

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
May 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.

Keep Praying for John Tonga and Maria. Sunday School: maintains its 30- 40 children enjoy their time together. Pray for Maria Tonga & helper Michelle in this ministry. Michelle & Matthew's baby is due early June. Maria will miss Michelle's help for that timewith the large group for Sunday School. Progress is being made on the grounds. We are grateful to Daryl Holt and Logan's neighbour Chris.

Plans are underway for the Country Gospel Weekend in Nov. It seems it will be the biggest ever!! Pray for this outreach ministry.

Eidsvold:

Keep praying for a minister for this community. On the Labour Day long weekend a team of 7 from Ann St. Church of Christ visited Eidsvold. During their time there they were hard at work doing some renovations on one of the emergency accommodation houses at the Christian Centre. They also enjoyed spending time with the young people of Eidsvold playing in the games shed, hanging out by the bonfire and having some of them involved in the work projects. Ann St. will be taking another team to Eidsvold again in early July, along with the MIB (Mission In Brisbane) from Knott Ave Christian Church, California, USA. This will be the seventh annual trip to Queensland and fifth to Eidsvold for the MIB teams During their time there in July as well as be involved with the Children's Holiday Program. They will also take up a load of welcomed used clothing for sale to the families of the community. Proceeds assist the Ministry Centre. They plan to complete the work on the accommodation house. A high light will be the barbecue and gathering for the children, their families who will be waiting and watching again for the skills and message of the team leader, Robert the magician! Thanks Ann Street Church & MIB team for renewing this regular contact with the Eidsvold youth and families.

Normanton: Happenings:

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!

1. **The church** is in good heart and committed to being God's people in the community.
2. **Prayers Answered:** We are grateful to all who have faithfully prayed that God would call His person to minister at Normanton. Elton Thompson believes God is calling him to share in this ministry, and at the invitation of the Normanton Church will join the Normanton Ministry in Mid July. 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. Please find Elton's a information leaflet enclosed.
3. The women are continuing their Monday ministry at the **Aged Persons Hostel.**
4. **Rachel Bishop** (from Clontarf Baptist Church) is assisting in the After School Enrichment programme and the Youth Support 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.** Audrey Callope and Gladys Callope leading the Junior group and Rachel Bishop and Debbie Vagg the Senior 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. Over 100 boxes have been dispatched to Mt Isa and Normanton in the last month and as many again are ready to go.
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 left after Easter and will stay to welcome Elton in mid July. (Maybe longer if those barramundi bite well)
8. **Scripture Union – YMIS- visit in May.** Again our buses will take teams of Scripture Union YMIS Students 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 – YMIS students, school students, the after school activities, the local churches, Aboriginal Christians.

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 no where else to go. It has been an extremely busy and taxing time for the Mt Isa resources and Hazel Lauridsen (Mobile Bookshop) who is based at the Mt Isa 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. and FNQ. Hazel had a house swap break for a couple of weeks as the ministry couple at Camooweal came to the Mt Isa Centre for the birth of their baby.

The mobile Bookshop travelled into the N.T. for the Easter Convention at Canteen Creek. (a much anticipated annual Outreach event.) of Bookshop sales exceeded \$3,000 (including 13 Bibles). Because of the 'wet' and limited time 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!

From Hazel's latest newsletter..... "The next thing on the calendar is the County Gospel Music Tour with Trevor Ginn starting 18th May. One night each at Mt Isa, Camooweal, Dajarra, Urandangies, Alpurrurulam, Amplutwitj, Alperra, AllCrung and Epenarra. I'll be tagging along with the bookshop Whew! PRAY that the Lord will touch lives with the message in the songs and testimonies and whatever is bought in the bookshop.

The Souer Bookshop - New Light Ministries- Stan Pedler - Thursday Island ***Stan's last newsletter that I didn't get mailed out - my apologies.***

Dear Supporters.

My how the year is flying by. When I was ten, the birthdays wouldn't come around fast enough. Now I'm past my use by date, they are coming faster and faster.

As I've told you previously, the shop has lost the small income from our government-destroyed airline, and is now running on faith alone and one grumpy old man.

But the Lord still uses the shop in rare and unusual ways. One troubled man who frequented the shop, has gone home down south in better health, and with a greater knowledge from the shop of what the Lord intends for him and his ministry.

He was not gone even a few weeks, when another younger man walked in one-day just looking for Christian food. His name is Steve, and keep him in your prayers, because he has had a rather chequered career.

I spotted a genuine gold Star of David around his neck. Whoopee! I was away. His is from New Zealand and his grandfather was a Jew. Fortunately in his past he had become a believer in our Saviour, but is still very conscious of his Jewish connections. Once he discovered my great interest in all things Jewish, and how close the Messiah might be to returning, we got on like a house on fire.

Steve has been a regular visitor when he has time off from his job, and he watches many of the DVD's I have that features Israel in them. He also likes all the Jack Chick tracts, and buy many odd things in the shop that he finds new and interesting.

Just today a man from Bamaga, (that's on that big island to the south of me called Australia) wanted to know how he could counter the Jehovah Witness growth in his town. I sold him my three library DVD's on JW's for cost, and took his name and address so I can notify him of any new books on that cult when I get them in the shop.

I am still functioning with the shop, but at reduced stock levels as I can only order in smaller amounts now. The DVD library is still very popular and the old bugbear of them keeping them too long is still going on. That will never change.

I do value your prayers, more especially as now my praying mother has gone home to be with our Lord. I will keep going for as long as I can in the foreseeable future.

Yours In Christ, Stan Pedler.

Just for You!

We are taking a big step forward and setting up to send as many AICF Newsletters by Email as possible (a learning experience for me!). This will not be for everyone and some will prefer a mailed copy, but for those who can receive by Email this will reduce costs and speed up the dispatching process.

We need to know your preference, check your email address and update our mailing list.

COULD YOU PLEASE - fill in and return the enclosed/attached form so that we can do the best job possible (with the least mistakes!!)

Also, are you able to be an AICF ambassador at your church? Requirements: someone willing to pass on Information to the Church and share the news for Prayer and Praise.

With love in the Lord,

Hazel Morris (sec/treasurer)