



CLIMB EVERY MOUNTAIN

By Geoff Serpell

A wonderful textbook called “Basic Types of Pastoral Care and Counselling” was written by Dr Howard Clinebell. In Toronto whilst I attended an International Hospital Chaplains’ conference, Howard told me that he visited a mountain on his birthday each year because this brought him closer to God!

I had this thought in mind recently when my son and I took a conducted tour of the Kimberley across the northern stretches of Western Australia. In the dry season, the 660 kilometre Gibb river road, mostly unsealed, is open for tourists to come and enjoy the countless natural scenic attractions, wildlife and country hospitality. Gibb river road is open between April and November to off- road vehicles past cattle properties and preserved heritage areas of Australian Aborigines. Between Broome and Kununurra, are many wilderness

Lodges strategically placed so that travellers may see the splendid towering gorges, National Parks, Falls or at least rock pools, when otherwise dry.

Probably the highlight of our journey was to be in the Bungle Bungle Range, home to the black and orange striped domes ascending to 578 metres above sea level. Created by constant erosion of river movements over 20 million years or so, the range has both geological and indigenous cultural significance. Watching the sun go down over the striking dome formations of the iconic Bungle Bungle massif is awe-inspiring.

Another feature of the grand area is to visit Beagle Bay, north of Broome, home of the Nyul Nyul people who are the traditional owners of this land. The Sacred Heart Church there, is today, the centre of a living and vibrant parish.

Reflection:

The thrill of travelling this pioneering route of Gibb River road is heightened by the beauty of the native flora and fauna in abundance. The grandeur and unique beauty at every turn of the roads is an example of what we read in Psalm 121: “I will lift up my eyes to the hills...The Lord himself watches over you...The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in”.