



# Indigenous Ministry Links Australia Magazine December 2006

PO BOX 1873, Mareeba Qld 4880 AUST. PH: 07 40926168 or 0427 354 055 or 0414 354 055

Please note: NEW EMAIL: [imla@imla.org.au](mailto:imla@imla.org.au) WEBSITE COMING SOON!

Thank you for your patience, prayers and support for the Indigenous Ministry Links Australia Team. We have had a very rough/hard couple of months and in some respects we really don't know how to report all that has happened. Over the year much has happened and this letter is just a window to some of it. We know that God is Faithful and He has the future in His very capable hands. We just have to be obedient and listen. This magazine includes updates directly from IMLA people on the field. We have highlighted all the prayer points in blue and would really appreciate your prayers and support.

## TRAGIC ACCIDENT

While travelling home from an outreach in Coen a terrible accident occurred on Nov 6<sup>th</sup>. Tony Rodger's nephew passed away in the crash, Tony' son has a broken skull and leg (healing well), Chris has fractured neck bones (both of these men were airlifted to Cairns Base Hospital), Herbert had shoulder injuries and Tony sustained bruising. As you can see from the photo it is a miracle that anyone walked away from the wreck at all. Malcolm's funeral was very well attended and both Tony and Herbert despite their grief gave incredible testimonies of God's love and grace. *Please continue to pray for Malcolm's family.* Herbert, Chris and Tony are all standing strong for the



Lord. All of these men at a recent gathering declared their love for God and the plan that He has for their lives.

*Please pray for*

*these mighty men of God and that we can provide transport to keep them in the field.*

At our AGM in February, Tony Rodgers was voted Vice Chairman of IMLA. Tony has really caught the vision of strengthening and encouraging his people who desire to minister the gospel in remote communities.



Tony has also announced his engagement to Natalie Knap (from PNG), a lovely Christian lady who loves outreach too! CONGRATULATIONS!

## 2007 - A MILESTONE

In 2007 Carl will celebrate 20 years of ministry among Aboriginal people. He started with street evangelism in Darwin, going onto church planting in Aboriginal communities in Arnhemland NT, and various parts of Qld. The team that has become IMLA was launched in 1998 and now networks through much of Australia.

## BESWICK UPDATE



Tony and Gillian Tierney from Wheels of Fire have seen a strengthened and more consistent ministry restored to Beswick, following some personal

struggles by local aboriginal ministers. They felt the Lord leading them to move to Katherine from Sydney to work with believers in the region for growth and maturity while travelling together with us in August 2005. Working as part of the Wheels of Fire team, we have welcomed them taking on a great deal of the support role that IMLA has carried for a number of years in the region and particularly for the Beswick Church. Their coming has added another team to partner in building God's kingdom in the region. Together with believers in Barunga, Rachel and Wendy, Tony and Gilly have begun to re-establish the work in Manyallalak and recommenced outreach at Wurreben (Edith Falls). *Please pray for this couple as they also are seeking partners who would stand with them in prayer and help with the finances to facilitate the travel needed in this region. VIP! Gilly really needs a miracle for her kidneys to begin functioning again and a complete healing!*



*For a Forgiveness Week Report and a Musch Family Update please read insert. Here is Jah with budding Beswick Camera Men.*

## KNUCKEY'S LAGOON



Doug and Janelle Cantrill Report:  
*Our family has been working with the Indigenous people of Knuckey's Lagoon now for 1 ½ years.*

*Knuckey's Lagoon is a community on the fringe of Darwin that consists of 5 different clans and so to get a cohesive group is challenging however over time we have seen a majority of the community come to church at one point or another. We have recently conducted a week of prayer and fasting which culminated in a march around the community 7 times. The spiritual battle for this community has been intense however we know that the war has been won by Jesus! Jason a Walpiri man recently led worship and fellowship at the gathering at Knuckey's for the first time. It was exciting to see an Aboriginal man take a stand for Jesus and we hope that this leads to others joining him in their ownership of "church" on their community.*

*As for ourselves, Doug completed his teacher qualification and is now working as a teacher at a local High School. Janelle has taken on the Youth Pastorate at a Casuarina Uniting Church where she has seen much growth in the numbers of both the pre-teen and high school groups. They have been having new Christian Bible study and hope to baptise many in the New Year. We firmly believe in each person having their part to play in the Body of Christ and that is why we encourage the youth to take the main church service once every two months. Our own children are actively involved in worship at Knuckey's Lagoon and there is a real blessing to our family in our "Going into the World and making disciples for the Lord".*

