

## Ministry Spotlight:

# Outback Australia



## The Context

The Outback Team operates in the Tanami Desert region of the Northern Territory, north-west of Alice Springs. Our team works in partnership with a number of churches in remote communities in this area, especially among the Warlpiri and Gurindji people.

Connection with country, maintaining traditional cultural rituals and dealing with the difficulties of remote area living are some of the challenges facing these communities. While relationship, family, honouring tradition, and love for country are key values.

Challenges in this context also include access to adequate healthcare, social dislocation and the need for local empowerment.

Yet God is at work in this challenging setting. Partnering with followers of Christ in these communities, we seek to support them as they develop authentic expressions of Christian faith, critically contextualising Biblical discipleship into distinctively Aboriginal modes of expression.

Some of our team's key priorities are developing new leaders and discipling believers.

## Prayer and Praise

- » Pray for the team: Shannon and Mat (Elizabeth, Peter, Caleb and Samuel), Vivian, and Beth and Danny
- » Pray that God will raise up new full-time members of the team, especially to be placed at Yuendumu
- » Pray that a new generation of First Nations leaders will be identified, raised up and disciplined well in Jesus
- » Give thanks for faithful partners
- » Give thanks that the leadership training Bush Camps have started up again and pray for the training events planned for 2023



To find out more and partner with the ministry in Outback Australia, visit: [www.baptistmissionaustralia.org/Outback](http://www.baptistmissionaustralia.org/Outback)

## The Team and Ministry

Our intercultural team in Outback Australia (pictured right) is passionate about journeying alongside First Nations churches, believers and young people, as well as investing in the development of established and emerging faith leaders.

As an organisation, we are actively seeking greater partnership with First Nations people and groups as we seek to play our part in reconciliation.

Mat and Shannon are preparing to move to Kalkarindji after being based in Yuendumu for the past four years. They live life alongside First Nations brothers and sisters in community full-time.

Shannon and Mat write, "So much of what we do is in the inbetween times as our paths naturally cross with others. One day we may spend time praying with someone who is sick, another day doing homeschooling and school, and another day sitting and fishing with someone on country. We seek to show Christ's love in word and deed, no matter what we are doing."

Danny and Beth are based in Victoria, and build relationships through regular trips and communication with believers and church leaders in the communities.

They share, "During 2022 we spent three periods in Yuendumu, getting alongside leaders and building relationships. It has also been good to start some formal Warlpiri language learning. It was exciting to see the midyear Bush Camp training, which connected leaders from several communities, recommence in 2022."

Vivian, based in NSW, offers valuable ministry and pastoral support to the team as Team Leader.



Shannon and Mat Anderson, Elizabeth, Peter, Caleb and Samuel



Vivian Grice



Beth and Danny Hunt

## Partnership Opportunities

### 1. Pray!

The key way to engage with the team is to pray regularly for the team. Encourage them by letting them know you are praying.

### 2. Practical Support

On occasion, there are practical ways that volunteers can support the team.

In the past, this has involved such things as working on facility maintenance, or joining the team for a short period to provide teaching and care support for children of staff. Subscribe to the team's newsletters to stay informed.

### 3. Join the Team

There is a need for people to join the team full-time. Could God be calling you to this? Get in touch with the Baptist Mission Australia team to discern and explore the opportunities.