

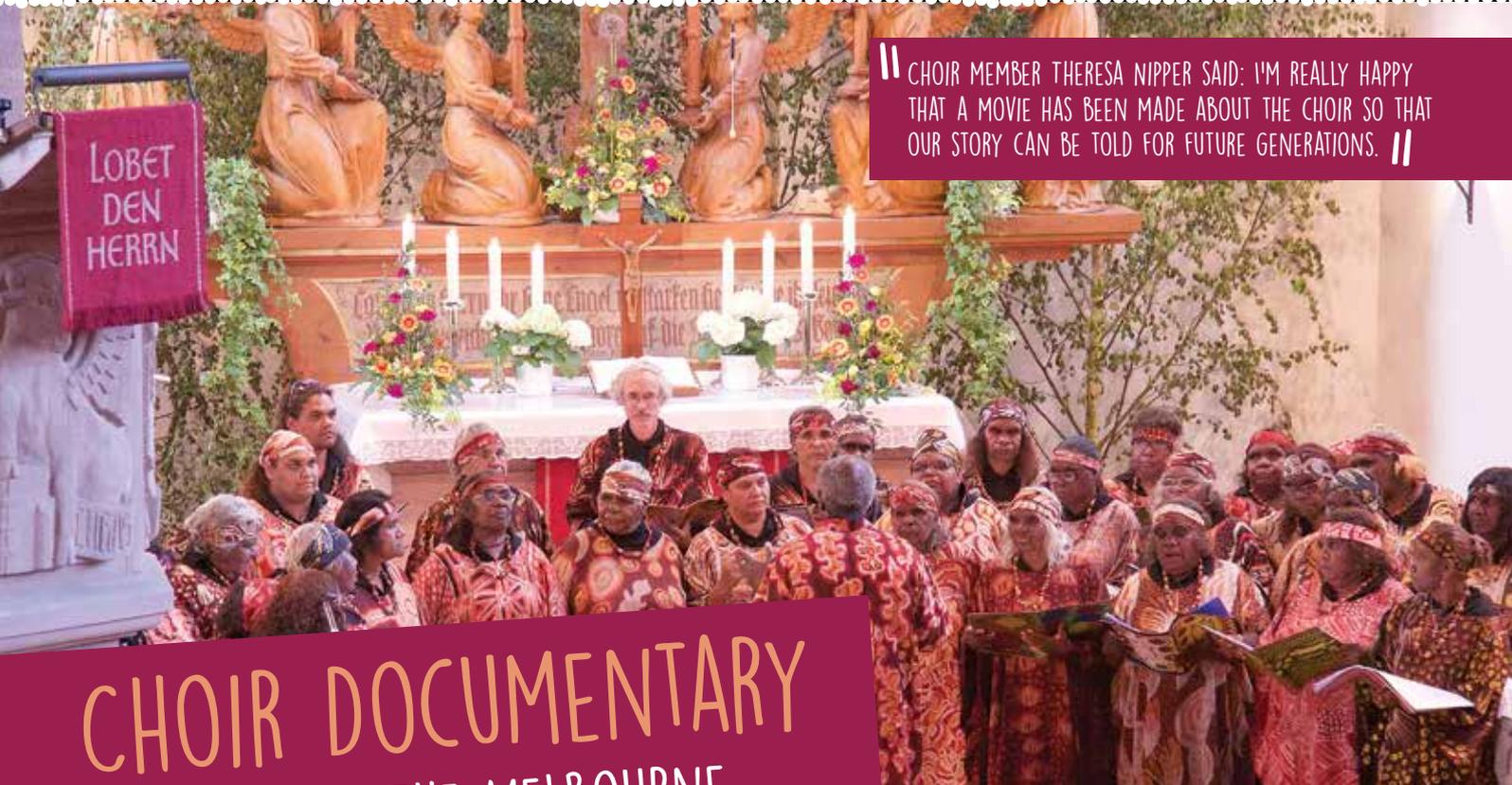


CHRIST IN THE CENTRE

WARNING: This publication may contain photographs of Indigenous people who are deceased.

NEWS FROM FINKE RIVER MISSION OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA

WINTER 2017



|| CHOIR MEMBER THERESA NIPPER SAID: I'M REALLY HAPPY THAT A MOVIE HAS BEEN MADE ABOUT THE CHOIR SO THAT OUR STORY CAN BE TOLD FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS. ||

CHOIR DOCUMENTARY PREMIERES AT THE MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL:

A 90 minute independent documentary entitled 'The Song Keepers' about the Central Australian Aboriginal Women's Choir will premiere at the Melbourne International Film Festival (MIFF) in early August 2017.

