The Province of SA, together with the Diocese of the NT, covers a vast area of 2.4 million Km<sup>2</sup>. A large portion of this land is dry, arid desert with communities separated by huge distances. This provides great challenges for ministry, as well as opportunities which may not occur in closely settled places.

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### Thanks to our volunteer team and BCA SA/NT committee

A special shout out to our fun and faithful volunteers who come in monthly on a Tuesday to help prep bags, mail outs, drink coffee and pray. Interested?

[Email Esther George.](#)



Our faithful team of volunteers

Give thanks for the BCA SA/NT committee who meet monthly on a Friday afternoon to eat, pray, workshop and strategize how we might see more people supporting BCA and more people going with the Good News of Jesus to less reached and less resourced communities.

### On the home front

On the home front, John & Geetha are very thankful to God for the recent birth of Lotus Joy to Jaya & Coen, while they are grieving with their daughter-in-law Alex and son,

Aaron with the unexpected passing of Alex' Dad. As we remember God coming into our world and His imminent return, it's a timely reminder that we live and die once and then face judgment (Hebrews 9:27) and why the Gospel of King Jesus really is any person's only hope.

It's been another rich year of preaching Christ and profiling BCA in 40 various churches and ministries in SA and NT including the privilege of preaching at the six English speaking congregations at St Mary's Anglican Cathedral (SMAC) Kuala Lumpur in August. A highlight of this trip was attending the Klang Valley Bible Conference with Rico Tice which included three hours with Rico and his team delving

into all things mission and evangelism.

If you would like a BCA Sunday in 2026 please [email John Warner.](#)

We look forward to catching up with many of you at our BCA Connect Summer Edition event Friday 16 January 2026 [\[REGISTER HERE\]](#) and CMS Summer Encounter on Saturday 17 January. [\[REGISTER HERE\]](#)



John, Lotus, Jaya, Geetha & Coen



SA/NT Committee year end dinner

With much affection and thanks for you all,  
*John & Geetha and Esther*

[Find out more](#)

about the work of Bush  
Church Aid

[Donate](#)

Would you consider giving to support  
gospel ministry here and across rural,  
regional and remote Australia?



*Reaching Australia for Christ since 1919*