

Associate Action



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Twenty-four tourists, a missionary couple, tour director John Walder and coach driver Harrie Leary all bonded into a unique 'coach community' as we travelled the red centre of Australia. Staying over-night in comfortable motels and enjoying excellent meals was part



of the experience. Sharing morning tea and lunches under shady trees across this land, crafted this community of ten individuals and seven couples who were mostly strangers to each other as we commenced our journey from Kangaroo Ground on a cool winter morning.

The sense of fellowship and the external temperature warmed significantly as we headed northwards through central Australia. Sharing diverse experiences such as underground accommodation at Coober Pedy, camel rides at Stuart's Well, the iconic Uluru and a dawn cruise on Yellow Waters at Kakadu deepened the fellowship. Seeing the faithfulness of isolated Bible translators at Ti Tree was a challenge to us all.

In Katherine we farewelled our first missionary couple, Barry and Marg Borneman, who had enthused us all the way up with personal testimony of their 35 year acquaintance with

the land through which we travelled and their sense of call to bring the Bible to its people. As they left us we welcomed our second missionary couple, Paul & Ann Eckert, who led us daily to consider what Bible translation is all about and set us many mind twisters that complemented the straight highways that lay around every slight bend and rolled out over every slight hill .

Moving west from Katherine we were amazed by the vision, size and sense of 'green order' of the Ord River irrigation scheme in the midst of what was otherwise red-brown bushland. It was there that we had the particular joy of an evening with an indigenous church group hearing of their faithful witness in that remote area.

These were but some of the folk across the centre, north and west that had benefited over the years from the faithful visits and practical help from our tour director with his Mobile Mission Maintenance and later Wycliffe Associates colleagues. John was able to regale us with seemingly inexhaustible inspiring stories of the Lord's provision in the places that we passed through and many more.

Fitzroy Crossing in safari tents on the dry flood plains, the rough track to Tunnel Creek and Windjana Gorge, the staircase to the moon at
(continued on p3)

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Projects for 2010

These are the exciting locations that need work parties next year.

- Kokopo, PNG
- Honiara, Solomon Islands
- Bible Translation Association - Port Moresby and Madang, PNG
- Wycliffe Centre at Kangaroo Ground, Victoria



Editorial by Peter Gillespie

I continue to be amazed and impressed at how God builds his Church through his people. It

is not the major events that impress me but rather the faithful individuals who do their small part, that together makes a huge impact for the Gospel and eternity.

Wycliffe is reliant on the faithful work of supporters and volunteers who give so freely of their time and resources. Such work enables Bible translation and literacy work to progress for the Kingdom. Yet it is not the work that is so special, rather it is the workers that make it so special; they

are called the friends of Christ, for He said: You are my friends if you do what I command. John 15:14

This edition of Associate Action highlights recent activity in Vanuatu and Darwin and on the Red Centre tour through Central Australia. The role of Wycliffe advocacy is also introduced.

These are ways in which the Wycliffe ministry is growing.

As we begin to plan and set dates for 2010, please consider how you can enthuse others about supporting the ministry where you live, or by joining a mission team yourself.



Our Vanuatu Mission Trip by Bonnie Tyas

Months after returning from Vanuatu, we are still amazed about the things we did and learnt. We praise God that we were able to take our three children (6, 4 and 3) with us on the mission trip.

My main job whilst in Vanuatu was to do the cooking for the team of 12 adults and 3 children, and this was easily done whilst the kids played happily outside on the swings, up the tree or making things with the leftover materials lying around from the jobs. For a break I was able to help out with some of the sewing, where I also learnt some new skills and gained confidence in my own personal sewing. Matt was a handy man to anyone who needed him, helping out with tiling, ripping apart old chair coverings for re-upholstering, installing fire alarms and extinguishers, and painting.

It was a safe place for the kids to explore the yard and we were able to work easily around them. Meal times were very important for us as we got together as a team and the kids loved choosing different people to sit next to and get help from. It was also a time to invite people from different Christian organisations in Port Vila, as well as the translators who were around at the time, to come and share their story.