### Mark Kinbacher (IMLA Board Member)



*I have not long returned from Port Moresby after having a very fruitful time at the youth camp in Tuberseria. The key theme of the camp was*

*Jeremiah 1:10 and we had about 500 young people in attendance.*

*It was amazing to be a part of the work of the Holy Spirit speaking to this young generation of sons of God and challenging them with the demands of the Kingdom and responsibility of discipleship. The ministry team gave the best that they had to give to these young people and hopefully we will see the best fruit come out of it.*

Since this report Mark has played the major role in supporting Wayne Stafford in planning and promoting the Yarrabah "Healing Land" meetings. He has also returned to PNG as a guest speaker at a youth mission's conference attended by up to 2,000 people in the Sepik area. Young people are on fire and being equipped for World Missions and many have a burden for and begun to sow sacrificially into Australian Aboriginal work. *Pray that this growing partnership with PNG bears fruit in effective missionaries partnering with us in the outback as our need for skilled workers is huge.*

### ARNHEMLAND UPDATE

Another Whole Community Comes to Christ  
Carl Reports:

Before I get to that some of you may remember the report we gave of Manmoyi – an outstation



in Arnhemland – Northern Territory, 100% receiving Christ in February. Well the devil hasn't just rolled over and stuck his toes in the air. There have

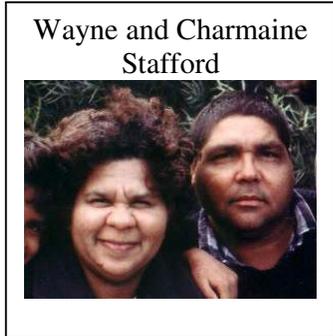
been many challenges, among them; sly grog runners (illegal car boot travelling alcohol sales people). My own car was thoroughly searched by 6 police who didn't know me and thought I must be up to no good.

God has gifted a number of Manmoyi men particularly in the area of music. Sober musicians who practice every day (playing in the open air Christian Fellowship meetings) are a very attractive commodity to the Darwin based music promoters looking to supply the indigenous rock band circuit. This scene is one that puts a lot of pressure on young men to leave their outstations (disrupting any community development progress) but also puts them under the influence of an industry that is soaked in alcohol, drugs and immorality. Despite the opportunity to be a great light in a dark place this is not the kind of pressure they need just yet. Never the less since February I have baptised 20 more adults – many of whom have moved to Manmoyi because of its reputation as a good place to follow JESUS! The hunger for Jesus has come with a desire to give their community a future. Locals are planning a Bush Foods industry and on my last visit almost every house had a family art project. One of the families recently sold a family collaboration I had seen them working on for \$1500 to an art gallery. *We want to help them in their community enterprise development too as a part of biblical discipleship – to lead a productive life – providing for their families.*

We are sorry that we can't bring you any pictures of these developments as the photos of the baptisms were put on our laptop – which then died taking all the photos with it ( to wherever dead laptop hard drives go when they die) and then the next trip I took photo's on my mobile phone – which also died.

### WHOLE COMMUNITY cont.

On my last visit an old man – Peter from Gamarragowan – who had recommitted his life to Christ with the men of Manmoyi in February sent word that he wanted me to come to his outstation. I loaded the old cruiser with about 10 people and myself and set off along the track. We got to the river and I'm told I've got to drive across the top of the waterfall – about 150 m wide – I let one of the locals drive – it was both "hairy" and beautiful, but we made it.



Peter had the whole community gathered on a verandah (only 4 homes with 7-10 people in each.) He and his fellow elders informed me that Manmoyi wasn't the only outstation that wanted to follow Jesus – they did too! He wanted all of his children and nieces and nephews and grand children assembled there to know the Lord. This was only a day before I had to be on a plane back in Darwin so it was one more meeting and then pedal to the metal ( That still isn't very fast in an old 1984 diesel cruiser). Only 2 young people at Gamarragowan could read so I left them a bible and instructions to gather every night (they have no TV – praise God) and for these two to read to their family 2 pages of the New Testament every night – and they would be finished in a year. *I plan to see them in early December and the Manmoyi mob so please intercede for them.* I believe that these outstations are the seeds of a new sustainable revival movement that will sweep many into Christ's Kingdom.

