

WITH GREAT THANKS TO ALMIGHTY GOD BERT AND PENNY — TEN YEARS WITH PIM

The area which we were originally responsible for was the largest ever covered by a PIM patrol. Its boundaries extended from a line from Forrest on the Transcontinental Railway, across to Kalbarri and then included all regions above, extending to and including the Kimberley. The patrol was massive in area and praise be to the Lord, so were the blessings. It took some twelve months to traverse and was the longest patrol in both time and distance ever carried out by PIM.

While on early patrol work, we visited many pastoral stations and Aboriginal communities. We were privileged to speak of our Lord and to render practical assistance in meeting local needs. Over time, this meant the commitment of donated and personal resources in the purchase of two vehicles for ministry, and to the supply of Bibles and other Christian literature, clothing and food. We are so appreciative of the generosity of Presbyterian congregations in Perth and right across Australia in this, for the many, many gifts which helped so much when on patrol over the years.

One Sunday morning we were at Laverton (in the Northern Goldfields) and found out that there was no worship service in town. We travelled to Mount Margaret Aboriginal Community (formerly the Mount Margaret Mission) in search of a church and were directed to a large corrugated iron building from which we could hear Aboriginal voices singing hymns. We got out of the LandCruiser and quietly walked in through the rear. The Pastor stopped the service and warmly welcomed us. We were the only white people in the

congregation of about 30 people together and mandatory canines between the pews. This commenced a long relationship and I was invited to speak to the congregation on our many future visits.

We had often used the caravan park in Mount Magnet (in the Murchison) as base for patrols. About five years ago funding for the Anglican Parish dried up, which meant that the church property was to be sold, thus removing organised Protestant Christian influence in the town and the huge region around



Mount Magnet. Penny suggested to Stuart that the PIM should consider purchasing it, which would allow for the church to continue on and a PIM Patrol base to be established in the heart of the Mid West Patrol. The PIM agreed and at a very reasonable cost the

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MISSION TO ALICE SPRINGS CHRIST COLLEGE OUTBACK GOSPEL OUTREACH

During the second week of April this year, 8 students from Christ College, Sydney visited Keith and Jenny Bell in Alice Springs. Together they had the opportunity to do evangelical work, cold calling, Bible studies and outreach initiatives such as letterbox drops.

Valuable opportunities for witnessing were gained through the students' optimism and the students were able to immerse themselves in the Alice Springs' way of life while getting to know the indigenous culture a little as well.



Left to right: Chor Tim Chan, Sei Hee (Paul) Cho, Kyeol Jung, Elise Funnel, Hugh Prattis, Rira Cho, Theodore Potts, David Burke

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property was acquired, with the Anglican Diocese of North West Australia also generously transferring their church building and property in Meekatharra (two hours north of Mount Magnet, in the Gasgoyne) gratis to the PIM. The vision was to eventually develop another PIM Patrol base up there, to service the North West Patrol into the Pilbara and to the east into the 'red heart' of the continent. We agreed with the vision, but almost immediately I (Bert) was affected by health problems which required two major operations. We were sure that God was saying "Yes you can go to Mount Magnet but there are a few things to take care of first".

We knew something of the struggle that the Anglican Minister had in building a congregation. The main problems being that Mount Magnet has a transient population and that most townspeople generally feel that all is attainable by the strength of the human arm. We worked



on building a congregation and gradually a small number of white and aboriginal people began to attend. Then things took off with a flourish and it was not unusual for meetings to be attended by 50 or more aboriginal people plus children. We took the opportunity to minister and there was much singing, praying and praising God. This was often delivered from the backyard of the Manse through a loud speaker system which could be heard on the other side of town.



God had given the blessed opportunity to speak His word to these people for approximately 12 months. Then as quickly as it formed, the whole thing dissipated and

people went in their various directions. We were bewildered and devastated as this happened and the biggest quandary and question for us was "why?" There was no easy answer. It can simply turn out that way and as Christians, we should just be thankful that we could touch those lives. We continued to do patrol ministry and conduct church services. We prayed for Aboriginal ministry but did not see how any future situation would come about. The aboriginal community continued to use us to conduct weddings and funerals.