MIFF is the leading film festival in Australia and one of the world's oldest film festivals, alongside Cannes and Berlin.

Examining the origins and following the developments of their 'Boomerang' trip to Germany in 2015, the documentary features heart warming, personal stories from Indigenous Lutherans that have never before been told to the general public.

Written & directed by Naina Sen and produced by Naina and Rachel Clements, more details

about the date of the documentary premiere will soon be released by MIFF at a later date. For more go to: <https://miff.com.au>

While the choir is in Melbourne for the international release of the documentary, they will be presenting the Victorian premiere of the full choral show (Arrkanala Lyilhitjika - The Joy of Singing) that was originally presented in Germany in 2015.

If you live in Victoria please support the choir by coming to this amazing concert at the Melbourne Recital Centre (MRC) at 7:30pm on 7th August. Go to <http://www.melbournerecital.com.au> for ticketing and more information. The concert on Monday night will be followed by a public workshop and various outreach programs hosted at the Centre throughout the week.

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GOOD THINGS HAPPEN AT MT LIEBIG

Image: Amunturrngu (Mt Liebig) is located 300 kms west of Alice Springs, at the foot of the uniquely spectacular, 1200 metre high mountain of the same name. (The mountain has been aptly described as resembling the back of a stegosaurus!)

On Sunday February 12th twenty young men and women were confirmed at "Martin Luther" Lutheran church Amunturrngu (Mt Liebig), 300km West of Alice Springs.

Resident pastor, Roderick Kantamara, preached on Matthew 5:21 – 37, teaching how God gives us his law to help us find direction in an otherwise confusing and trackless world.

The local people are also very proud of the recently renovated and furnished interior of their church. The congregation had been waiting many years for the church to be fixed. The new altar, pulpit and baptismal font are gifts from a congregation in rural South Australia.

Next to the church, an area has been set apart with lighting, a windbreak and seating for evening singalongs. Most nights of the week people gather here to praise God, others are encouraged by the singing as they listen from their homes.

In recent months local FRM support worker, Paul Traeger, has been patiently studying the book of Romans with a number of local men. Pray that by faith God will give many Pintupi-Luritja people the understanding and experience of living under grace (Rom. 6: 14 – 22).





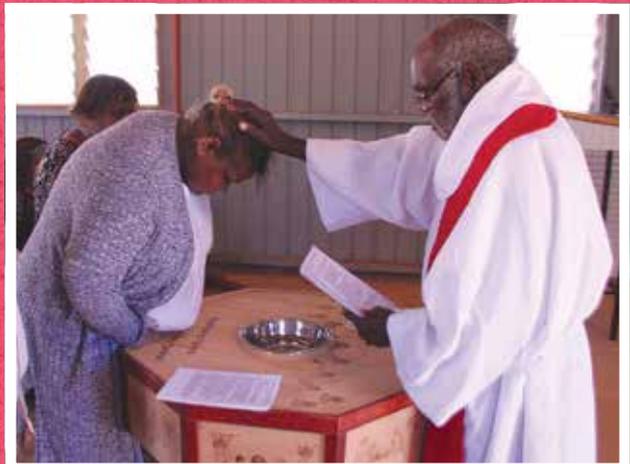
TITJIKALA CONFIRMATIONS

Palm Sunday 2017 saw 8 men and women confirmed and one baptised at Titjikala Lutheran church, 120km South of Alice Springs. Resident pastor, Philip Wilyuka, encouraged the confirmees to hold onto the promises God gave them at their baptism.

Philip has also started regular sing-alongs in a recently built shed next to the church. Pray for Pastor Philip and the church leaders at Titjikala as they continue to encourage and teach the young people of their community.

Images: (Left) Janie Wells reading the lessons.

(Right) Pastor Philip Wilyuka baptised Beryl Moneymoon before she was confirmed



The new pulpit and baptismal font are gifts from Pastor Les Pfeiffer and the Allen's Creek congregation (near Kapunda, SA).



ABC COMPASS MAKES DOCUMENTARY ABOUT FRM

On Saturday 1st July 2017 at 6pm, ABC TV will screen a special documentary about the work of the Finke River Mission on their Compass religious affairs program.

