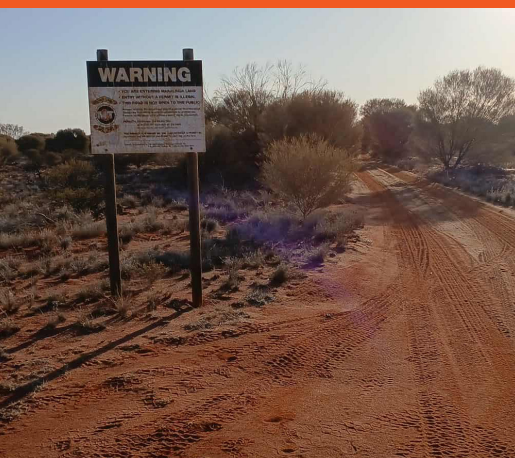


Noodling for Ministry Gems

in Coober Pedy with Dave & Margie Wood • October 2025



What does being busy for the gospel look like?

Before I (Dave) start with the topic of this newsletter, can I relate a series of God-moved actions which just happened today (as I write this), Sunday 5 October...

It all started 21 hours ago when I attended the SES shed for a callout to help the Ambo's retrieve a casualty who had dislocated a hip. I thought it would be a simple town job: go help the Ambos (SAAS... South Australian Ambulance Service) retrieve the casualty from a dugout and assist with moving the stretcher to the Ambulance etc.

As it turned out, the job was for the SES crew to escort or accompany the 4WD ambulance to a location 350 kms west of Coober Pedy, via corrugated dirt roads. Well, to summarise this part of the story, seven and a half hours to Anne's corner on the Anne Beadell Highway to retrieve the casualty. Two hours to prep for transport, and then nine hours return.

So, what I expected to be a short, easy job turned into a 21-hour marathon to bring the casualty back to Coober Pedy Hospital. The more interesting part is that I had planned an outreach for Sunday morning, which then had to be put aside because I couldn't get back in time (I was still driving back). Let's see how God used both of these opportunities. Margie explains...

While Dave was still on the road driving back this morning, he was able to let me know (via Starlink) that he wouldn't make it back in time, and I would need to inform people that church was cancelled because Dave wouldn't be there.

However, God had other plans. As the first few people arrived and I gave them the news, someone said we could still do our own church, so as more locals and visitors arrived and went into church, I asked if anyone could play the piano. A few people worked out someone who could play. They had a quick practice, we found some songbooks (we usually use a big TV connected to a laptop for music during the service) and someone offered to share from a passage in Luke 10 for us.

There was also a missionary family visiting who had recently returned from West Africa, and during the service they shared with us about their time in West Africa. I prayed for our usual church activities and gave the notices, and we all enjoyed wonderful fellowship over a cuppa afterwards. We marvelled at God's grace to pull the impromptu service together that was a real fill-up for many at our spiritual roadhouse in the desert.

The outreach series topic was going to be about God the Father, but instead, God demonstrated abundantly who He is and how He works in His people, reminding us all that we are one big family in Christ. The Holy Spirit was working to focus the service on God's peace and Jesus sending out the 72, two by two, which is what God had done by sending Dave with two Ambos and as one of the two SES

Banner Image: Kanku-Breakaways Conservation Park

Circle Image: Dave & Margie

Middle Image: The callout on the 'Anne Beadell highway'

Bottom Image: The SES ute and 4WD Ambulance



Holiday kids' club at Umoona stadium

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members and he was able to pray for the casualty. Plus God had sent the missionary family and each one of us who came together to be able to share His peace with one another and to go out and share His peace with others. It was a very blessed morning (1 Corinthians 14:26).

OK, back to the question of this newsletter...is it good to be super busy for the Gospel? I know two examples of short-term (relatively speaking, less than 10 years) and long-term (40+ years) approaches. One is frenetic in their approach to evangelism and church planting, and the other is steady, focusing on both the big/small picture evangelists. Both have grown the Kingdom in incredible ways. Which one are we? Does it matter? Hang onto that thought for a while.

A lot has happened, we have had another school holiday program over two days, which this time was run by a small team of five locals who put on an 'Olympics' down at the Umoona basketball stadium. We had around 15 Indigenous kids, and we are slowly getting the idea of how to crack the outreach

ministry for Indigenous kids puzzle.

A playgroup has started using our hall, which we would love prayers for. We hope to see it turn into something where young mums can hang out with grandma's or older mums from the church.

God demonstrated abundantly who He is and how He works in His people, reminding us all that we are one big family in Christ.

We travelled to Adelaide for BCA Connect week 24–28 August. It was tiring but so rewarding to 'connect' with the saints as they heard from us along with Glen & Beth McDonald and fellowship with them. So, encouraging to see some of our BCA supporters who support us here both through prayer and in material ways.

Not all of the notable stories are big things; there are some incredible one-on-one ministries as well. For example we have a young lady who we met at the IGA who comes to catch up with us intermittently and a mum who would like her four-year-old to be baptised. We have sat with her as we watched *Hope Explored* and talked about how the Lord saves one and all.



BCA Connect at Victor Harbor Bowls Club

The Dusty radio show 'Good News for Coober Pedy' has ticked over its 10th show. I am so grateful for how God has worked through all the hoops that needed to be jumped through to get this show going and keep it going.

SES has become both an outlet and an outreach to the crew and those around it.

Margie has been instrumental in helping to get a local Suicide Prevention Network started. She pushed for a free movie night at the drive-in to start the promotion of the network. We had great attendance (approximately 50 people) and some positive interest from several individuals



Holiday Kids' Club in Umoona



Suicide prevention network drive-in movie night

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to become more closely involved. Suicide in remote communities is not an uncommon thing; we will try everything we can (under God) to stop Satan killing people and taking them away from the lifesaving message of Christ.

Margie's ladies' midweek Bible study has been so impactful on some of the church women who seek out spiritual food that is more fellowship-led. She has seen the awareness and knowledge of God grow in these women who attend.

I did another Aboriginal funeral, which I am getting more knowledge about. Again, Aboriginal people are very spiritual, and so it was an opportunity to lay it on the line and declare that physical death is not the end of the story, and we can choose to follow God in this life and be eternally joined with God in heaven.

We had a playdate from RICE (Remote Isolated Children's Exercise) who used our hall; a great opportunity to hang out with pastoral families and hear about the challenges on these massive remote pastoral stations.

Margie is enjoying her job as a tour guide for passengers from the Ghan who come into town on coaches every Monday and Friday from April to October.



The RICE playdate in our hall

And we had a really lovely time together when our youngest daughter, Hannah, visited in late September. We did a three-day trip to Oodnadatta, William Creek and Coward Springs along the Oodnadatta track, which was great, exploring God's beautiful creation out here in the desert,



Dave, Margie & Hannah near Coward Springs

plus doing sundry touristy things around the town of Coober Pedy. It's a real blessing to have family visiting.

So is being busy a good thing or does it drown out the Holy Spirit? I think I am learning that God made us with different strengths and giftings, and so some of us are more evangelists, some are disciplers, and some of us are great pray-ers and listeners. I think that being in this place and at this time works well with our souls, as God has brought us here for a purpose.

Lastly, we also want to highlight the partnership between the Diocese of Willochra and BCA; without this material and prayer support, we would not be here in this place. Thanks be to God.

God's rich blessings
Dave & Margie

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