This work party was a wonderful opportunity for us to expose our whole family to a different culture, and although Vanuatu is seen as a tourist destination we tend to forget that it is also a third world country. We were able to see the living standards of the community, eat local produce, experience local customs, explore some of the islands, and learn some of the local language. It was also an amazing experience to attend church in a different country. On one occasion we went to a Bislama speaking church.

The kids were happy wherever we went and



Matt with Charlotte and Ben showing their painted faces at a cultural dance

although things were different, all they saw were the smiles and peace that the people had. There were also some great times: snorkelling, swimming, a trip around the island, the cascades waterfall walk and market shopping.

We were also blessed that our daughter was able to attend school a few times and as a family we were able to be involved in a combined schools literacy day that was incredible. Those involved in the work party were very accepting of the kids and we ended up with a few extra sets of grandparents. We are very keen to do another work party with the family and feel that by doing this we are able to get the best of both worlds.

The best way to experience a different culture is to live amongst the people, not in a motel room or resort - only seeing what the tourists see. The group also had time to explore the area and saw things that we would not have seen if we were holidaying by yourselves. Above all we feel very blessed to have been able to work for Wycliffe, experiencing a small part of mission life and helping support translation work. Thanks be to God!

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Red Centre Tour (cont. from page 1)

Broome, and the industry of Port Hedland and Karratha led us onto the comparative cool of Exmouth. The utter convenience of the Ningaloo Reef just 5 minutes offshore with coral life as exquisite as its eastern cousin, was followed the next day by the friendly dolphins of Monkey Mia, and the pearls and dugongs of Shark Bay.

The run down to chilly Perth and the extensive show of wildflowers both north and south of Geraldton continued to amaze us as did the sense of barren desert at the Pinnacles National Park.

In Perth the full group presented our grateful thanks to the Lord, as well as to John and Harrie for their sacrificial service to us all, and indeed to each other for making this trip such a significant time.

About half the group left to fly home while the remainder continued eastward. More amazing sights greeted us, with the enormous hole in the ground, visually defining modern

Kalgoorlie's reason for existence, whales lolling in the ocean below the cliffs of the Great Australian Bight, and a seemingly interminable straight 147 kilometres of highway being standout memories.

Arriving back at Kangaroo Ground the coach had travelled over 15,000 kilometres. The sense of community that developed amongst us had enriched us all. This was enhanced by the diversity of the group in terms of age, national origins, experience of mission, and experience of life, as it seemed that on almost any topic there was someone who had knowledge and perspective that enriched us all. Thank you Lord!

**Fond farewells
at journey's end**



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What does a Wycliffe Volunteer do?

Answer: Just about anything including things they would never have dreamed they would be doing.

Barry and Kaye Martin have been volunteering for Australian Society for Indigenous Languages (AuSIL) for the last few years in some capacity – at times based in the Darwin office escaping from the cold weather of rural Victoria and other times working remotely at their home in Victoria escaping from the hot weather of the build up in Darwin.

This year was an important year for AuSIL as we ran our three-yearly conference over late June /early July. Barry and Kaye came up early to settle in and to help us plan the big event. Armed with their trusty camper trailer which could be parked anywhere, they



moved into the back of the office compound and camped on the grass that they had planted the year before.

After figuring out how to cater for the 40 or so people for three meals a day and morning and afternoon teas, they filled in their spare time before the event cataloging new books and updating the library. During the hurly burly of an intense one-week conference, we were blessed with excellent food, gracious service and smooth timing of meals and breaks. Everyone really appreciated their quiet graceful presence and manner.

After the dust from conference had settled, Barry and Kaye house-sat for one of our members and worked in and around the office. There were the inevitable cleaning, cooking, irrigation repair, pruning, chain-sawing of trees and other miscellaneous jobs. However along the way they did book production and scanned out-of-print literacy books into the computer. AuSIL would like to be able to print copies on demand for people that want them and Barry and Kaye are helping do that.

