



Aboriginal & Islander Christian Fellowship

NEWS LETTER

Dec 2009

A ministry of
Aboriginal and Islander Christians,
supported and enabled by Churches of Christ
and supporting friends .



The Seasons Greetings to all. May your Christmas be special and blessed as you celebrate God coming to earth as Jesus the Saviour, and the difference He can make as He comes into a life.

Here's the News for Prayer and Praise!

Highlights of the Year: Your enabling support of prayer, finance, practical support and encouragement AND God at work.

Normanton: *The "Big Wet" and Floods* at the beginning of the year!! Lyle planned to be at Normanton for January but his stay was extended for seven weeks. Wet and anxious times especially when all road, rail, boat and air services ceased! But the 'prayer ways' and telephone communication remained! Thank you one and all who responded with 'love gifts' that have helped and blessed the impact of the 'big wet' and floods in the Normanton and Mt Isa regions.

Normanton Rejoices:

In July prayers were answered as **Elton Thompson** began ministry. Pray for him in the ministry with the church and chaplain at the school. A Christmas phone call would be great! Home seems so far away at such times! Please pray for needed finance for Elton's support.

Elton shared recently how he had been encouraged by positive response and feedback from the 'town' in addition to the response from the aboriginal community. Pray for him. Getting to know the community and the people is a big and necessary foundation for effective ministry strategies.

We acknowledge the wonderful support **Ross and Eula Vogler** (from Bribie Island Church) who have been part the Normanton ministry team as they have stayed, helped and ministered for extended periods over the last 2 years. They will spend time there again as Elton comes south on leave in March/April.

Again we thank the **Youth Teams from S.U. YMIS & Go-West Cairns** for the ministry visits and assistance to the Church & Youth Programme.

Pray for **Rachel Bishop and Shontel Higgins**, two young women from Clontarf who went to Normanton during the year and are working there. Although no longer working in the Christian Centre programme pray that God will be their focus, guide, and strength as they establish new lives far from home, family and their home church. Shontel is hoping to commence Nursing training in 2010.

The Logan Ministry Centre:

"Tender Loving Care Projects" at Logan: Thanks to those who enabled the needed upgrade of the kitchen facility, and those involved in several very labour intensive weekends by work groups and friends from Living Hope and Whitehill Churches. They transformed the church building with a spring clean and new coat of paint!

Thanks Bribie Island for supplying the paint!

This facility is well used for church meetings, Sunday School, special ministry events and emergency accommodation. Pray for John and Maria Tonga as they move into the 7th year of serving God here at Logan.

Country Gospel Weekend - 7th Nov. This was the biggest event since its inception over 6 years ago. It certainly is growing as an Christian, Refresher, fellowship and Outreach event. 300 attended Friday & Sunday. Saturday lost count!!

Matthew and Michelle Briggs who attend and assist at Logan were married on the Saturday afternoon of the Country Gospel weekend.

Logan Centre was host venue for the **Vanuatu Christian School/Child Care Centre's Teachers** professional development visit in July. 25 students will visit in May 2010 for an educational development visit.

All **night prayer vigil** with and for Aboriginal Christian ministries in Brisbane +

Pray for John in his **chaplaincy visits** to the **Youth Correctional Centre**.

Praise God! At the request of the people a **Sunday evening service** is now conducted each week. **Sunday School Christmas Break-up** was a happy time. Thank you to all who have sent Christmas gifts to bring special joy the children.

The 'SHED' at Logan is the 'action base' for receiving, sorting and packing the used clothing for dispatch to the Ministry Centres (Normanton, Mt Isa, N.T., Eidsvold, Mareeba).

Thank You to all who support and give! We never cease to marvel that the supply just keeps coming! Supplies of used clothing, household items, linen, curtains, and apple boxes! etc These greatly assist the families in areas that don't have used and/or new clothing shops. This ministry also provides much needed finance for the Church's ministry programmes.

Packing helpers are always needed. Currently we work on Wednesdays - but we will work a 'flexie day' if that would allow you or your fellowship to assist! Phone 3848 9466.

