



The Reverend Peterson Nganjmirra (centre) and the Reverend Dr Roger Chilton (Chair of the Bible Society in Australia), Mayor of Palmerston, Annette Burke, Alderman Helen Galton (acting Lord Mayor of Darwin) and Bishop Philip Freier at the launch of the new Citizenship Bible in Darwin in July.

The Bible Society is keen to see every new Australian citizen receive a copy of this Citizenship Edition of the Good News Bible.

Included in the Citizenship Bible is a reproduction of an original Indigenous artwork piece by Peterson, the original of which is now hanging in Christ Church Cathedral in Darwin.

A MAN OF GOD – AND OF STORIES

Born on Braeside Station near Marble Bar, Western Australia, Jack Weston Braeside remembered little of his early years, other than the traumatising experience of being removed from his family by the Government to a place called Moore River Settlement (Mogumber Mission).

Jack, aged eight, and his sister Lilly were placed in the lock-up at Marble Bar overnight and sent by train to Port Hedland. They were placed in the Lock Native Hospital and during the night locked in a shed. When the ship "Koolinda" arrived the children sailed to Fremantle. It was only in his early 20s that he started to find the more immediate members of his family.

Jack turned to God at 11 at Roelands Mission. Several years later he joined the Army reserves and became a Corporal. Jack became one of the first Indigenous graduates of the Perth Bible College. He went back to the Blue Mountains Institute of Evangelism for study, following this by becoming an itinerant evangelist throughout Australia, preaching the gospel. During this time Jack started the Aboriginal Mobile Mission, preaching and accompanied by three musicians – usually open-air services.

When Jack met Pastors David Kirk and Bill Bird in 1970, the Australian Aboriginal Evangelical Fellowship was formed. A year later Jack met Marilyn Burn who was nursing in Derby WA and they married in 1972. Leah, Lynley and Kali were born in Adelaide. In 1976 the family moved to Meekatharra WA, Jack as Pastor of the Aboriginal Evangelical Fellowship Church.

Back in Sydney Jack was deaconed in 1988 and served his people at the Crossroads Ministry Centre in Redfern. In the 1990s Jack moved to the Diocese of Bendigo and worked in Red Cliffs.

When the National Aboriginal Anglican Council was formed in 1992, Jack was a foundation member from Bendigo. He kept members entertained with his many stories, and was always alert to the message of the Gospel and the need for evangelisation ministry with Indigenous people. Jack was present when the Torres Strait Islander people agreed to join and the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglican Council was established in 1997.

In 1998 he and Marilyn returned to his beloved country of Port Hedland, where Jack was again amongst his family from whom he was taken many years ago. In 2004 the Braesides returned to Adelaide to be near their daughters.

Jack died on 1 July 2005, whilst members of NATSIAC were celebrating the Coming of the Light at the Cathedral Church of All Souls' and St Bartholomew on Thursday Island.

May he rest in peace.

Acknowledgement: Jocelyn Ross, **Anglican Messenger**, Diocese of Perth, September 2005/Colleen Hodge, NATSIAC Honorary Member



Lenore Parker, NATSIAC member from the Grafton Diocese and Jack with the book about his life