

Dear friends,

There is a good deal of news in our summer letter, with many reasons for thanksgiving as well as for our continuing prayers. **David Cox** has concluded his ministry as pastor of Dubbo Christian Family Church. He and Rose have moved house in anticipation of David commencing his new work under the auspices of the Aboriginal Evangelical Fellowship. We can rejoice with the church at the call of Tim Bartimote to be their new pastor. **Stephen Bignall** updates us with news of our dear friends Henry and Maria Louie, as well as his own schools' ministry and other matters.

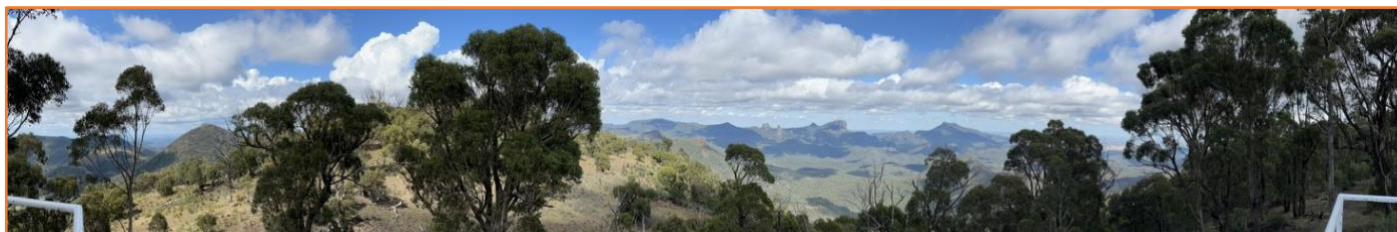
Because of his new work with AEF, David has stepped down as a trustee of The Gaius Trust. As we shared previously in our newsletters, the Trust is providing financial support for this AEF project, which had already been agreed prior to David being approached and appointed. We are fully supportive of and excited by David's new ministry, which we pray may be an instrument of rich blessing among the churches he will be helping. David will continue to contribute to the work of Gaius and we look forward to walking with him in this new venture. Gaius will be providing approximately one third of the financial support for the AEF project, initially for a period of two years, and we rejoice that, once again, we are able to directly support a brother in ministry. Related to this, we should like to appoint at least one new trustee.

Copies of this and other recent newsletters are available for download from our website, gaiustrust.org, along with recordings of messages from recent conferences. The WhatsApp group can be joined by opening this link on your mobile phone: [Click here to join the WhatsApp group](#). This is used from time to time to share snippets of news and requests for prayer; it also provides a forum to communicate directly with us and other supporters.

Thank you for your continuing interest and prayerful support.

With Christian greetings,

The Trustees



From Stephen Bignall

An encouraging occasion of worship

Steve was privileged to attend worship with Dubbo Christian Family Church on the Lord's Day 21/6/26 during which David Cox was prayerfully farewelled as their retiring pastor after 25 years of service and the incoming minister Tim Bartimote was inducted with the laying on of hands and with prayer by David.



Around 40 adults and children gathered together, Tim and David jointly leading the service, with prayer, Scripture reading (especially from Psalm 103) and some remarks from both men; David preaching the main message as a pastoral charge to the incoming minister. Reverence marked the occasion with liberty, affection, praise to God and a clear exposition of Colossians 1:24-29.

The sermon entitled **"Make Much of Jesus"** had 5 points well explained and applied in a timely way –

The Gaius Trust is a Registered Charity (no. 1152819) registered in England and Wales. We aim to support training and ministry among aboriginal people. If you would like to contribute to our work, you can do so through give.net accessible via our website, by bank transfer, or by **cheque** to Gaius Trust and sent to 10 Marken Close, Southampton SO31 6GG.



Tim and Eve Bartimote with David and Rose Cox

1. Preach Christ to show the fullness of God through Trinitarian messages
2. Preach Christ in order to reveal a true knowledge of God for "God has nothing to do and nothing to say to man outside of Christ" [John Calvin]
3. Preach Christ in order to describe true holiness and the need to be conformed to the image of God's Son
4. Declaring Christ in such a way as to bring the knowledge and expectation of the Kingdom of God
5. Preach Christ because one day you shall stand before Him and give an account.

After the service and an excellent congregational meal together, gift presentations were made to the retiring couple, and several people spoke briefly from the congregation before a lovely large home baked cake was cut and shared.

A new home for David and Rose

Over the past week David and Rose Cox have moved to a rental property in the town of Narromine, 30 minutes' drive from Dubbo, with help from several believing family and friends. As they begin a new life chapter and David prepares for his new role in July with the Aboriginal Evangelical Fellowship, they will surely benefit from our prayers.

A visit with Henry and Maria Louie

Following 8-10 weeks in hospital, the replacement of two heart valves, battling infection and two periods in Intensive Care, brother Henry Louie came home about 2 weeks ago; he and Maria (below middle) have had quite a journey and expressed thankfulness to God for his sustaining strength and the prayerful and practically supportive brothers and sisters surrounding them. Henry is now awaiting results from a liver biopsy and the final removal of wound dressings and an abdominal drain.

