

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your continued fellowship in the work of the Gaius Trust, supporting gospel mission among indigenous peoples in Australia. Many of you have been giving regularly and faithfully to the work of Trust over the past year (and beyond), for which we are most grateful.

In this letter, we bring you some further reflections from the trustees on the work that we seek to support through the Trust; news from David Cox, pastor of Dubbo Christian Family Church and Gaius trustee; and our plans for an online conference with those working on the ground in Australia, open to all our supporters.

Future work of the Gaius Trust

We have continued, as trustees, to think and pray about how we should use the Trust's resources to support gospel work among indigenous peoples in Australia, particularly following the retirement of Henry in the next months. We are fully persuaded that the need for such work remains strong and, thanks to your support, we have sufficient resources to provide some meaningful help. Our desire is patiently and prayerfully to look for suitable opportunities. The addition of Pastor David Cox (see next item for news) strengthens the Australian representation on the trustee body, which will be of considerable help in this regard. We believe that we should be looking especially for potential candidates for gospel ministry, to help provide them with suitable training. We have accordingly launched an initiative to supply such men with good literature to support them in their studies. Please pray with us as we continue to reflect and plan. Our desire is to do what we can, with the Lord's help, to see the Christian faith soundly and firmly established among indigenous peoples in Australia.

David Cox writes from Dubbo

"I have been encouraged that there has been a small increase in people attending the Sunday morning prayer meeting. They have been encouraging times. We have been somewhat quieter this month, January, as the usual comings and goings of people have meant many activities are on hold. I am looking forward to being able to resume studies again later this month. Pray for me, as I am at times discouraged and tempted to think little is happening. Pray that there would be some open doors set before DCFC that we may make known the glorious truths of the doctrines of grace.

Pray especially for young men who I know are about, but for some reason seem unwilling to take up our offers to teach them further. Pray for a spiritual hunger among them and a desire to make Christ's name know among their people. There is a young man associated with our church family who is due for release from prison later this month. He has been attending worship services while inside, but a godly Prison Chaplain I know told me to not get my hopes up. He freely admitted there were some chaplains he wished were in some other line of work. If this young man has fallen under their influence it may mean unlearning many errors. Pray for me as I

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plan to meet with him and have a frank discussion about what his future might look like and also about his apparent new found faith. Pray also for us as a church, as we begin a new year together. Pray for a clear and unified vision among us that we may discern the will of God for us and give ourselves to that. Lately some of our members have fallen ill or been injured and it has been an encouragement to see the church family rising up to help.”

Online conference

We hope to hold a conference for all Gaius supporters on Saturday 21st May. This will take place online. Our plan is to hear from those working in Australia among indigenous peoples there, including Stephen Bignall and David Cox. It would be very difficult to fly people over to the UK in the usual way for deputation meetings in churches here, given the current restrictions on movement due to the pandemic, so we hope that an online conference will give you the opportunity to hear how they are getting on, their challenges and encouragements and matters for prayer. Do make a note of the date. We aim to provide further details in due course.

Please continue in prayer for the work of the Trust. We are, as ever, most grateful for all your support.

Robert Strivens
On behalf of the trustees