

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
March 2009

Greetings to all, Well, much has already happened in 2009 and our hearts have gone out to the people in the floods up north, and the fire victims down south. The love & compassion shown in love gifts has been so heart warming and encouraging. Thank you.

News in Brief for Prayer and Praise:

Mareeba

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

Sunday School has recommenced. Pray for the teachers.

The Church enjoyed having Remy and Theresa Sese come back from W.A. for the Christmas vacation and share with them. Many hours were spent in fellowship and encouragement.

Gladstone and Toowoomba Churches are continuing their 'sister church' relationship and ministry support to the Mareeba Church in 2009. Mareeba is planning a visit to the church at Gladstone.

Logan City.

Pray for John Tonga as he leads in this ministry. People are so scattered in the big Logan City area. Helpers are few.

John is driving a school bus again for the Aboriginal School. This has given him contact with so many families and many children come along to Sunday School as a result of this contact.

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

Eidsvold:

We are without a minister in this community. Keep praying. A team from USA and Ann Street Church will visit Eidsvold the second week of the June/July school holidays. (This is their 6th annual visit.) The team will be involved with the Holiday Programme being conducted by the Eidsvold Aboriginal Children's Activities. (EACA). and contact with the adults. Thanks Ann Street Church & MIB team for renewing this regular contact with the Eidsvold youth and families.

Normanton:

Well you've heard all about Normanton and the floods! We have been so touched and blessed by people's interest, phone calls, caring, prayers and love gifts to assist at Mt Isa and Normanton. Lyle Morris (AICF State Coordinator) arrived in Normanton as the roads closed and was stranded there by the floods and the collapse of the Macair plane service. Additional to the 'wet' there have been special blessings and rewards for God's Kingdom!

Happenings:

1. **The church** is in good heart and committed to being God's people in the community.
2. **Two young men** have come back into fellowship and are keen to grow and serve God. Aboriginal elder Mervyn Edwards is thrilled to have their help with the grounds and in the used clothing jobs. Pray for Cedric and Tommy.
3. The women are continuing their Monday ministry at the *Aged Persons Hostel*.
4. **Rachel Bishop** (from Clontarf Baptist Church) has come to serve God in N'ton. She had to fly in when the roads closed across from Cairns. She has begun assisting in the After School Enrichment programme and the Chaplaincy at the School. *Pray for Rachel in this new experience and God's guidance in her service.*
5. Normanton is excited to **have Sunday Schools recommence**. Rachel and Debbie Vagg are taking the Senior group and Audrey Callope and Gladys Callope the Junior group.
6. The **used clothing** supplies sent from churches and friends were so welcomed by the families during the wet. Thank you everyone who share in this ministry. We have a good supply priced, packed ready to truck up as soon as the roads open.
7. **Ross & Eula Vogler** (Bribie Island) have lost their hearts to N'ton and are a wonderful support to the Christians and the church. They leave after Easter and will stay until mid year. (Maybe longer if those barramundi bite well)
8. **Scripture Union – YMIS- visit in May.** Again our buses will take 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.
9. **Prayers Answered:** We are grateful to all who have faithfully prayed that God would call His person to minister at Normanton. The church is currently talking with one who believes God is calling him to share in this ministry. This will be a real step of faith for the Church and for him. Pray for a support team who will commit financially for this prayer to be answered. (More information next time!)

Mt Isa:

The early 'wet' caught people away from home for the Christmas vacation when the roads closed. The Mt Isa Christian Centre became home to 15-20 stranded people for 4-5 weeks.

Three older folk came as 'hospital discharges' after serious surgical procedures in Townsville. Hospital beds were required and there was nowhere else to go. It has been an extremely busy and taxing time for the resources there and Hazel Lauridsen (Mobile Bookshop) who is based at the Centre. The property had difficulty with roof damage, causing water damage to paint work and extensive damage to the floor coverings.

All are now safely returned to their home areas in the N.T. Hazel is having a house swap break for a couple of weeks as the ministry couple at Camooweal come to the Mt Isa Centre to await the birth of their baby.

The mobile Bookshop will be travelling into the N.T. for the Easter Convention (a much anticipated annual Outreach event.) Because of the 'wet' and limited time locating a supplier for the New Life Bibles 40 Bibles had to be flown in from USA. Prices are so increased with the economic situation. We hope the MIB team from USA can bring another batch in June with their luggage and save \$250 freight!

With love in the Lord, Hazel Morris (sec/treasurer)