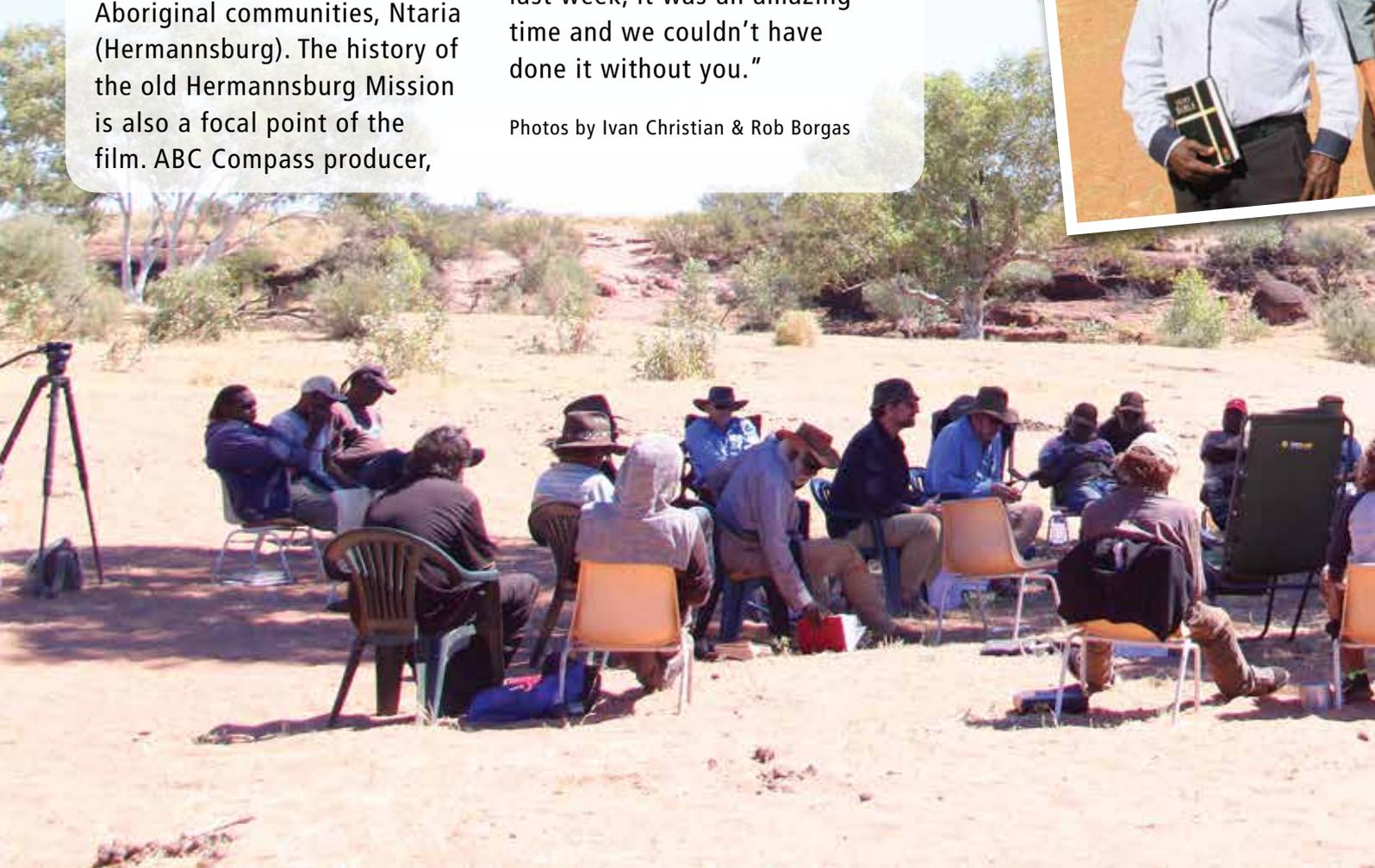
Focusing on one of FRM's famous 'bush' training camps where Indigenous pastors and evangelists come together for one week of fellowship and training in their own language, the ABC production also looks at church and community life at one of Australia's oldest Aboriginal communities, Ntaria (Hermannsburg). The history of the old Hermannsburg Mission is also a focal point of the film. ABC Compass producer,

