

# ABORIGINAL & ISLANDER CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

## MINISTRY CENTRES

Normanton, Mareeba, Brisbane, Logan, Eidsvold, Torres Straits,  
Mt. Isa, Central Coast N.S.W. & Crossflow Ministries



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## Newsletter For Prayer and Praise July 2008

Hullo to all,

Hasn't 2008 been a great year!? It is going so quickly, but much is happening in many places, in the churches, the AICF Ministry Centres, and in people's lives. We are praising God for His greatness, the great things that happen, and the great people of God who are enablers for things *to* happen.

There is one down side — not enough hours in the day or days in the week. So sadly I'm in an "I've got to get this Newsletter done" panic before I go to Normanton 9/7/08 - so the quickest way to dispatch **Prayer and Praise** to you is about to happen! — Photos and 'interesting arrangement' next time!!

Apologies that the personal letters were not dispatched when I planned in May.

### News in Brief for Prayer and Praise:

**Personal letters** attached from

- Hazel Lauridsen — Mt Isa/Mobile Christian Bookshop
- Wyong Koori Fellowship — Mark & Alexandra Naden
- New Light Ministry/ Sower Christian Bookshop — Stan Pedler - Tones Straits

'**Keeping you in touch**': News from Sese Family (Mareeba to Gibson W.A.) Michelle Arthur (Normanton to Africa)

### Mareeba

**Gladstone & Mareeba Churches** have a sister church relationship and share visits during the year. As I write the Mareeba Church family and contacts are enjoying a "Fun Day" with the visiting Ministry team from Gladstone Church. A week is never long enough, but Sunday's Fellowship Meeting will be a special time of sharing before the Gladstone team set off for home.

**Congratulations — Vincent** — We were proud and happy to receive a most favourable report of Vincent's achievements in his Diploma of Ministry Studies this year with Wontulp Christian Leaders Training College. Next week its back to study with a 2 week live-in module in Cairns. Keep praying for him.

'**Church doing well**' was Vincent's report to those who pray for, and support the Ministry at Mareeba.

### Logan City

**Dreams are becoming reality.** The **make-over of the outdoor kitchen** is almost complete thanks to the incredible work of the **Mobile Missions Maintenance Team** (MMM.) This is a much used facility and the Sunday School venue.

**A happy Holiday Programme** was conducted by the Island Breeze Youth Ministry Team, Because of the renovation work at Logan it was a special treat to have the bus trips to the Shaftsbury Campus. "More next week please?" was the plea as this week's programme concluded.

**Welcome back Donna** — "God's way is the best way" Pray for Donna as she has recommitted to her Lord. Pray for her spiritual growing and victory in her daily walk.

**Sleep-over:** Young people from the Inala A.I.M. Church and Logan enjoyed a special youth night and sleepover in June. Logan is an ideal venue. Add to that fun, food, and fellowship - Who wanted to go home?!

**Visitation:** Island Breeze personnel have helped Pastor John Tonga with visitation to Aboriginal families in the Logan area. John asks for prayer for the Aboriginal people in the area. People are self conscious about the homes and culturally may not be able to ask the Pastor into their homes. Pray for wisdom and contact opportunities for John.

**Sunday School:** The children enjoy their time together. Pray for Maria Tonga in this ministry.

**Visit to Tonga** At the end July/early August John with daughter Lina will visit Tonga for a special family celebration and the Coronation of the new King of Tonga.

Prayer for the **Country Gospel Weekend** in November.

### Eidsvold

A team from USA and Ann Street Church will visit Eidsvold the second week of the school holidays. Using the Logan bus they will travel to Cherbourg for Sunday meetings then on to Eidsvold Mon -Thursday. The team will be involved with the Holiday Programme being conducted by the Eidsvold Aboriginal Children's Activities. (EACA).

The team will be honoured by being permitted to visit a site with Aboriginal cave paintings. Thanks Daun, Tim. and Kylie & M1B team for renewing this regular contact with the Eidsvold youth and families.

## Normanton

Lyle has visited several times this year —each visit has had its special blessings and rewards for God's Kingdom!

**Scripture Union — YMIS- visit in June.** Again our buses were able to take three teams of Trainee Chaplains for a Cross Cultural field placement experience at Normanton and Doomadgee Schools, Churches and Communities. This has been happening for several years and the visit enriches everyone — school students, the after school activities, interaction with the local churches, Aboriginal Christians, and the Chaplains.

A morning worship message from the YMIS Team Leader was used by God to challenge a woman to stand strong against the tempter, and re-commit her life to God. She had struggled that morning with going fishing rather than coming to worship God. But she came, and was ministered to for on-going growing in her journey with God, Pray for Janelle.

