at Belgrave Heights Convention Centre
3 Convention Ave Belgrave Heights Victoria
Come and discover God’s heart for justice; listen to our indigenous brothers and sisters, encounter Jesus’ call to follow Him to the margins.

The SURRENDER conference is a gathering of Christians from across Australia to share ideas, stories and hope on justice, discipleship and mission.

The SURRENDER conference is for people from all walks of life - with workshops for first-timers, gathering spaces for the tribes, amazing programs for kids and youth, and heaps more!

http://surrender.org.au/surrender15 enquiries@surrender.org.au 0403 177 995

The NT News
Night sky at Uluru. Picture: Kartikeya Sharma

Cyclone Lam & GOD’s firestorm at Elcho Island

New documentary film to be released at Elcho Island on 14 March

Every year since the Revival at Elcho Island in 1979, a Revival Thanksgiving Weekend has been held where Yolŋu and balanda (Aboriginal & non-Aboriginal people) have gathered in their hundreds to worship, learn and share what God is doing through Holy Spirit among them.

The Thanksgiving Weekend has always been celebrated in the middle of March, to remember that day on which they first recognised and felt the release of Holy Spirit among them on 14 March 1979.

This year, the story of the Revival is being remembered with the world premiere of the documentary film, GOD’s firestorm.

The Guest Speaker at the initial rallies was Rev Dan Armstrong, who has shared there on a number of Revival Thanksgiving Weekends since. Dan & Sue return to Galiwin’ku again this year, and Dan has been invited to be the Guest Speaker again.

Rev Wendell & Mary Flentje and John & June Blacket will also be present as special guests. Wendell was the agriculturalist and Mary and June were teachers at Galiwin’ku in the 1970s. John was the outstation community worker and was ordained at Galiwin’ku in 1977, and he has produced the film.

The extensive damage caused by Cyclone Lam only 3 weeks before the celebration raised doubts over whether it should be postponed, but the decision was made by the Galiwin’ku church leaders to go ahead. However there will not be accommodation for the hundreds of people from other Arnhem Land communities this year, since over 60 homes at Galiwin’ku are now uninhabitable - see pages 4 & 5 for details.

We pray that as the film goes out around Australia, it will help bring new life to those people who are not able to be present for the celebration. (See Khesed’s order form to order copies).
steadily broken down by the Lord, and now the Co-ordinator of Warralong Community is Kevin Fred, for whom many of you used to pray. He is a close friend, who himself did a lot of Bible Translation with us in our early days. He would be the Team Leader at Warralong.

Another old friend and co-translator whose name you will remember, Bruce Thomas, is an influential Elder on the Strelley Community, and would be the Team Leader there.

The third community lives in HomesWest houses scattered around South Hedland. Donald Thomas will be the Team Leader for that group…

[Brian has purchased a utility and is looking for a suitable caravan. He will probably leave the caravan at Warralong for the 8 months, and just use my camping vehicle (a utility with a canopy on the back) when in the other two communities…]

Now that I’ve got the vehicle I’m able to take more definite action on looking for a caravan that can function fairly readily as a mobile office, that happens to have a kitchenette and a single bed in it. I expect that I’d only need it for the 8 months, and would then plan to sell it again.

A friend reminded me recently that Moses began his main life-work when he was 80. Well, if the Lord wants me to get back into Bible translation work at this late stage, I’ll be very happy to go through all the motions of doing it; but He will have to give me the health and the guidance and the wisdom for the task; and it will have to be He who makes the whole project a fruitful one for the Nyangumarta people.

Two weeks ago I was thinking of all the difficulties that I know will be involved. Many of the community-oriented Aborigines up there don’t work by a clock yet; many of them don’t even work by a calendar. How will I ever be able to organise classes, or even one-on-one sessions, that will actually happen, somewhere around about the time that I try to run them, preferably at least on the same day? I sat down with a cup of coffee and picked up the book that I was reading at the time. It’s the kind of book that has a Scripture verse at the beginning of each chapter. As I flipped open the book to the bookmark at the next chapter, I was saying to the Lord, “I really can’t see just how this is all going to work, when I actually get up there.” Then my eye fell on the verse at the top of the page. It said, “Your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, ‘This is the way; walk in it.”’ (Isaiah 30:21, NIV.) So I guess that is how it is going to work.