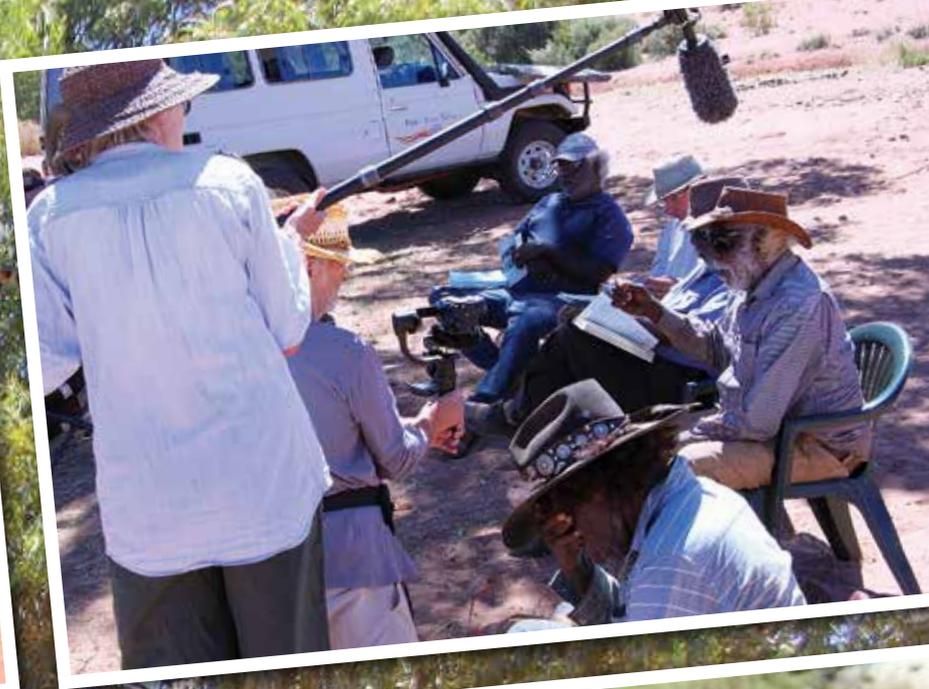
Richard Corfield said: "Our archivist here at the ABC has dug up some very nice interviews with F W Albrecht from the 1960s in black and white. I'm also hoping to include some of that."

The documentary features interviews with Indigenous Lutheran pastors, evangelists, choir members, and FRM pastoral support workers.

ABC Compass researcher, Wendy Boynton said: "Thankyou VERY much for everything last week, it was an amazing time and we couldn't have done it without you."

Photos by Ivan Christian & Rob Borgas







CHRISTIAN BACK IN THE CENTRE

WHAT MAKES FAMILIES STRONG AND HEALTHY?

Images: (Left) Ivan Christian and Project Officer Betty Inkamala checking video footage – photo Ruth Kloeden

(Right) Barry Abbott, Emslie Lankin with children Susan, Nigella & Lacey – photo Ivan Christian

Ivan Christian first arrived at Ntaria (Hermannsburg) in 1977 to teach in the FRM outstation schools. His wife Monica was conductor of the ladies choir, and their son, Luke, attended the local school. Their daughter Bethanie was born nine months before they moved to Alice Springs in May 1980, where Ivan faithfully served FRM working in the town camps of Alice Springs for 13 years until the family returned to Adelaide in late 1993.

In early 2017, Ivan came back to central Australia to work for Lutheran Community Care. Here he is interviewed by Emslie Lankin.

Emslie Lankin: What do you love / like about Hermannsburg or Ntaria?

Ivan Christian: I particularly love the fact that the people at Ntaria have very generous memories and they never seem to forget people who have lived and worked with them.

Has anything changed in Ntaria since you left?

The most noticeable change is that in the 70s, the local people spent their days and nights outside and people socialized under the many shade trees in town. Today, people are in air-conditioned houses and cars. Television and Playstations are in every house. The available shade is used to protect cars, rather than to cool people in conversation. In the 70s and 80s, FRM and the community looked after the needs of the residents. Now many of Ntaria's services have been outsourced to external organisations, and for local residents it can be difficult to find adequate work opportunities. There are also many positive changes. Aged care delivers meals to the elderly in the community. Many young people now train

daily for football and softball competitions, and many young people are currently receiving confirmation instruction. The youth centre is a wonderfully vibrant, safe place for teenagers and young children.

Are you enjoying your current work place, your work and your colleagues?

After two years as a retired teacher I am loving my period of work with the Lutheran Community Care Intensive Family Support Service Project at Ntaria. I have very supportive and understanding work colleagues and as I prepare to capture stories on video about what make families and children strong and healthy, I am loving the opportunity to re-establish contact with old friends, and to learn the names of many other precious children of God.

Would you recommend Ntaria to others as a place to visit, or in which to live or work?

Yes, I would. Please visit Ntaria to experience the wonderful scenery of the Centre, enjoy the beautiful art and be touched by the history of this community through a visit to the Hermannsburg Historic Precinct. But if you really want to experience the beautiful heart of this place – the people – I think you would have to live and work here.

This year during the first weekend in June, Ntaria celebrates the 140th anniversary since the arrival of the first missionaries. I am so glad to witness how God loves the people of this community and am grateful that the people still experience and live in the Good News that in Christ we are loved and treasured, and are equipped to share God's free love with our families and community.



