

SWOT REPORT

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Wickepin

Thursday, 2 February, 2017

We departed Perth at about 8.30am for a straight run through to Wickepin for a 10:30pm meeting with Gary Johnson. The purpose of the meeting was to look inside the old United Church building with the view to possibly renting it from the current owner for use as a church.

Due to road works and an unscheduled rest stop in Brookton, we arrived in Wickepin at 10.45am. Gary was already deep in conversation with a local. A quick reviving cup was enjoyed before we headed off to the old United Church Building. It had been arranged with the owner for one of the neighbours to leave a key in the door for us. The building was clearly in decay having stood empty for some time. Everywhere dust and cobwebs broadcast a sad, elegiac, abandoned air.

Discussing the situation it became apparent that it would not be possible to use the building. Firstly, the owner was planning to convert the building into a home sometime in 2017. It had been reported that the owner was a Christian wanting to convert the building into a church. However, this was now established not to be the case. To date, SWOT had not been able to make contact with any local Christians. Without the support of local Christians it would be difficult to facilitate opening another church. In fact the model used in Beverley was cited. So many country churches struggle to attract pastors and as nobody knew of anybody willing to take on the church plant, it was decided that the Lord was not leading us to follow this matter further.



Remembering our previously powerful time of prayer in the Wickepin Anglican Church, we took leave of the old Uniting Church building and drove over to the Anglican Church. A entreating time of intercession prevailed. The Lord was sought for guidance, direction, souls, and favour to make contact with the local Christians of the area.

Following lunch, parked on the side of the road and a quick photo that followed, we took to the road once again for the return trip to Perth, arriving safely at 3.30pm.

Thursday, 9 February, 2017

Williams

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It was an unusually wet summers day when Brad Makin, Geoff and Margaret Pittuck, departed Perth at 8.00am for Williams, arriving at 9.50am. A mightily powerful time of prayer, laying on of hands, the study of God's word and sweet fellowship ensured with Kuzie Tuhura and Vern Sattler.

Vern spoke about everything having to be cracked to let The Light in. Brad further expanded the exposition to include seeds that need to be burnt by fire before they can germinate. An hour quickly passed and with the rain continuing to fall, the team headed over to Narrogin at 12.15pm.

Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name. And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased. Hebrews 13.15

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come. Rev 4.8

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy, he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. 1 Peter 1.3

As always, as we drove the well-worn route, we reflected on our dear brother now in glory, Brian Whitehurst. Parting is such sorrow but we rejoiced knowing that Brian would be well pleased to know that the work in the south-west continues to this day, and not just SWOT but through other like-minded servants of Christ as they faithfully partner in interceding prayer.

Narrogin

Gary had baked scones. However, before they could be photographed they were quickly consumed, leaving only three for the shoot.

In Gary's kitchen, we sought the Lord for the fall of the Holy Spirit all along the line (the line being the roads and all the towns on those roads), for His grace and mercy towards the people. We thank God for the privilege of being able to intercede with our dear brother for the town of Narrogin and district.

Popanyinning

Sam Maughn was found behind the counter but Jenny, Sam informed us, was over at Aldersyde. In order for Sam to hear customers who entered the shop, we sat in an anteroom aside from the counter. An hour quickly passed in fellowship and prayer, interspersed with Sam having to jump up and attend to customers. We prayed and, beseeched the Lord specifically for Poyanyinning and the district, as well as clarity and direction for Sam and Jenny regarding their shop and their future.

Rain continued to fall steadily the length of our return drive. We witnessed creeks flowing that only weeks ago had been barren and dry. Huge puddles lay on either side of the road. Arriving back in Perth at 4.30pm, Brad received a weather alert forecasting heavy, torrential rain within the hour. Learning of this news we were glad to have reached Perth before the deluge. Once again, the Lord was praised for his generous blessings, for taking care of us in our going out and coming back.

Sing praises to the LORD, who dwells in Zion; declare among the peoples His deeds ...Psalm 9.11



Saturday, 11 February, 2017

- Please note the Good News Dinner was not a SWOT event but Brad Makin and Geoff Pittuck were invited to perform the baptisms.

Good News Dinner

**“And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.”
Luke 14:23**

Saturday, 11th February, 2017

11am – 3pm

Northam Town Hall, Gordon Street, Northam, WA

FEATURING · Sit Down Meal · Christian Songs · One Person's Good News Story. The Good News About Jesus Christ · Invitation to respond to the Good News. Fellowship Connection and Discipleship Coffee time



PRAISE THE LORD!