When we first came to live at Mount Magnet, Penny had started a ministry with children, giving an icy-pole in summer and a biscuit in winter to all children who knocked at the Manse door. This gave opportunity for a dialogue with the children whereby Penny could speak about good manners and standards, as well as giving invitations to attend Sunday school to learn about the Lord Jesus. Some aboriginal women continued to meet

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VIEWS BEYOND THE FURTHEST FENCE CENTENARY VOLUME STILL AVAILABLE

To commemorate the founding of AIM in 1912, Stephen Dyer was commissioned by the PIM to bring together a collection of historical and contemporary photographs in a large format full-colour book entitled VIEWS BEYOND THE FURTHEST FENCE. Stephen was selected because of his photographic skills and his personal commitment to the PIM. Over the years he has visited sites of historical significance to the PIM as well as

travelling though various Patrol areas. Stephen currently serves as an elder of the Kerang Presbyterian Church.

In addition to the magnificent photographs, VIEWS BEYOND THE FURTHEST FENCE contains an historical account of the work of the AIM and the PIM written by Stuart Bonnington. Stuart has done research in church history, with a special focus on the place of the Presbyterians in the Australian story. Stuart combines being the



Superintendent of PIM with ministry at the Scots Church in Fremantle.

All profits from the sale VIEWS BEYOND THE FURTHEST FENCE will go to support the PIM. For bulk orders please contact the PIM Office.

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with Penny in a ladies Bible group. Penny was also invited to speak and in one talk she spoke on the topics of "The Significance of women at Easter" and "The Crowning Qualities of Womanhood". The ladies enjoyed both talks and later requested copies.

Then in early 2013 I received a phone call from George Taylor, an Aboriginal Pastor of NSW. He said that they had received a calling to come to Mount Magnet and minister to Aboriginal people. George is an Aboriginal man of the Badimia tribe which is of the Yamatji tribal area which includes Mount Magnet. He is married to Kate who is medically qualified in the areas of

women's and children's health. They arrived in town in June 2013. They joined our Wednesday night Bible Study at the Manse and showed themselves to be devout, long standing Christians.

George wanted to commence a Yamatji congregation. While not part of the PIM, we were pleased to encourage the Yatmatji congregation in a number of ways. We are delighted and thankful for George and Kate and for their stable Christian leadership for Aboriginal people of this area.

For some years I have officiated at the ANZAC Dawn Service at Mount Magnet. Last year I instigated wreaths being laid for Padres and Aboriginal ADF personell who had served at times of war. This

year I invited George to join me and participate in the delivery of the ANZAC message.

As we mark the end of ten years of PIM patrol and church work, we look back and are very thankful for so much ministry to so many people and to see the Lord's Spirit so clearly at work! To Him be all the glory and praise!

Bert and Penny Pierce

Mt Magnet PIM Church
9:30am every Sunday
Clive and Doreen Griffiths
0420 470 311

MUNGO PATROL MORROWS SENT FORTH

*'May the peoples praise you, O God;
May all the peoples praise you.'* (NIV)

On Friday 7 March members of the Sunraysia Presbyterian Church, and representatives of the Presbytery of North Western Victoria, the wider PCV and the PIM met together for the commissioning of Colin and Alison Morrow to parish and patrol.

The service of commissioning was led by Rev. Phil Burns (Presbytery Moderator) and Elder Tony Zirngast (Clerk of Presbytery and elder at the Sunraysia congregation). Rt. Rev. Andrew Bray (representing the PCV Moderator), Mr. Denis Wright (representing the PIM Committee), Rev. Mark Smith

(representing the PIM Superintendent and preacher for the service), Mr Mike Timmins (PIM Office Manager) and Rev. Dr Robert Carner (PCV Ministry Development Director) were in attendance joining with the Sunraysia people for this significant event for Colin and Alison, the congregation and the Mungo Patrol.

The Mungo Patrol covers South West NSW and North Western Victoria.



Sunraysia members from left to right, Tony Zirngast, Madge Brady, Ann Zirngast, Ros Voullaire, Alison Morrow, Colin Morrow, Robert Tierney, Bev Carter, Isabel Brooks.

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!" – Isaiah 6:8

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