



Record of Service – Rev Ian Clarkson

Ministry Appointments

Karoonda Methodist Circuit 1968-1972. Wudinna Methodist Circuit 1972-1976. Kingscote Methodist Circuit 1976. Truth and Liberation Concern/God Squad (TLC, Vic) 1977-1982. Tea Tree Gully Uniting 1982-1992. Branches founding Pastor, Synod Evangelism -church planting and Hope Network. Generate Foundational Standing Committee. HopeNet SA Inc Exec. (Current)

Other Ministry

Tally Ho Boys Villages Management Board (UCA, Victoria). Truth and Liberation Concern/God Squad Pastoral Team (Vic), Life-FM Community Radio Board. Weekly radio spot-'Think about it', Board of Reference Family Voice, Barnabas Fund Aust Board chair. Christian Relief International Board, Director. (Current), Barnabas relief Education and Development, Board Trustee. (Current)

Background and Call

I was attracted to the Bible at 5 years watching my father preparing his local preacher talks and through the mystery of the heavily marked Bible of my grandfather. I aped those with my random squiggles in my own Bible. The gentle devotion of my mother. My father led daily devotions with my mother's sweet voice singing me to sleep with hymns. I respected Church, God and Bible because my parents did and I respected my parents.

This, the Holy Spirit's call into the soul of a child who was born out of wedlock, relinquished and adopted on the pleas of the midwife who pledged to the destitute mother that she would 'see to her son'. She did. Becoming my aunty, she followed through with prayer, love, and exhortation. I was a 10 year old member of the Order of Knights at Port Lincoln church under the leadership of Brian (Rusty) Nicholls who rode a BSA Golden Flash twin 650. He organized Redex trials for us crazy peddle bikers. These all flowed with an inner sense of mystery about God, Bible and things 'beyond'.

But it was kindling that needed a fire. Then in boarding school, at the Billy Graham crusade with 69,000 people at the Wayville Showgrounds, the Bible became a living letter from the Spirit of God, and I knew that I knew. I have never been alone. Ordination was a delight and the vows a joy to keep. I have them before my eyes in front of my desk at this moment.

At the age of 15 a friend and I rode our bikes from Adelaide home to Port Lincoln. Taking five days overnighting in Methodist manses. One day I would serve in such.

Placements

Methodist Church circuit work: Karonda, Wudinna KI: Bible teaching, missions' community outreach:

After University graduation and ordination studies my new wife Rosemary (nee Potter) and I began pastoring five churches in the **Karoonda Circuit** following Rev Horrie Duncan. From the beginning we were a complementary team in circuit work and building a home with three daughters. Missions with visiting evangelists, and full public halls producing life changing consecrations to this day. Preaching at four places every Sunday with a round trip of 160 kilometers. Over 50 people meeting in regular discipling groups in this sparsely populated area. At 24 years it was a mix of determination and initiative-taking thrill alongside devoted servants following Jesus.

Invited to **Wudinna Circuit** to work begun similar to Karonda. The charismatic renewal was aglow and here was a developing hunger to know the Holy Spirit. We formed a school of ministry with 12 farmers. The work grew with a church plant, an outreach at Venus Bay with conversions, and several families eventually taking up ministry leadership in church plants like Portside CRC and beyond.

KI Circuit was next placement where one conversion led to growing youth ministry still bearing fruit today. It was a restful year with many revisits to over subsequent years. It included a month mission sponsored by Aldersgate revival fellowship in Fiji and Tonga joining Gil Cann. But also a year consolidating deeper lessons of spiritual maturity preparatory to big changes.

Truth and Liberation Concern, Vic: The Methodist Conference released us to answer a call from TLC leader John Smith, to join the rapidly expanding work in Melbourne amongst marginalized sub-cultures as a co-pastor and teacher and counsellor. Our family of 3 young girls were about to embark on one of those most significant lifestyle changes for our whole family.

The Powerful Hope of the Gospel: This was the counterculture and the Jesus Movement. Working in a team of gifted ministers, including many 'unordained' pioneers in an outreaching urban-mission amongst outlaw bikers, addiction victims, students, diverse sub-cultures and hundreds of keen young Christians. A period of soul perplexity over the previous two years produced a Divinely shepherded preparation for this ministry. The living Hope of a raw Gospel backed up in a strong therapeutic church community created wonderful restorations effective to this day.

Country outreach suburban pastoring and planting: Returning to SA to follow Rev Horrie Duncan who had seen Tea Tree Gully Uniting grow to one of the largest UCA churches primarily to bring a pastoral teaching ministry opened the door also to supporting the early development of schools ministry actually pioneered from TTG/UCA by Paul Wightman with United Christian Forum. This was a key source out of which developed the chaplaincy program of today. This church with vision gave me 2 days a week to pioneer and develop school seminars and pastoral service with a dedicated team in the North-East.

TTG, our only full-time UCA settlement, also was the time when church planting was particularly recognized as an effective evangelistic catalyst. A team was commissioned to plant an outreach work which became known as The Branches (branching out not breaking away). A sister work at Bowden started and an allied group at Mt. Barker. A Branches team presented a seminar on planting at Coromandel UCA which became a tributary towards the eventual planting out of Coro of Fish-Gate under their local church leadership.

Beyond

Beach missions. Week long preaching missions in country churches. Easter camps (17 consecutive years). Prison chaplaincy, bible studies. Young adults' talks focusing on Christian worldview. Writing submissions advocating the civil influence of the Gospel. Running a radio spot, '*Think about it*', over 4 years addressing current issues through a Biblical lens. Appointed to the Board of LifeFM during a challenging period of transition to financial independence. Leading a church plant, The Branches, with a faithful team and working with Rev Peter Whittington on new church initiatives. Working with a group of evangelical ministers seeking to establish a new Presbytery. When Synod settled for specifically focused Networks, giving birth to Hope Mission Network, Rod James and I worked as Field Ministers and in 2017 supported the formation of Generate Presbytery.

Recreation

A delight in beekeeping with Nick my grandson and sharing honey in the neighborhood and charity support.

Currently

Though my denominational life has been somewhat on the structural edge I have been blessed with understanding, freedom and trust by Synod leadership to engage in varied ministry. The spiritual reality of the church's martyrs has been in my heart since my conversion. We trained reps for Underground Evangelism (later VOM) in the 70's to currently chairing the board of Barnabas Fund Australia supporting persecuted Christian minorities. Recently Visiting partnerships in Central Asia and working alongside dedicated leaders. Now setting up BFA offices in Adelaide and pursuing the Food.gives Program to needy Christians in Syria, Africa, Pakistan and elsewhere.

This is my 53rd ordained year. The joy of prayer and the Holy Scripture is as vital as when a boy I first trusted its promises. Blessed to be a part of the Body of Christ to serve amongst them with my lifelong companion.