Brad Makin performed 5 baptisms as an outcome of the Outreach Event in Northam on 11 February, 2017. Later we learnt of another conversion after the event.

Wednesday, 15 February, 2017

Team: Pastor Robin John and Rebecca John, Brad Makin and Margaret Pittuck (Geoff Pittuck was absent as he was travelling to Manijimup)

Extraordinary days dawn like any other. However, as Pastor Robin John prayed as we approached the township of Williams there was an expectancy in the realms of the supernatural that the meeting we were about to attend with Vern Sattler and Rev Kuzie Tuhura would be anything but ordinary. The Lord does not do "ordinary" and the ministry that followed was certainly not "ordinary".



Jo Fowler, Pastor Robin and Rebecca John

Arriving exactly on time at 10.00am we were warmly greeted by Vern and Kuzie and introduced to Jo Fowler. As had become the custom of late, a time of worship and prayer ensued from the Australian Anglican Prayer Book.

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:8

1 John 2 1-2

My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. 1 John 2 1-2

Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

Hebrews 11 1-2

So faith comes by hearing and hearing through the Word of Christ. Romans 10.17

F.A.I.T.H - Feeling Afraid I Trust Him

Pastor Robin John preached about Noah who in faith built the ark. Prayers of unity followed for the Lord to bring His appointed to replace Kuzie (who had been called away at this time to assist the removalists). Other prayers were offered up for Vern and all the congregation, the township of Williams, and for Kuzie for anointing, favour and blessing in his new position in Bunbury with the Seafarers Mission.



Pastor Robin and Rebecca John, Jo and Jaime Fowler

Now this is where it gets interesting. Unbeknown to us, Pastor Robin John had the previous night messaged his cousin Elmo for the details of the people in Williams Elmo had stayed with some years ago. Robin reasoned that he might be able to connect with these people as he would be in Williams. Now Elmo's visit to Williams had indeed been a memorable one because we recalled Robin speaking of it. The warm hospitality of the couple Elmo had stayed with had become legendary.

Then it happened. Jo had been sitting there the whole time wondering if she should ask Robin the unlikely question. Would Robin by any chance know of Elmo? (both Robin and Elmo are from Sri Lanka). The stunned looks

and gasps of amazement when it was discovered that not only did Robin know of Elmo, Elmo was Robin's first cousin. This was a God appointment.

Instead of heading back to Perth as had been planned, the SWOT team were invited to stay on for lunch at the Rustik Rainbow Cafe. Unfortunately, Kuzie was not able to attend. In the early days of SWOT when Pastor Brian Whitehurst and Geoff had concluded praying in the Anglican Church they would inevitably end up in the Rainbow Cafe. There were lots of memories of Brian in that cafe. He would have loved that the seeds sown in faith all those years ago were now fruiting.



Jo wanted the team to meet her husband Jaime who was back at the farm. As Vern's farm was in the opposite direction, we bid our farewells to Vern at the Rainbow Cafe. Jo had to run a few errands whilst in town. We took the opportunity to walk off some of our lunch, meeting Jo at the local charity shop where she had a delivery to drop off.

Turning into the driveway of the farm we noted the name "Rapanui" (according to the internet the name is Polynesian for Easter Island). As we parked, Jaime arrived. After introductions and a photo we headed inside. The home was exceptional. It had been craftily built on the side of a hill with sweeping views across an exquisitely manicured garden and beyond to an undulating landscape of wide, brown paddocks. There in that beautiful home we were embraced with warm, loving country hospitality. We prayed for the needs of the family. Jo, Rebecca and I prayed together on the top floor verandah and collectively we prayed before taking our departure. As we headed towards the main gate for our return to Perth, we prayed again. Rejoicing we thanked



the Lord for His favour, His blessings and for making this day possible knowing that we would savour the joy of it long into the future.

Half-way home Brad's vehicle lost power attempting to overtake a truck. Pulling over to the side of the highway Brad turned off the engine and once again prayer went heavenward for help. A few minutes later Brad turned the ignition and everything seemed fine again. Praise God we arrived safely back in Perth at 6.00pm.



PRAYER POINTS

- Please continue to pray for all the towns of the south-west.
- Please pray that connection can be made with other Christians in Wickepin.
- Please pray for Brad Makin as he takes up full time employment and steps aside, for the time being, from SWOT.
- Pray for the SWOT team for protection, favour and the Lord's direction and guidance.