**A knock on the door** in early am hours revealed a distraught, homeless young woman who had come for help. The young woman was accommodated (and slept for 24 hours). Because she was homeless, accommodation, meals and clothing were provided for almost a week until she was able to return to her family in another town. *Being accepted and supported and living with 17 Christians (Scripture Union WYMIS Team visiting Normanton) was a new experience.* Slowly her shyness receded and she began to accept their friendship and share with a couple of the girls. One evening she knocked on the study door, entered and closed it. "I want to learn about Jesus and about reading the Bible." After talking with Lyle for a time and receiving a Bible and appropriate literature she left to spend time alone reading her own new Bible. A different girl emerged. Gone was her shame — her face beamed with real joy. Pray that she will continue when alone.

**Ministry Visit — Bundaberg Aboriginal Fellowship** - Led by Pastor Bruce & Lavina Little, a fleet of cars and people spent a week of ministry in the town and at the school. The town is still talking about the beautiful music and singing from the outdoor Christian Ministry Concerts held on two nights of the week.

As the team were travelling on to Kowanyama, Coen and Weipa they could only stay one week - a time of blessing.

A special joy was to find that one of our Sunday School boys from Eidsvold in the 1960-1970's was part of the team and a qualified Cabinet maker and tutor. His skills quickly installed a new modular kitchen for a renovation project!

**Weddings:** It has been a joy for Lyle to conduct two special weddings in the last months.

**Maintenance Make-over.** Ross & Eula Vogler, & Margaret & Merv Schultz from Bribie Island Church are touring beautiful Nth. Q'ld, staying a while in Normanton, (and leaving their mark!) What changes to a much the used Sunday School House these two couples from Bribie Island Church are making.

**My Time in N'ton:** I (Hazel) am delighted to be visiting N'ton for a week mid July and to be able to assist with a used clothing sale. The 'Bribie island 4' will be getting a quick training course so that they can return after some touring and assist the church have a second sale the following month. Lyle & I must return to Brisbane and process the BAS returns!!

## Crossflow

We have enjoyed having the Crossflow Team come from Fingal NSW to share in **ministry with the Annerley, Zilimere and Gympie Churches.** The God giftedness, music, Aboriginal cultural knowledge enriched the worship. The Message, Bible knowledge and ministry shared were a blessing. For the churches visited (and many others) who have had a long and deep commitment to the Indigenous ministry it is a joy to see God at work in and through Aboriginal Christians.

As **Christian Outreach** the team will be sharing in **NALDOC Celebrations** at Tweed Heads NSW and Musgrave Park in Brisbane, and the following week in Brisbane again.

On their local scene Crossflow have commenced a **Youth Ministry** on Friday nights, supported by their local church.

## What God can Do!

Last Newsletter we asked for help to make curtains for the families in N.T., Mt Isa, Nton and Mareeba who are moving into housing. (In faith I had purchased 2 bolts of material at Spotlight) We had an immediate response. Then God put together the most incredible chain of events for the rolls of material to become beautiful curtains delivered to each of the above locations.

Roslyn Beale (Maryborough) was our sewing volunteer. I delivered the 2 bolts of curtaining to Pine Rivers Church where David Woodward (minister at Maryborough) received them to deliverer to Ros. (by car not motorbike!) 2-3 weeks later Althea Brooks (Hervey Bay) took 70 curtains to the Darling Downs Women's Retreat at Toowoomba. - Evelyn Colbran brought them back to the Gold Coast. As Evelyn wasn't well her son on a return trip delivered them to the 'shed' at Logan. Within an hour the 'shed' team of workers had packaged, priced, and boxed 35 pairs of curtains for Lyle Morris to pack in a trailer *with* 60 apple cartons of used clothing. Lyle set off to visit each northern Ministry Centre over the next week, and delivered the goods (and curtains) before leaving the new- luggage trailer at Mareeba! Wow!

*Each connecting 'link' was only aware of the next link as each did their part!* I'm still shaking my head in amazement at how God organised for this project!!! By now the beautiful curtains will be adorning windows in many homes. *Thank you one and all, and thank you Lord.*

## **2008 Northern Aboriginal Christian Convention at Normanton:**

**Thurs 24th Sept. — Sunday 28th Sept.** 100-200 will camp 'out bush' at a river on Delta Downs Aboriginal Cattle Station.

**Pray for the speaker Aboriginal Pastor Billy Williams** (Brisbane) and for all whom God will bring. Pray for protection and blessing. **Pray as one old Christian man prayed "That they will listen to what God says real good."**

**A ministry team from 'Door of Hope'** Tasmania is coming to assist with the setting up for the Convention on the Delta Downs Station, and doing a children's ministry programme during the convention. What a venture and adventure. Pray for them in their preparation, work and ministry. (Thanks Jeanette and Rod Foster for this contact.)