IN MEMORY OF PASTOR JIMMY HAINES

Jimmy was born near Ti Tree on 19 March 1953. After attending school for a short time at Ali Curung Primary School in late 50s, he worked as a stockman for 20 years on various cattle stations in NT and QLD. He loved riding horses and sleeping out bush.

Then the police asked if he wanted to be a 'tracker' and Jimmy agreed and did that job for about 10 years. Later he worked for the Anmatyerr Council for 13 years as a general hand.

During his travels Jimmy married Janie in 1974 at Willowra. They had 4 children, and over the years their family grew to 11 grand-children and 2 great grand-children.

Jimmy decided to become a pastor after receiving teaching and encouragement from pastors Paul Albrecht and Davey Inkamala, who baptised him at Ti Tree in 1991. He was ordained in 1998 at Ti Tree.

In 2002 Jimmy began working on the Anmatyerr Bible translation project with David Strickland, his uncle Paddy Willis, and other pastors such as Don Presley. Over time they translated the gospels of Mark and John, 7 New Testament letters, Luther's Catechism, and various other liturgies and devotional resources (audio and written). He was very capable with languages and had a quick mind, ready to make suggested changes to translation. He was gregarious and eager with a happy grin, and loved to laugh. He was comfortable with whitefellas and black alike, and obviously very popular with both. He occasionally attended Lutheran synods, and once made a speech on reconciliation, which was well received.

In 2016 Jimmy was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Still serving as a faithful Pastor until he was hospitalised, he died at Pmara Jutunta (6mile) on 30th November 2016.

He will be severely missed as a relative, pastor, translator and friend. Now that Don Presley has retired, there are now no active pastors at Ti Tree. FRM pastoral support worker Darryl Mattner is anxious to find new recruits for pastoral training, and David Strickland is seeking others to continue the important translation work.

We thank God for Pastor Jimmy Haines and his service to his community and his church. Please pray for Jimmy's family and the pastoral and translation needs in the Ti Tree and Anmatyerr region.

By Pastor Darryl Mattner and David Strickland.



Image: Pastors Don Presley and Jimmy Haines
- Photos by Pastor Darryl Mattner and Kriss Borgas

TEACHING THE TEACHERS

Ladies from the Alice Springs and Hermannsburg Lutheran churches shared their history and knowledge with Yirara College staff during professional development sessions earlier this year.

Marion Swift from Hermannsburg spoke about working with Indigenous teenagers to manage behavior in positive ways. She helped staff understand how Yirara students might be thinking about their lives and education, and answered numerous practical questions

from staff members. Marion stressed the need for ongoing consultation with families, and the importance of listening carefully to what communities are trying to achieve with their young people.

After morning tea, Christobel Swan, Kunpry Ramble, Nyinta Donald, Edith Richards and Marjorie Williams told stories about growing up as Christians in remote communities. They talked about the respect and love they had for the missionaries. They described how the

mission staff cared for them, going out of their way to assist and protect Aboriginal people. The women also recalled the strict regimes of teaching and work on mission communities, which they claimed helped make them responsible Christian people.

Thanks to Yirara for inviting the ladies to lead these sessions - and thanks to all the ladies for sharing their stories.

By Suanne Tikoft



FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Urgent pastoral and translation needs in the Ti Tree and Anmatyerr region.

Thank God for the CAAW Choir and their public witness to the gospel.

Guidance for young people baptised and confirmed at Titjikala and Mt Liebig.

Wisdom as we prepare for FRM Men's Bush Camps and Women's Bible Study Camps.

For strong and healthy families.

Wisdom and patience for the staff at Yirara College.

We need your help

NEWS FROM **FINKE RIVER MISSION** OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA

WINTER 2017

Our Indigenous leaders in central Australia desire the skills, resources, support and opportunities to serve their growing congregations.

They are asking for more Christian teaching and training, resources in their own language, equipment to run singalongs, and personal support than we have the capacity to give. We need your help!

Tax deductible donations of \$2 or above can be made as follows:

You really can make a difference

Online: <http://finkerivermission.lca.org.au>

Mail Cheque Credit Card details Visa Mastercard

Card Number _____ Expiry ____ / ____ CCV _____

Name _____ Name on card _____

Address _____

Email Address _____

Phone _____ Mobile _____

Signed _____ Amount \$ _____

Send your donations to: FRM, PO Box 2129 Alice Springs, NT, 0871. For regular donations please phone FRM on 08-8952-4666 (Alice Springs) or send an e-mail to frmoffice@bigpond.com

All information is kept strictly confidential in accordance with the LCA Privacy Policy and is used only to inform you of the work of Finke River Mission.



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