



INDIGENOUS MINISTRY LINKS AUSTRALIA

PO BOX 1873, Mareeba, Qld 4880 07 40926168 or 0427 354055
Email: imla@imla.org.au Web: www.imla.org.au

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G'day from North Queensland, we have had a fair share of rain for which we are very thankful as the dams are filling up and everywhere is green and we are grateful for new life in the Kingdom. As we busily prepare for teams to scatter across the North in the coming weeks we offer this brief newsletter seeking your prayer support.



“Tony is keen to recover his independence & get back on the road with the Gospel but he desperately needs a reliable, economical, automatic vehicle.”

We are also grateful for all the prayers, emails and phone calls we received recently while **Tony Rodgers was very sick and his leg was amputated** below the knee in February. He is recovering well and has already been out with the IMLA team ministering. He even joked about falling over at an open air meeting while playing guitar (balancing can be tricky) but he testifies **“you must get back up again if you fall”**. His positive attitude about his recovery and acceptance of his amputation has led the hospital to ask him to talk with other amputees. That is a real testimony to God's goodness and Tony's trust in Jesus. Tony lives in the small community of Dimbulah, 45 km from Mareeba and with few services so he is very keen to be independently on the road to have the mobility to preach the Good News. He desperately needs a reliable, automatic vehicle as he can no longer drive a manual one. **We are appealing for funds or a “vehicle” and all gifts to Tony's vehicle fund are tax deductible. Please pray for this dear brother who wants to GO for the Lord!**

Carl Musch — For some time Carl has been at the limit of his own “capabilities” (and beyond, Praise God). God's word to his spirit has been to pray for labourers—a network of teams and of “team builders”. Praise God that some labourers have come with their own skills, gifting and experiences...but this is a unique field of ministry that benefits greatly in fruitfulness from mentoring and co-ordinating. Carl is drawing on his experience in construction management. Jesus said “I will build My Church” (Matt 16:18a). Jesus is the Master Builder but the Father seems to subcontract out bits (2 Cor 6:1) “co workers together with God.” Often Carl's attempts to “run off into the bush” to the people and field ministry he loves are thwarted by the need too keep this “ship” and crew on course. This means developing skills and also spiritual lifestyle changes. The now fewer hours alone on the road with just Carl and the Holy Ghost—means that fellowship with Him must be even more deliberate, and seems an even more necessary priority as some of the issues we face together with our Aboriginal brothers and sisters are seemingly insurmountable. He values your prayer for him personally, as a follower, husband, father, minister and disciple maker.

The Gulf - We have our Mossman Gorge crew heading to an **Easter Convention hosted by Aboriginal Pastor, Bennet Toby in Normanton** in the Gulf of Carpentaria. The Normanton Church is situated between Doomagie, Croydon and Mornington Islands, all crying out for ministry. We hope to be sending teams to support and initiate more work in the area this year and we see the Normanton Church as key partners. **Clive and Linda** have moved to Mossman Gorge Community itself and have taken on a Pastoral/Care role alongside Janice. This is a new challenge for them. Living in a caravan at the church, they are building a working relationship between themselves, community people and leaders and other service providers to the Gorge. **Pray for Bennet and Bethel Toby and their Church as they host this convention. Pray for the speakers and for Janice Walker (Mossman Gorge Community Church leader), and Clive and Linda Weir as they support this team. Tony, Haniel and Donny will be going early to help set up.**