Another job that the Martins have been working on is putting the Gumatj new testament into digital form suitable for use in Bible translation software. It has been a long process as every word has



to be checked for accuracy. One of the more out of the box jobs that Barry is now doing is the production of mobile phone versions of AuSIL translated Scriptures. Essentially, Barry takes our marked up Scripture text files and runs them through a series of conversion programs and sends us a file that can be installed on mobile phones.

On 1 October, Barry and Kaye went to the Indonesian island of Alor. Where is that I can hear people say! Basically it's a small island to the north of Timor where AuSIL has translation projects. Barry and Kaye are helping out with English in a local university assisting one of our local translators. It was an interesting month for them and I am sure that they will have some great stories and experiences to relate of their time there.

Stuart Cameron AuSIL

What is a Wycliffe Work Party?

Is it a party by employers for their staff?
Is it a group of employees getting together on a Friday night?
Is it a political party?

No! It is a group of people who work together for two to three weeks to support the Bible translation task. Often the work is construction or building maintenance, but it can also include: sewing, cooking, data entry, typing, child minding, school visits and many more 'jobs'.

Whatever facilitates the work of translation, and frees translators from everyday living issues to allow them to concentrate on the vital task of Bible translation will be attempted by a 'work party'.

WHAT TYPE OF PERSON GOES ON A WORK PARTY?

ALL TYPES! In recent years the oldest person on a work party was 76 and the youngest 3! (he came with his parents) so age is no barrier. There have been Uni students, plumbers, accountants, teachers, electricians, lawyers, nurses, bus drivers, a dressmaker, librarian, pharmacist, pastor, draftsman, and the list goes on – occupation is no barrier.

The best qualification for participation on the work party is a servant heart and a willing spirit. Some work at their trade while others have been stretched by attempting new skills and have felt blessed by the challenge. For many the best part of an overseas work party has been the experience of living amongst another culture and seeing how God is working in other parts of the world.

Another blessing of work parties is joining with like minded men and women and making new friends in the world wide church. Participants on work parties pay their own way and living expenses while on the work party. The group is housed at a translation centre and cooking is shared by the group members. Work is carried out Monday to Friday and weekends are free to enjoy the location, go on tourist trips and see the local culture.

If this is the type of mission you would like to be a part of, contact us and find out about the exciting locations for next year.

Wycliffe Advocates

What is a Wycliffe Advocate?

A Wycliffe Advocate is a person who is appointed to promote the work of Wycliffe within their network of local church and community groups.

Can anyone be an Advocate?

No, Wycliffe are looking for people who are committed to the Lord and the goals of Wycliffe. They would be people who know Wycliffe and would like to join in promoting Wycliffe's ministry and related activities. An Advocate would normally be invited to the role by a member of the organisation.

What type of things do Advocates do?

Advocates can become involved in:

- ◆ promoting Wycliffe and special Wycliffe events in their local church or denomination,
- ◆ promoting Wycliffe among young people at Bible Colleges and Universities,
- ◆ becoming involved in training events such as Operation Encounter,
- ◆ organising fund raising for specific projects including: translation, literacy, Scripture use etc.
- ◆ organising regular prayer meetings.

Is there any training for Advocates?

Yes, Advocates may receive training and be mentored by the member who invited them to the role. They may also access help and resources from regional office staff. Wycliffe will also organise seminars for enrichment, equipping and networking from time to time.

How does being an Advocate help the work of Bible Translation?

Any effective ministry is dependent on prayer and financial support from God's people. Advocates can inform and encourage others to pray, support or go. In congregations throughout Australia there are potential Wycliffe members who need to hear about the work and consider where God would have them serve.

Who is the contact person for more information ?

Douglas Bennett: Phone 03 9712 2701 or
email: advocates_australia@wycliffe.org

Top Vacancies

Building Construction Supervisor URGENTLY needed for the Bible Translation Training Centre, Honiara, Solomon Islands.

Teachers required in PNG and Cameroon—both primary & secondary

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