



SWOT REPORT

Christmas Edition



Message from Margaret Pittuck

Greetings Praying Friends,

As we are about to enter into a New Year, many of us will take time to reflect and mediate on the year past. None of us knows with any certainty what 2019 will hold for the world, our nation, or ourselves, but no better preparation can be had for whatever may unfold, than to walk by faith in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

The SWOT team would like to take this opportunity to thank those who have travelled with us, to those who inspired us greatly with words of encouragement, who gifted us in practical ways and with financial support, but most importantly our heartfelt thanks to all those who supported us in prayer. Words cannot convey how grateful we are. May the Lord bless you abundantly with faith, love, hope and joy this Christmas season and for 2019.

What is SWOT?

The **South West Outreach Team** (SWOT) is a team of Christians who travel by car to our south-west agricultural towns once or twice a week to encourage and pray with local believers. SWOT began some six years ago when Pastor Brian Whitehurst retired from pastoring churches and was “nudged” by God to ministry in the Great Southern. SWOT's vision is to light a small fire in each of the south west towns and then to call upon the Holy Spirit to fan these flames into one large flame, engulfing the south west in the fire of revival. The vision is reflected in the Team's logo.

Ps Brian Whitehurst
SWOT Founder



BEVERLEY, Wednesday, 5 December, 2018

Brian Lownes from Mustard Seed Community Church and Mavis Shadbolt from Eternal Life Ministeries accompanied us to Beverley. The morning started out cool. Within a short time we were all shedding a layer and by the time we arrived in Beverley at about 9.45am, alighting from the vehicle, we all commented on what a perfectly beautiful day it had turned out to be. There were no cars waiting in the church car park. Elaine was the only person who attended the monthly meeting. Undeterred, Geoff gave a message on Christ's poverty.

The hymn below by Byron Carmony succinctly outlines the message Geoff presented. Geoff was inspired to bring his message from a devotional by Charles Spurgeon.

HE BECAME POOR

They borrowed a manger of hay for His bed;
Jesus my Saviour;
No soft, downy pillow, no warm cradle
spread for Jesus, my Lord.

CHORUS:

*His were the planets and stars in the sky;
His were the valleys and mountains so high;
His, all earth's riches from pole unto pole;
But He became poor to ransom my soul.*

They borrowed a colt--lowly beast for a King,
Jesus, my Saviour
No court gave Him honor, no carillons ring for
Jesus, my Lord.

CHORUS:

*His were the planets and stars in the sky;
His were the valleys and mountains so high;
His, all earth's riches from pole unto pole,
But He became poor to ransom my soul.*

He borrowed a room for the Passover Feast,
Jesus my Saviour;
Becoming both Servant and Heavenly
Priest, this Jesus, my Lord.

CHORUS:

*His were the planets and stars in the sky;
His were the valleys and mountains so high;
His, all earth's riches from pole unto pole,
But He became poor to ransom my soul.*

They borrowed a tomb for the Crucified One,
Jesus, my Saviour
No monument royal for God's only Son for
Jesus, my Lord.

CHORUS:

*His were the planets and stars in the sky;
His were the valleys and mountains so high;
His, all earth's riches from pole unto pole,
But He became poor to ransom my soul.*

God who created this vast universe allowed His Son to leave the glory and riches of heaven to come to this earth as a man and become poor. Christ came, born in a lowly manager, rebuked, rejected and crucified, for you and for me.





WILLIAMS, Thursday, 13 December, 2018

Our travelling companion was Brian Lownes from Mustard Seed Community Church. The countryside looked brown. Farming activity was apparent everywhere. Harvesting had begun. There were grain trucks on the road, grain bins in the paddocks and we witnessed lots of stripping.

We were so pleased to see Vern Sattler. Although our time together seemed short, as always, we felt blessed indeed to be able to spend a time in prayer and fellowship with this dear brother. Our prayers centred on the community of Williams and the surrounding areas.

Sadly, it was noted that Vision Radio no longer emitted a service from the Anglican Church to the township of Williams. A new site for the antennae was hoped to be sourced but as yet no progress had been made.

Vern reported that there were new members in the

congregation. The study on discipleship that had been held on a Thursday morning (and the reason SWOT had not visited Williams for a while) had concluded. An Alpha course was being planned to be run in the New Year.

The unlocked church had recently been visited on a number of occasions by persons who had burnt the candles, drunk the communion wine and left cigarette butts and other rubbish on the church floor.

