



Aboriginal & Islander Christian Fellowship Newsletter Jan 2007

January, 2007

Dear Churches, friends and supporters,

Christmas was a special time. We were remind of this many times and rejoiced to receive cards and the 'annual letters' updating us on the happenings of many special and precious people who have touched and impacted on our lives, and many who have shared with us in the ministry of the AICF.

One card has really been a blessing with its simple yet profound message "One special night...the world was changed forever!"

Jesus (God in the flesh) came in love to deal with the world's biggest problem – sin. I'm so glad that world-changing act has impacted on my life and has the capacity to bring forgiveness, Life and hope to all people for all time!!

In 2007 it is our joy and privilege, commission and mission to let the world know this wonderful fact. As John 3 :16 says in the contempory language of 'The Message' "This is how much God loved the world. – He gave His Son, His one and only Son. And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed: By believing in Him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life. God didn't go to all the trouble of sending His Son merely to point an accusing finger, telling the world how bad it was. He came to help, to put the world right again."

Over the years we have seen people's lives changed, put right again as repentance, forgiveness and commitment to God's way have brought new life and purpose.

Some Items for Prayer and Praise!

- In 2006 we saw Aboriginal Christians grow in the change God brought to their lives and become earnest and committed to share their faith individually and through their churches.
- Slabbs & Tonga ministry couples were able to share time with their families over the vacation time.
- The Sese family have returned from their 'cross Australia' venture. Praise God for safe, problem free travel. They were delighted to meet up with several missionary friends from 'way back' & to see this big country! It was good to have them drop in to Logan for a day on their way home (proudly displaying their sticker 'We crossed the Nullarbor!') We shared an evening meal of John Tonga's traditional cooking! (Yummy!)
- Kevin and Julie Slabb have had a good year at Eidsvold. Although their Christian Leaders Training Course Studies took them away for study blocks they are receiving warmth and encouragement from the local community. We praise God that Julie has been appointed as the Indigenous Community Health Worker. It is good that her experience, knowledge and skills will be available for the families & communities in the region. We thank God for this 'provision'. Kevin and Julie went to Eidsvold 'in faith' believing this was God's call and He would provide for their needs. Kevin will continue his studies this year.
- We rejoice that the ministry of 'CrossFlow' (Kyle & Joel Slabb) from Fingal NSW has become part of the AICF ministry team. This is an extension of their ministry at the local Church at Fingal NSW.
- I spoke with Pastor John Tonga this week and his heart was burdened that although some 10-12 people had made a verbal response to the opportunity of 'God bringing change, forgiveness and hope' they were struggling or pulling back from growing in their relationship and commitment to God and God's way for living. He has asked us to pray with him for them, and for him as he endeavours to follow up and nurture these ones.
- Three times this last year Lyle heard Christians in remote areas express their longing that a Christian Leader/Pastor could be in their community to teach and nurture believers and bring the world changing news to their communities.
- The Normanton Church being one, has stood well in 2006 without a Pastor, but they too long to have a Pastor with them again to teach, nurture and develop what God has begun. Will you pray with them

that God will call someone/s to come to minister with the church in ministry (for long or short term ministry.)

- Pray! Aboriginal leaders are deeply burdened by the number of Indigenous people in prisons, committing suicide, and children going into 'care' because of breakdown in family life. Drugs and alcohol are having a devastating impact on the lives of many. Pray that the reality and blessing of Jesus will bring changes! Particularly men in their late 20's – 40's seem to be overwhelmed by despair and unable to feel hope, fulfilment and security for their futures.
- As I write, Gladstone Church and Mareeba are setting up for a Youth Camp at Tinaroo Dam out from Mareeba. Pray for God's blessing and safekeeping. The regular ministry visits from Gladstone and Toowoomba North Churches to Mareeba is really developing a strong relationship that is having lasting impact in the Mareeba Church and Community. Thank God for the commitment of these Churches and pray for them.
- Ann Street Church has a continuing link with Eidsvold and will visit again early in the year. Two other Churches are planning to share work projects and ministry there too during 2007. Thank you Lord!! What an encouragement to Kevin and Julie.
- 'CrossFlow' is looking to visit and minister at the Ministry Centres during 2007. Pray that the ministry of these committed, vibrant and talented young Aboriginal young men will be used by God to bring God's change to other lives, and encourage the believers at each location.

Enclosed:

Prayer Calendar: AICF is indeed a team ministry and we are encouraged and blessed by those who commit to pray and support. Already we have had requests for the 2007 Prayer Calendar. Here it is!

If you or your church would like additional copies please let us know. We will be delighted to send them!

For Churches: A new Notice Board Poster is enclosed.

Is it possible to display this on your notice Board so that your church can be aware of the Churches of Christ in Queensland Indigenous ministry? Thank you.

Newsletter Review Slip: **Please return (or advise by email)** of any needed changes, or if you no longer wish to receive the Newsletter. We are delighted to add to the mailing list – just let us know!

Can you Help ?? *Contact Ph 07 3848 9466 Mob 04 0796 8232 Email ldmorris@bigond.net.au*

Electricians Urgently Needed:

- We urgently need electricians to visit Normanton, Mt Isa, (installation of air conditioners) and day and night security lights.
- Eidsvold Installation of safety switches, replacement of floodlights, replacement of 15 florescent light fittings in Church.
- Logan – Day and night security lighting, relocation or stove. Repair of wiring.

Painting, maintenance:

- Painting –Eidsvold, Logan.
- Maintenance: Eidsvold New deck, tiling in shower recess, installation of hand basin, paving entry walkway.
- Landscaping – Logan.
- Erection: fence Mt Isa

Helpers for sorting Pricing and Packing Used Clothing at 'The Shed' at Logan

- Each Wednesday we spend a happy busy day processing the second hand goods that are as 'gold' for families and the ministry Centres. If you or your fellowship can help from time to time (just 2 or 3 persons is good) please contact Hazel - 3848 9466 or email ldmorris@bigond.net.au. We work Wed 9:30 – 2:30 approx. Bring your lunch. Tea, coffee, milk cups etc provided!

We urgently need Apple Cartons!

- We have run out of supplies for packing the used clothing for freighting. Please **anyone/everyone** can you beg, buy, acquire any apple cartons for this project ?! (but do not steal any)!

Well this was going to be a short note! But it grew. There is always so much to share.

Rejoice and pray with us, In Christ's love and service. Hazel Morris (sec/treasurer)