Mareeba Community Church:

Lyle was able to visit Mareeba in November. It was a joy to spend time with the church and sit and yarn together rather than talking over the phone. The church has done well in the time they have been without a pastor.

It was good to meet Sarah Weinholz in person. Sarah is from Gladstone Church and has a keen interest to support and have involvement with an indigenous community/church. Her administrative skills and bus driving licence are greatly appreciated. She with Josephine (from New Guinea) have been focusing on the youth. All the kids of town know and respond to them. Kids drop in at the Mareeba Centre by the dozen (literally!!)

Sarah's contract as aide with the Atherton High School has concluded and she is looking for means of support. We are 'in faith' endeavouring to employ her part time so that she is able to stay on and assist at Mareeba. Pray for employment and support for Sarah.

Pray with the Mareeba Church. They have indicated their need of a Pastor.

Gladstone Church of Christ is coming again for a week of ministry - arriving Sunday 10th January. Pray for God's protection on travel and activities and blessing on the ministry and persons involved. Thank you Gladstone for this ongoing support visits and encouragement for Mareeba.

Mt Isa Ministry Centre & Mobile Bookshop:-

Many people come to the Isa for Medical care and stay at the Centre. Pray for **Hazel Lauridsen** as she assists these folk. For many it is a traumatic time.

Pray for Mobile Bookshop Ministry to the Aboriginal Conventions in FNQ and the N.T. Pray for **Hazel's**

health and safety as she travels 100's of Kms. to remote communities. Hazel is currently having 'time out' and house sitting at Buderim, visiting family and Brisbane before returning to Mt Isa before Christmas. Keep praying for Hazel's health.

Cross Flow:

It was good to visit Fingal and share in their morning worship and be blessed by the ministry of the guest speaker, Steve Davies from the Bible Society. 'Cross Flow' was able to stock up on supplies of the the "Surfers Bible' and the new presentation of the Gospel of Mark for Aboriginal people. They have a busy time ahead as they are involved with the Christian Community in staging 'true Christmas' events. Then with the holiday influx the team launch into a busy time of witness and ministry to the crowds who flock to this perfect holiday destination in the Fingal/Tweed Heads area. Pray for the team members as they support, nurture and encourage Christians in their living for God in the place where they are.

It was good to see Kevin and Julie Slabb again. Congratulations to Kevin on his graduation from Wontulp Christian Leaders Training Course. (Kevin began these studies while in Eidsvold.) Julie is required more and more with the health care of her aging parents in Newcastle.

Wyong Koori Christian Fellowship (NSW):

Mark and Alexandra Naden with son - in - law Brendon Garlett (and wife Amy) continue this ministry.

Mark and Alex have lead Christian Tours to the Holy Land. What an experience to walk where Jesus walked.

In the last school holidays there was great excitement and much prayer as 170-200 Aboriginal Youth from all over NSW (and beyond!) joined in a camp on the Gold Coast. (*See their Newsletter enclosed*)

Sower Book Shop – Thursday Island – Stan Pedler:

Pray for Stan's faithful ministry and that God' Word and Christian resources can be purchased on T.I and for the Torres Strait. (*see enclosed News letter*)

Remy and Theresa Sese: (previous ministry couple at Normanton and Mareeba) It was good to catch up with them briefly as they 'passed through' Brisbane with the Wongutha Students.

(See their enclosed letter with all the news.)

Lyle and Hazel Morris:

It has been a busy year and we apologise that with some family commitments, support ministries, and health slow downs we have got behind with the volume of administrative work. I am really focussing on more regular Newsletter in the days ahead. As yet I have not been able to fully process with confidence the Emailing system. That is my big goal for 2010.

We enjoy and are blessed to be part of the AICF ministry. Do pray for us and for 'someone/s' who can take the 'mantle' of this God call. Like Elijah the time will come when the Lord will take us to Him and another will do what the Lord directs.

With praise and thanks, for your prayers, support, love and enabling of this ministry.

In Christ service, Hazel Morris (secretary)