Gail Musch has recently returned from 2 ½ weeks relief teaching in **Aurukun**. She was blessed to see what God is doing and **strengthened our partnership with Kevin Sigai for the Cape and Gulf**. Gail is cautiously optimistic about the new education curriculum introduced by the CAPE YORK INSTITUTE (Noel Pearson) however, there are major challenges. The new School Principal is a Christian, which is welcomed by believers and the children really need God empowered education. Local minister Linda Sivyer has been praying for other mature believers to stand and work with them in Aurukun for about 20 years. **In Aurukun and in many other Aboriginal communities there is a huge need for Christian Professionals ie. nurses, doctors, teachers, administrators, trainers (and the number of job**

opportunities are incredible) to be willing to GO and to be effective and equipped witnesses in these places. Christian professionals and tradespeople need to see themselves as potential “working” missionaries and get the extremely necessary cross cultural ministry training and linked with a mentor in this unique ministry environment to be effective. We recommend some excellent training programmes: **World Harvest Institute (WHI)** or for a shorter helpful introduction called “**STINT**” with Kevin Hovey see www.globaltraining.org.au or the “**Nations**” Course with World Outreach www.world-outreach.com, then IMLA is here for field mentoring and a support network.

Only a few weeks ago we saw off 10 **youth** teams from the U.S. Ministry “Adventures in Missions”. It proved challenging for all involved; for young people in a strange and foreign land and for us coordinating it all. Thankyou to Darwin COC, David and Isobel Gawler and the Bagot Victory Church, YWAM, “The Harrigans” in Hopevale, the Wujul Wujul Shire Council, Mareeba Community Church, Woolaning Christian College (Bachelor NT) and Rodger Latham (NT) for helping facilitate them.



Pray for these young people that they will imbibe a life long passion for the “Great Commission” and get a clear understanding of God’s unique calling for their lives. Again pray to the Lord of the Harvest for

labourers. Their being with us **really drew attention to the glaring need for effective Youth Ministry on communities.** Many want to come and look! or for the “experience” but somebody needs to be taking responsibility for making disciples among these young precious people across Cape York and the Northern Territory and teaching others to do the same. **Pray for remaining fruit from their time here.**

In Mareeba we are helping resource a relatively new and shining light on the scene-**Sarah Weinholtz** (see photo above) **and the Mareeba Community Church Youth ministry.** Sarah is doing an awesome job among the youth on the streets of Mareeba. Carl has been helping with Outreach and begun a regular Youth Bible Study he called “Fight Club” – getting equipped for spiritual warfare and making a “Stand” (Eph 6:14) as a Christian. Hope Musch has become involved in the Friday night Youth meetings and along with Gail and Lance Banjo will be helping Sarah also on Easter camp. Joy will be helping her grandmother who will be alone on a property as Gail’s father, Rex, is ministering in PNG.



Lance, Donny and Haniel at recent Mt Garnet Outreach

Haniel Joe of PNG (Sent to us by Carry the Light International or “CtLI”, the PNG Assemblies of God new revived Missions Department) is with us for 3 months and he will be taking on some of Carl’s men’s and youth ministry ,while Carl is away . Pray for Haniel– **that he will draw on God’s enabling power** and **that God will have his way** regarding his family relocating to Australia and obtaining the necessary visa and support. (Contact us for his newsletter) **Pray also as we partner with CtLI to provide training and a pathway for PNG National Christians called to the nations .**

Another helper is **Lance Banjo**- a man that has been Tony Rodgers’ “disciple in travelling ministry” but is now invaluable to him as his main driver as well. Lance has really found a niche in Youth Ministry since his teenage daughter has come to live with him. **Pray for Lance** -as a single father of a teenage daughter , his growth in the Youth Ministry and as a relatively new believer, and for his ministry vision.

The partnership with world wide children’s ministry “Compassion” and Janice Walker for the **Mossman child development programme** is forging ahead. We praise God and thank donors for recent donations of a minibus and some office equipment. **Unfulfilled visions and needs still exist for our expansion into boarding facilities for High School students** and remote community Christian schools. We get phone calls almost every week from families looking for help in educating their children. **IMLA also has a desire to see an effective residential Drug and Alcohol rehabilitation facility,** even more so now that the government funded Rehab with which we had a fruitful relationship has been closed.

Continue to pray **for Carl to be led by the Lord as he plans the year ahead** including being able to **visit supporting partners** (It seems that for some as we are busy in the field it’s “out of sight, out of mind”) **and new potential partners** and to share the vision and the need and **opportunities for equipping those called for Aboriginal Ministry.**

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