Before we departed Williams, Vern blessed us with a tank of petrol for which we were very grateful.



and
suddenly
there was with
an angel
a multitude of
the heavenly host
praising God
and saying
Glory to God
in the highest, and on earth
peace, goodwill towards
men
Luke 2
13-14

POPANYINNING, Thursday, 13 December, 2018

We travelled to Popanyinning via Narrogin. Our contact in Narrogin, Gary Johnson, was attending his mother's Christmas event at the local nursing home so we were unable to pray with Gary on this occasion. As we pulled alongside the Popanyinning General Store we discovered both Sam and Jenny Maughan sitting outside their shop enjoying a quiet time together.

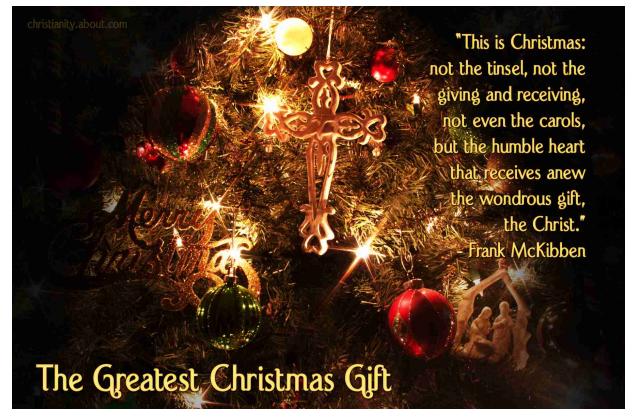
Much had happened since our previous visit. Sam and Jenny had good news to convey. Firstly, a buyer had been found for their business. Secondly, we were shown their new acquisition, a beautiful twenty foot caravan. Thirdly, Jenny had undergone her surgery and was recovering well. Things were looking bright for 2019 for the Maughans and we couldn't have been more happier for them both.

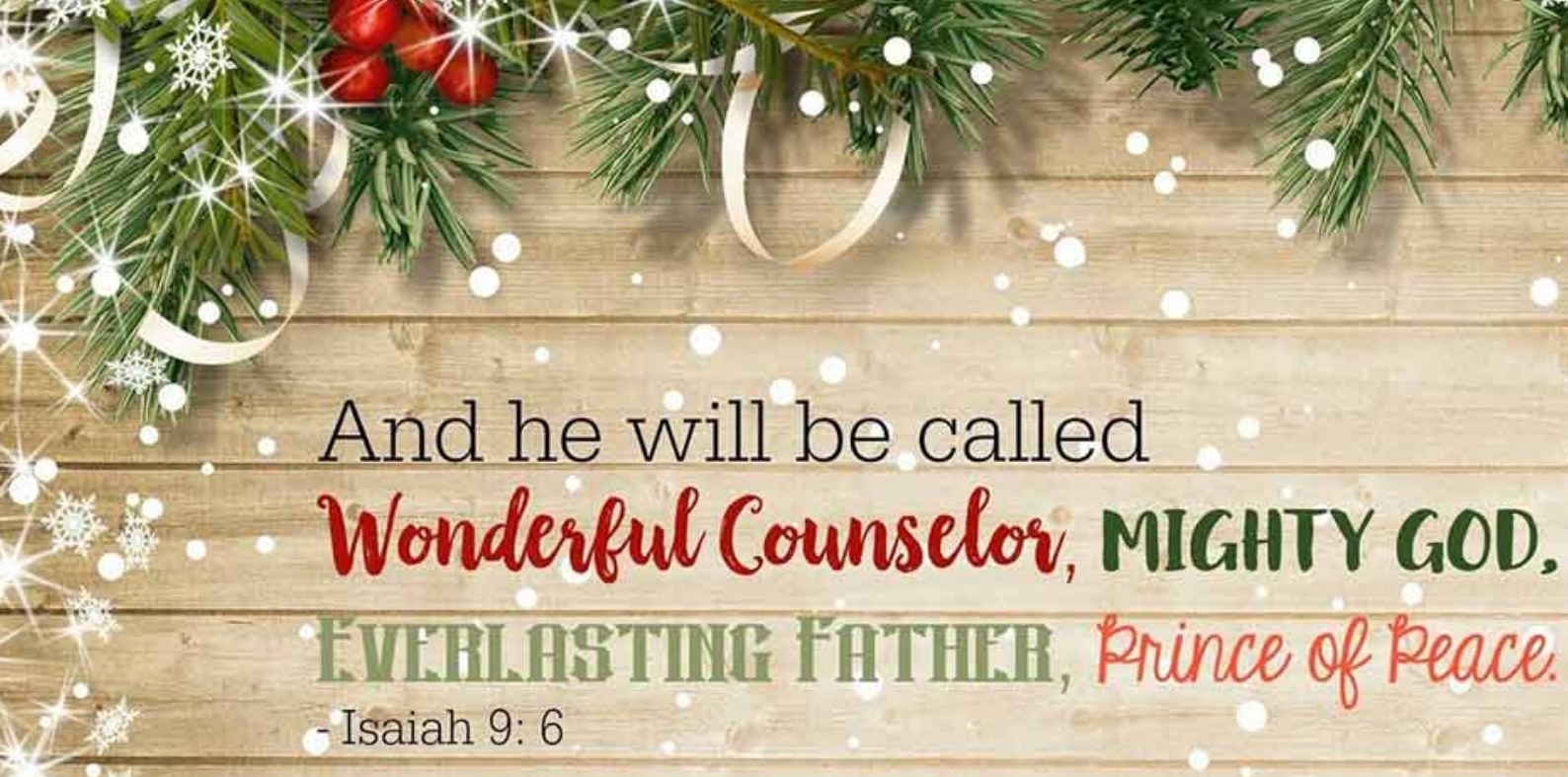
Whilst in prayer, giving praise and thanks for God's goodness, for answered prayer for the Maughan's, we were interrupted by Lori seeking to collect a parcel. The Maughan's invited Lori to join us in prayer but she declined. We learnt that Geoff and Brian Whitehurst, years previously, had spent many a time with Lori and her husband, Joe, in their cafe in Narrogin. Within minutes of Lori bidding us farewell she had a change of heart and returned, informing us that she had been prompted by the Holy Spirit that this meeting was a God incidence and no accident. We welcomed our sister into our midst and continued in prayer.