New Indigenous Bible Translation Teams

Jackson is a young Indigenous boy who has a knack for telling stories. Stuck on a bus with two curious kids, he uses his beat up journal to bring to life the daring adventures of his war hero grandfather, Jim. Saving ungrateful fellow soldiers and eventually winning their friendship and respect, Jim is everything a warrior should be. But when Jim is betrayed, Jackson takes matters into his own hands.

Based on actual events from the harsh deserts of North Africa in WW2 to the Goldfields of Western Australia in 2013, Wongi Warrior represents a ground-breaking collaboration between independent film-makers and Indigenous community elders to give a voice to the stories of their land. There are no easy lives, yet even the most challenging stories need to be told, for it is in the telling that there is healing.

Wongi Warrior

7.00pm December 14th
Coromandel Valley Uniting Church

produced by Cygnet Films, a ministry of Youth With A Mission, Perth
written and directed by Josh Lohmeyer
Trailer: https://vimeo.com/67266699
available from Cygnet Films $15
To obtain a copy, phone or call in at YWAM, (08) 9328 5321
9 Robertson Street, Perth WA
Email: jdlah@hotmail.com

***** Highly recommended by Khesed

Khesed Perth Prayer Meeting
31 March
1.30pm to 3.00pm
36 Latimer Way Langford
0409 209 023
Last Tuesday each month

Victorian Indigenous Prayer Meeting
7.30 pm Wednesday, March 11 @ 17 Daniel Street, Burwood
My humble apologies for the change of date
– Anne Green
New Indigenous Bible Translation Teams

We reported last year on two areas where local Aboriginal people have organised themselves into teams to translate the Bible into their own languages – in Arnhem Land and in the Pitjantjatjara area in north west of South Australia.

Here are two edited reports from semi-retired Nyangumartu Bible Translator, Brian Geytenbeek. Nyangumarta is the language used in the Port Hedland area, WA.

He wrote in November last year:

Last Christmas I reported that Greg Gardiner and Donald Thomas, two young men who worked on Bible translation with us 20 years ago, but were at that time addicted to alcohol and gambling, are now studying the Bible, and leading a church of Nyangumarta-related Aboriginal people living in or around South Hedland...

A major factor in Donald’s new commitment to Bible translation came soon after he came back to the Lord. The Lord appeared to him, showed him an open book, and pointing at it said, “You’ve got an unfinished job!” Donald knew what it was. Fifteen years ago he had started to translate Exodus, but had quit partway through chapter 2. Well, he bought himself a laptop computer, ready to start the work for me to circulate between 3 different communities, training 3 different translation teams in Translation Principles, and to act as a “player-coach” on their team. While ever they are keen to do it, in their own time and at their own expense, I will be happy to help them in whatever ways I can, for as long as the Lord gives me the strength to do so. I am assuming that He wants the job done, or He wouldn't have given Donald that hint.

21 February 2015

...The idea is for me to circulate between 3 different communities, training 3 different translation teams in Translation Principles, and being their player-coach and office boy, as they apply those principles to their Bible translation. At a later stage I can be their liaison officer with the Bible Society...

The Lord has steadily been overcoming the obstacles, one by one. ...on my field trip in December, I got the necessary permissions to visit the two out-of-town communities. Helen and I had always been banned from going to Strelley and Warralong in our years up there, 1972 - 1999, by the white people in charge of them, solely because we were Christians. Since then that barrier has been...
GOD's protection is amazing!! There were no deaths or injuries! June Blacket was praying for a 'bubble of protection' as the cyclone approached. Afterwards, Yolŋu walked around looking at the buildings which were undamaged, and commenting on who lived there.

Galiwin’ku Church and the outdoor meeting platform 

*a tree fell on the church roof, causing a little damage*