

Dear friends,

Most of the Gaius Trust News / Prayer letter for this quarter comprises a description of David Cox's unfolding ministry and his accounts of visits to churches and pastors in the region to be supported. He also makes several observations and reports on some encouraging outcomes emerging, such as plans for a 'Day in the Word', and has a number of prayer requests, concluding with a call to thanksgiving. We are very heartened by the first few months of David's new ministry and ask you to join with us in both giving thanks to the Lord and in praying for the various needs that have been highlighted. We are also glad to give an update from our dear friend Henry Louie.

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 request 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.

Finally, we are planning to hold our next **online prayer meeting** on 12 November at 8pm (U.K.) / 13 November at 7am (NSW). Details for Zoom will be shared beforehand. Please join us if you can.

Thank you for your continuing interest and prayerful support.

With Christian greetings,

The Trustees



David Cox – AEF Central NSW Project

1st July: The first day of my new ministry began with a meeting with two like-minded brethren who have undertaken to journey with me in this venture; Neville Naden, Aboriginal Evangelical Fellowship (AEF) federal council member and NSW AEF chairman, and Paul Lukins (a former missionary to Ethiopia) secretary to Neville. It is these men who will



Left to right, Neville Naden, David Cox, and Paul Lukins. The Gospel support ministry was Neville's idea. Paul is providing input from years of faithful service in the local church as well as the foreign mission field.

provide me with oversight, encouragement and accountability. Together, we discussed the way ahead. During the discussion it became obvious to the three of us that there were at least three other towns ripe for evangelical ministry, however unwilling to get ahead of ourselves, we saw the need to focus on five churches in particular.

What is this ministry about? This is best answered from the mouth of AEF itself: "Many faithful country churches (often with meagre human resources) continue to serve their communities despite enormous challenges. This project is about investing in people, training and equipping local leaders, ensuring that the gospel continues to be proclaimed faithfully throughout Central New South Wales".

The project has four key objectives:

1. Provide consistent preaching and pastoral care across five churches.

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.

2. Strengthen local leadership through mentoring and biblical training.
3. Build stronger partnerships between rural congregations.
4. Equip future leaders to sustain gospel ministry well beyond the pilot project.

It was agreed that we should start steadily. Our goal during the first three months will be just to visit, sit, listen, and take in what is happening at each church. We were also united in recognising that this venture needs much prayer. While it sounds pleasant enough, going about to be warm, friendly, and encouraging, I know that after 25 years in the area and mainly indigenous ministry, there is a need for the churches to reinvigorate their efforts to engage in outreach, complacency is ever ready to kill off diligence. This work is never without its trials and grief.

12th July: I have now been to each of the churches on my list. I have had some pleasant surprises, as well as some "aha"! moments. The Gilgandra church has asked that a Day in the Word, a Saturday gathering which the Dubbo church often hosted, be held also at Gilgandra. Planning has begun. I am yet to visit each church for worship, but it is on my radar.

5th August: Preparations for the Gilgandra 'Day in the Word' are moving along nicely. Below is a draft program, a brief description of the aim, content and context of the talks:

Talk 1. The Gospel of our Justification: An emphasis on the doctrine of justification by faith alone, the finished work of Christ, the active obedience of Christ and imputed righteousness.

Talk 2. Preach the Word: How will they hear without a preacher? The necessity of individual believers to be engaged with their communities daily. Bringing God's revelation to bear upon its culture. The need to do such as a body, the local church. Calling sinners to repentance and faith in the crucified and risen Christ. An exhortation to be praying for our communities as we "get the gospel out".



Trevor Green, aka Yubba, leading worship in Condobolin.



Tom Sloane, Pastor at Condobolin, his wife, Stella off to his left.

Talk 3. Threats to the Gospel: (Needs to be exegetical not philosophical): Basically, anything that detracts from the simple truth of justification by faith alone in Christ alone. The Colossian heresy. The Galatian error. Jude, 2 Peter 2, Acts 15, and other similar scriptures. Any other "gospel" that undermines faith alone. Thinking of what is an appropriate response to them.

Talk 4. Sanctify the Lord God in Your Hearts: A practical, 'how to' that will complement the above talks. The aim again is to be exegetical, not philosophical, or pushing some program. What does the Bible say about spreading the Gospel message? Aimed at 'Lay people'. Leave then with a sense of "I can do this" God helping me!

31st August: Since beginning in July, I have visited each centre several times. It has been an opportunity to reflect on the churches and especially how I can help. Individual churches, of course, reflect a variety of situations and challenges, but I can see some common areas:

- A discussion about the future, both short and longer term.
- Discuss current and future leadership. Are there plans for transition? Especially where the current leadership is senior in years and struggling.
- Any active outreach to the communities? How can we do it better? Who are we targeting? Any training that would help equip the church?
- Praying together, intentionally and in hope, about all the above.

I'm due to have a meeting late September, with my ministry facilitators, where we will reflect on the start so far and discuss which direction to take. These are some early thoughts. Your prayers are coveted.



Rob Smith, with his wife Kaysie, ministering at Wellington.

How to pray for this ministry:

Give thanks the ministry has begun, for the Lord preparing the way, for safety on the roads, for the receptiveness of so many.

For each church

- to think soberly about their purpose and their high calling in Christ.
- to give appropriate thought to the future, that they may not simply fall into survival mode.
- to have a strong concern for the lost in their communities.

That active outreach would be a high priority and undertaken enthusiastically and with confidence in the Gospel and the Christ of the Gospel.

For opportunities to encourage fellowship and networking. Isolation can make things harder than need be.

For the planning and execution of the Day in the Word, which will address some of this.

For hearts prepared that are hungering for something deeper and more meaningful.

For eyes that can see the sin and darkness around and within them.

For the desire to see sinners plucked from the burning.

For a hunger to know God through his Word, a love for this Word.

That useful and lasting relations be formed with those of like mind.

Unity of the faith and purpose in our mission as the Church of Christ.

Thank you for partnership in the Gospel mission, for your prayers for us and your desire for the salvation and sanctification of Aboriginal Australians and others worshipping in our communities,

Yours in Christ,

David and Rose



Rose and I awaiting the commencement of worship in Condobolin.

Update from Henry Louie

Henry continues to recover and has regained some strength but remains thin and his back problems give him continuing intermittent pain. The good news is that he has been cleared of any liver cancer (praise the Lord). He would appreciate prayer that he might regain more strength. Daughter Kylie continues to fight on and profess our Saviour.

Henry has resumed driving and for the last few weeks he and Maria have been travelling up to the Pilliga village to hold house meetings with families again. There have been a number of deaths there, one from a tragic car accident. The people of this tiny, isolated hamlet are pleased to see them. A team from Grace Evangelical Church Newcastle is coming to hold a children's Bible club in Pilliga, a partnership now of well over a decade. The following weekend Ike Gordon and co. and the Strahans from Moree are coming to conduct a Rivers convention in Gulargambone. The Louies will join them along with Korean believers from One Family Church in Sydney.

Please continue to pray...

- For Stephen, his family, the churches in Gilgandra and Gulargambone and his work in the schools.
- That the Lord would raise up Aboriginal men with a desire to minister the Word as pastors and missionaries, and that we will be faithful and effective in training and supporting them as we have opportunity.
- 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.