Also, as one of their daughters, Kylie (below right), continues to battle brain cancer and receives palliative care, the family requests ongoing prayer for her; Kylie is able to be home with her husband and to visit Henry and Maria, praying regularly together and reading the Scriptures. Stephen was able to visit with them for a short time in Gilgandra (below left) on the Lord's Day afternoon recently and their spiritual fortitude is very evident.



Continuing schools and church ministry

Stephen continues to undertake chaplaincy 28 hours per week in the Coonamble and Gulargambone schools, and teach Grade 5/6 RE, dealing with biblical narratives of Noah and the flood; Naomi, Ruth and Boaz; Jesus and Zacchaeus this term. Also serving as an elder and preaching regularly alongside another elder Ian McCutcheon in our sister congregations of Gilgandra and Gulargambone.

Moving toward a 65th birthday this year and having celebrated our 40th wedding anniversary, we are feeling some of the challenges that come with age, whilst enjoying now having all our children and grandchildren very close out here in the bush, Evie and Theo our English kids now attending the Gulargambone school.

So thankful to share news with our UK friends and brethren, and to have your prayers.

From David Cox

My time at Dubbo has drawn to a close. I ended 25 years of pastoral ministry on May 31st. The members have voted that I now be Elder emeritus. Tim Bartimote will now tackle the role of Pastor, a responsibility which he feels deeply. He has some good young men around him and Tim is eager to preach Christ. He was ordained on June 21. After the ordination we had lunch together as a Church and a time to reflect and give thanks for the past 25 years.

I will begin **a new ministry** on July 1st. This will involve me in travelling to several smaller indigenous congregations, all within 2 hours' drive of Dubbo. The responsibilities will include providing pastoral care for leaders, encouraging evangelism, and any training that would help the churches better carry out their ministries. It's all a little unknown as this is something that hasn't been tried before. I am expecting to spend the first few months simply building and strengthening relationship and getting a clear picture of the situation and needs. Please pray for wisdom for me. I will be employed by the **Aboriginal Evangelical Fellowship, AEF**. Already I have been contacted by a Christian School in the Newcastle area that wants to expose year 6 students to cross-cultural ministry in western NSW. I am waiting to hear from the School regarding dates.

Rose and I have moved house, and towns! Quite a big deal after 25 years. Church members helped with the move; Peter Gibbs provided a covered truck with a hydraulic lift platform, really helpful. Jerakye and Sally Goolagong provided muscle power and several children who worked hard ferrying goods from the truck to the house with remarkable efficiency and joy. Rose and I were both very tired at day's end and deeply grateful.

On the road to our new house there is **a memorial to a truck driver** who perished in a level crossing accident with a train. Every time I pass it I am reminded of the brevity and uncertainty of life. I wonder to myself, was this an accident or another example of desperate suicide? If an accident, was the driver completely unaware as he approached the crossing, of what lay ahead? Was he making plans for his arrival back home, which never happened? Who, if any, did he leave behind? Even more sobering, did the driver die outside Christ? Did he die in his sin? It is a reminder to all of us that there is much to do in getting the message out to friends, family and neighbours.



Let's labour together in prayer. We have a most gracious Father who has given his only begotten Son, we have the privilege of declaring to the nations the wonderful works of God, and what better works than those of redemption which he has achieved in Christ. Pray we will remain focused and enthusiastic. Encourage one another and stir one another on the love and good works.

Be assured of my prayers for those we know of in the UK. Thank you to those who contact me and let me know of your own situation.

SDG

David Cox.

Please pray...

- Giving thanks for David's 25 years of pastoral ministry with Dubbo Christian Family Church, and for his new ministry with Aboriginal Evangelical Fellowship, commencing on 1st July.
- For David and Rose in their new home and for David as he prepares for and then takes on the new role ministering in several aboriginal congregations.
- For Stephen's school chaplaincies and Scripture classes, his conversations and interactions with staff, students and parents/guardians; for the Gospel opportunities that arise and for his ministry to people who are mourning and in distress.
- Two young teachers at the Coonamble school with whom Stephen has recently had good spiritual conversations: H___ and C___, both young men with families; C___ professes to be a Christian, he has a serious medical issue under investigation.
- For David and Stephen, their families, and their respective churches and wider ministries.
- Giving thanks for the call and induction of Tim Bartimote as the new pastor of DCFC; pray for his wife, Eve, and their family; and for Tim's ministry and for the whole congregation as they press on together.
- That the Lord would raise up other young men with a desire to minister the Word, and that we will be faithful and effective in training and equipping them.
- For the Lord to call Aboriginal men into ministry and mission.
- For Henry and Maria Louie as Henry recovers from major surgery but faces further medical investigations; and for Kylie and her family.
- For the Trustees [Stephen Bignall, Martin Leech and Robert Strivens] seeking to progress the ministry of Gaius, looking to appoint a new trustee, and especially in connection with the AEF project, which involves a significant financial commitment.