



SWOT REPORT

Message from Margaret Pittuck

Greetings Praying Friends,

I have pondered recently the question - should Christians engage in controversy? There are times when believers are divided over serious questions regarding the gospel. In Galatians 1.6-9 Apostle Paul defended the gospel against compromise. John warned a church in Revelation 3.14-22 that they were lukewarm. My question is - how do we know when controversy is right or wrong? I believe that there is the need to go back to the scriptures to ascertain the importance of the issues of debate.

Controversies over fundamental doctrines cannot be avoided without betraying the gospel. Accordingly, Paul warned the Galatians that a church that does not face controversy over fundamental doctrines will soon be preaching "*another gospel*." Wherever there is controversy, believers should be directed to Christ, the Word, and prayer, to seek unity and a common mind led by the Holy Spirit.

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 seven 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



KULIN, Wednesday, 27 February, 2019

Brian Lownes from the Mustard Seed Community Church drove us to Kulin. The town of Kulin is in the Eastern Wheatbelt and is proximately 280 km from Perth. Brian had previously pastored in Kulin and had made contact with a former member of the congregation. It had been arranged for us to call in on their weekly Wednesday bible study. Although we left Perth early, it was about 11.45am when we finally reached Kulin.

KULIN, Wednesday, 27 February, 2019 (Cont'd)

The bible study, having commenced at 10:30am, was well underway. This lovely group of locals from different backgrounds and demoninations, although we were complete strangers and outsiders to them, made us feel warmly welcome and included us in their study on Christ and the Advent . It was their first meeting for 2019. Their study was a continuation of what they had been looking at prior to Christmas and was the final chapter of their study book. At the conclusion of the study a light lunch followed.

Over a delcious homemade feast we were able to spend time getting to know these dear country folk and learn of their stories. It is a small world and during conversation we learnt that one of the ladies knew our former neighbour.

It was about 2.00pm when we departed for a quick trip down 10kms of The Tin Horse Highway before heading back to Perth via Wickepin,

Pingelly, Brookton Highway. It was about 6:20pm when we finally drove up our driveway. It had been a long day but rewarding and satisfying. Although we could not include Kulin in regular outreach trips, we had promised to return in the future.

Our prayers that evening were for the needs of the community in Kulin, and also this lovely group of ladies who meet weekly and had blessed us so completely. One lady, we discovered, had been attending the bible study for over 25 years. We praised God that even in this remote part of the wheatbelt, a remnant had been meeting regularly to study God's Word. We thanked the Lord for our safe travels having tranversed over 600kms of dry countryside. Although our objective had been to bless, we returned spiritually fed and richly encouraged by God's goodness to us and to all He calls his own.



WILLIAMS, Wednesday, 13 March, 2019

Again, Brian Lownes joined us on our drive down to Williams. The countryside was dry and yet in its own way it was nevertheless beautiful, perhaps because to this city person who loves everything country, it was good to once again be out in it with the prospect of meeting up with Vern Sattler who we had not seen for awhile. The drive was uneventful apart from a polemic conversation as a result of a Tabor night class. The lecturer had challenged us to look anew and afresh at doctrine .

Williams, Wednesday, 13 March, 2019 (Cont'd)

We made good time to Williams. Work was well underway to replace the two bridges in Williams along the Albany Highway, one at the southern end over Williams River, and one at the northern end over Coalling Creek. The original bridge over the Williams River was completed by convicts in 1855. The bridge was nearly washed away in the summer floods of 2017. Following a drive up the main street, heavily under road construction, we headed up to the Holy Trinity Anglican Church to meet with Vern Sattler.

Vern reported that about twenty people now regularly attended the service on Sundays. This was good news. The Alpha course run in 2018 was again being run in 2019. It was good to hear that there was keen interest in the Alpha course from the community.

Our Bible Study became a continuation of our discussion whilst driving to Williams. Vern added his wisdom to our expostulations. We looked at salvation under Calvinism (a major

branch of Protestantism that follows theological tradition and forms of Christian practice set down by John Calvin, and other reformation theologians) whereby salvation is accomplished by grace alone. God, not man, determines who will be the recipients of the gift of salvation. On the other hand, according to Arminianism, salvation is accomplished through the combined efforts of God (who takes the initiative) and man (who must respond). Thus at the crucial point, man's will plays a decisive role; thus man, not God, determines who will be recipients of the gift of salvation.

Calvinism believes all who are chosen by God, redeemed by Christ, and given faith by the Spirit are eternally saved. They are kept in faith by the power of God and thus persevere to the end.

Arminianism believes those who believe and are truly saved can lose their salvation by failing to keep up their faith, etc. Some believe that believers "once saved, always saved".



WILLIAMS, Wednesday, 13 March, 2019 (Cont'd)

God's Word warns us not to get involved in controversies (Titus 3:9-11). We were evoked to seek the Holy Spirit on these matters.

A prayer time followed whereby we prayed for the needs of the community and for favourable weather conditions for the farmers.

It was about midday when we bade Vern farewell with the intention of driving over to Popanyinning to see Sam and Jenny Maughan. However, Sam and Jenny were in Pingelly, so instead we drove home via Quindanning. At Quindanning we stopped for a bite to eat before the drive back to Perth via Dwellingup.

Brian's little dog had undergone elective surgery during the day. On the way through Byford we collected Brian's dog from the vet. Sam, not fully recovered, was less than his usual bouncing self and instead lay sedate on the rear seat of the vehicle for the entire journey home.

We pulled up into our driveway at about 3.30pm. The weather had been perfect, the bible study challenging, the fellowship sweet. Our lips gave praise and thanks to the Lord for safe travels, being with Sam during his surgery, God's abundant blessings, His grace and mercy, and the privilege to travel in His Name.



Prayer Points

Please continue to pray for :

A great move of the Holy Spirit across the country.

Unity amongst the brethren

The wardens of the Anglican Church, Williams

Please pray for Vern Sattler as he makes final preparations for the lease of his farm and for shearing the sheep before being sold.

A connection with Christians in Wickepin.

Please pray for Jenny and Sam Maghan as they finalise the sale of their business, for good health and the Lord's blessings on their plans to travel in their caravan following the hand-over of their business.

“Let us
NOT BECOME
WEARY
IN DOING good,
for at the
PROPER TIME
WE WILL REAP
a harvest IF WE
DO NOT
GIVE UP.”

GALATIANS 6:9