A quick photoshoot followed our prayer time. We then farewelled our friends from Popanyinning. Our hearts were a little heavy with the knowledge that possibly Sam and Jenny Maughan would not be in Popanyinning when next we called but off in their caravan on their travels. The township of Popanyinning would never be the same for us without them.

We rejoiced on the journey home that God had answered the Maughan's desires of their hearts, felt a little cheated that we had missed catching up with Gary Johnson in Narrogin but grateful for our precious time with Vern Sattler in Williams. We wondered what God was doing bringing Lori into our midst and though we did not have an answer, we sensed as did she, that our meeting was strategic and a divine appointment.

It was only a little before 6.00pm when we pulled up in our drive and Geoff reminded me, once again, of Brian Whitehurst who would always conclude a day of ministry in the country with a question of reflection: "*What had we achieved today?*"





And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, MIGHTY GOD,
EVERLASTING FATHER, Prince of Peace.

- Isaiah 9: 6

Prayer Points

Please continue to pray for :

For God to open the heavens and pour out a great and mighty move of Holy Spirit fire across the south-west. Please pray that there would be unity amongst the brethren as miraculous waves of Holy Spirit fire break out across the land.

Jeremiah 29:7 *Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper.* Please persist in prayer, commanding blessings for the communities in Williams, Narrogin, Wickepin, Popanyinning, Pingelly and Brookton, and all the south-west. Bless all those who work those towns in Jesus' name and that the businesses in those places might prosper and bring value and service to the lives of the people of those communities. Bless the conversations in those businesses. Bless those who honour the name of Christ that their mouths would be full of wisdom and truth for those conversations. Bless in Jesus' name that the sense of community around their streets would grow. Pray a blessing that the Lord would keep a watch over the safety and integrity of those towns. Bless those who seek to restore justice that their voices might be heard. Pray for the blessing of the gifts of the Holy Spirit to the Christians in those places, that the Holy Spirit might flow like a river through them. Bless the health of all the residents in these communities in Jesus' name that they might be strong and healthy. To those who are sick, bless them in Jesus' name for quick recoveries. (inspired by *The Way of Blessing* by Roy Godwin)

Please pray for the SWOT team for the vision for 2019, for fresh grace, strength, guidance, wisdom, protection and good health for the work ahead.

MAY

Our Hearts

PREPARE HIM ROOM

Our Lives

REFLECT HIS PRESENCE

Our Homes

RADIATE HIS LOVE