



## Aboriginal & Islander Christian Fellowship Newsletter - May 2007

May, 2007

Dear friends and supporters,

Hullo again to everyone! Sorry that a Newsletter to everyone was so long ago! Some have been updated over the weeks when we have been able to visit churches BUT I must get this letter in the mail as we have lots to share for **Prayer and Praise!** (and I will be away until 1<sup>st</sup> June. )

**I just wish I could take you all with us to share and experience the special 'joys, challenges, people stories, confronting experiences and great blessings we are privileged to be part of. You would really be thrilled by being 'there' as a team member of the AICF ministry.**

**Again special thanks to those who have supported financially and enabled the many aspects of this ministry to happen. May God richly bless you, as you are a blessing to others. Please find your receipts attached.**

### **Items for Prayer and Praise!**

- **'Indigenous Mens' Retreat' at Eidsvold Christian Centre** We have just returned! Several God empowered Aboriginal Christian Men from several Aboriginal church groups in Q'ld and Intestate brought messages on the theme "Being the Man God designed us to be". Just over 50 Aboriginal Christian men have gone home challenged, enriched and blessed to be just that! As a special "Mother's Day Treat" several women (and the Slabb Families) were able to attend (and 'report for duty' in the kitchen!) but the we tasted something special on the Saturday night combined meeting (70-80 attending) and at the communion/worship on Sunday morning. One phrase keeps echoing in my memory "*when you look at the world you know there is something wrong – do something about it*" We have the answer, (God's answer – Jesus') the power (His power) and the reason – that the people of the world may have New Life in Christ. The speaker, aboriginal Pastor Billy Williams (Brisbane) addressed this to Christian Aboriginal elders, parents and Youth to get the message of the "Kinship Redeemer" to people in despair, where things not right, where people don't know the truth. *Be God's people, to make a difference in peoples lives and communities.*
- **"Jesus 1 Time ("Jesus One Time")** It was good to hear the growing impact of this visionary Gospel Outreach through sport. Three years ago the dream of two Aboriginal pastors became reality as a Christian Team entered the annual Aboriginal Football Competition event. The ministry impact has grown. The "Jesus One Time" ministry was asked open the Sport Competition in prayer and to hold a Church Service at the Whitehill Sports Ground on the Sunday of the event! **WHOW!** Last year 3 teams were able to be part of the competition. It is a great 'a drug and alcohol free' event where hundreds of Aboriginal teams members and supporters get together! It was great to see a 'Jesus One Time' DVD and hear testimonies of some of the players.
- **Y.I.M.S. (Scripture Union) Ministry Teams to Normanton and Doomadgee.**  
**16<sup>th</sup> May – 1<sup>st</sup> June.** Our buses are chartered for this ministry trip. Lyle will drive. I am going this year too but I know it will not be as a sightseer!! One team leaves us at the Burke & Wills Roadhouse to travel on to Doomadgee. Two teams will continue on to Normanton. The teams will be doing a ministry programme with the Normanton Church and 'hands on work' as well on and around the property. Pray for the teams that they will have sensitivity and discernment for an effective cross – cultural ministry visit. Pray for safe travels. 5,000Kms. is a long way and we need God's protection!
- **Living Links:** It has been so encouraging that Q'ld Christian Women's Ministry has chosen to financially support as 'Living Links' Maria Tonga (Logan), Theresa Sese (Mareeba) Julie Slabb (Eidsvold) and Hazel Lauridsen (Mobile Christian Bookshop). What a joy for Theresa to be

sponsored to attend the Women's retreat at Toowoomba in March and Julie Slabb to the Camp in June. This is real, encouraging, and supporting love. Meeting these women in person, and hearing of their ministry involvement really weld us together and strengthen the links of QCWM.

- **Visits to Churches:** We have enjoyed and been blessed by the opportunity to visit and share the AICF ministry with several Churches. Members of the 'CrossFlow' Ministry (Kyle & Joel Slabb) from Fingal NSW have enriched our gatherings and shared the passion and joy they have as Aboriginal Christians burdened for, and ministering to their own people. Although it will an early start they will travel from NSW border to sharing with **Leichhardt Church** for their **Anniversary on 3<sup>rd</sup> June**. Kevin Slabb from Eidsvold will be in Brisbane that weekend and will share in the morning too.
- **Pastor John Tonga from Logan has asked for prayer** for wisdom, guidance and strength as he continues with the chaplaincy visits and church services at the Youth Detention Centre, and in the teaching and nurture of the new Christians and contacts at Logan. Some are now working and unable to attend the regular meetings and keeping 'pastoral' contact is difficult.
- **Pray for a Pastor For Normanton:** The Normanton Church, has stood well through 2006 without a Pastor, but they long to have a Pastor with them again to teach, nurture and develop what God has begun. **Will you pray daily, with them that God will call someone/s to come to minister with the church in ministry (for long or short term ministry.)**
- **Please continue to Pray!** Aboriginal leaders expressed again this weekend at Eidsvold their heavy burdened because of 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! Many are overwhelmed by despair and unable to feel hope, fulfilment and security for their futures.
- **Ann Street Church will visit Eidsvold again in the July holidays.** A ministry team from the USA will join them for the third year in making this visit to Eidsvold. Thank you Lord!! What an encouragement to Kevin and Julie.
- **Hazel Lauridsen** had surgery for a very painful spur in her foot. Although the pain has gone she has a recovery period of 2 months or so. She is convalescing with friends at Bundaberg. A fall from the crutches resulted in very sore ribs but things are improving. She is busy doing sewing, jigsaws and sorting things for her friend. Pray for Hazel's quick and full recovery as she has to get back to Mt Isa for the registration of the truck the "Mobile Christian Bookshop" – and an appointment with the bone specialist.
- **Northern Aboriginal Christian Convention: 26<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> Sept.** Mareeba Church is excitedly preparing to host this annual event in the sandy riverbed of the Barron River on the property of a Christian Family 20 Kms out of Mareeba. Aboriginal Pastor, Rick Manton from Perth will be the speaker. Toowoomba North Church is preparing the children's programme. Last Convention at Mareeba 250-300 persons enjoyed fellowship, teaching and the challenge from God's Word. Already people 'down south' are talking of heading north for this a great time with God's people. We thank CDF for a grant to assist with this Gospel Outreach.

**Can you Help ??** *Contact Ph 07 3848 9466 Mob 04 0796 8232 Email [ldmorris@bigond.net.au](mailto:ldmorris@bigond.net.au)*

**Electricians Urgently Needed, Painting, maintenance, levelling fill at Logan**

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

**We urgently need Apple Cartons!** We have run out of supplies for packing the used clothing

Please contact Hazel - 3848 9466 or email [ldmorris@bigpond.net.au](mailto:ldmorris@bigpond.net.au)

Rejoice and pray with us,

In Christ's love and service. Hazel Morris (sec/treasurer)