### HEALING LAND AND SPIRIT SEMINAR –YARRABAH COMMUNITY

Wayne (Ernest) and Sharmaine Stafford – IMLA associates in the Yarrabah community were invited as guest speakers to a healing the land conference in Perth where God impressed on them to put the principles in action in their own community. The event drew speakers including Former Anglican Aboriginal Bishop – Arthur Malcolm and his wife Colleen, current Bishop,



Jim Leftwich, John Blacket (Author of Fire in the Outback – The testimony of Elcho Island and Warburton Ranges revival), Walo Ani from PNG an international community transformation movement leader, IMLA 's Tony Rodgers, Carl Musch, Ed Brinkman and Henry Leifu of "The Rock" Church Cairns .

There was ground breaking participation by local elders and representatives of the 2 largest and overall 7 of the 26 tribes represented in Yarrabah with a hunger and growing hope that community divisions could be healed by the Lord so that the whole community could move forward. Each session strangely seemed to have a different crowd with support coming from Innisfail, Jumbin, Mt Garnet, Atherton, Mareeba, Gordonvale and Cairns.

Anglican Bishop, Jim Leftwich concluded the 3 days of ministry with a moving communion and foot washing ceremony where ministers from all denominations humbled themselves and washed the feet of those gathered. "Humility" is a key part of God's 2 Chronicles 7:14 formula to experience healing of the land.

Having worked with Ernest (Wayne) over the past 14 years I must say that I was blessed at the quality of leadership he demonstrated in this event. *He believes that this was only the beginning of what God wants to do in healing the land of Yarrabah and is already committed to taking it further with another gathering in March. Ernest has already begun to work towards a greater level of participation by traditional owners, community and church leaders.*

Thanks to Abundant Life Church-Mareeba for making their tent available and Justin and Jeff in particular for helping to put it up.

### LITERACY UPDATE

*For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, ...Hebrews 4:12..*

Everywhere we go we take the "sword" in many forms eg. Books, audio bible etc, however a repeated cry we hear in the communities is "help me to read please!"

Shauna, Jah and Gail have all worked with Meryl (pictured) who is working with MAF to help improve his literacy skills so that he can become a pilot. The men of Mossman Gorge especially have asked for literacy classes and we have an excellent "4S" programme which is highly successful. We just don't have the "people power" necessary at the moment WE NEED YOU! *Please pray about your involvement in this essential ministry.*

## IMLA BASE

As you can see from the photo we still have work to do on the home before we can operate efficiently and qualify for a workplace. Some volunteers will arrive in Jan to do some more work. *However we still need more skilled labourers, tradespeople and finance for materials to complete the project.*



Since its completion, the back covered area has been used as a meeting place, work centre (YEH! out of the sun and rain!), vehicle repair area and storage. It has really changed our lives – Thank you to everyone who contributed to its existence.

## YOUTH MINISTRY / INTERNS

We thank God for all the young people that have come this year to learn/minister and be equipped for the ministry. Jahshua, Tory, Daniel and Shauna have all been very involved in the ministry, going to many various communities and have gained valuable skills. Tory has taken the Multi Media skills learnt here to bless ministries in SE Qld. Daniel brought his many skills to help us tremendously with the DVD production and essential distribution to those remote communities that need encouragement but don't get any regular fellowship.



Tony Rodgers sharing the Word Of God with interns & visitors at morning devotions and prayer meeting held at IMLA covered area.

Daniel reports

*“ Sitting in church you always sing songs about being “sent to the nations”. I'm so privileged to say that since moving only 2000km from home, God has taken me for such a ride and broken and rebuilt me. He has also given me a new awareness of the call of God, here in our own backyard, to the nations within Australia. God is doing serious work through IMLA and I'm glad to be a part of it.”*



Jahshua has, in a joint venture with the Mossman Youth Drop In Centre, built relationships with many young men which he hopes to develop into a young men's discipleship group.

Jahshua reports *“ I have a desire to be a pastor and I want to disciple young men to disciple others and so on. My training here with IMLA is certainly helping me see this calling coming to pass.”*

Shauna had a busy 6 months doing literacy work and built meaningful relationships with the women of Mossman. These are some of the ladies praying for her at Mossman Church. *Please pray that she will use the skills learnt here in Australia and continue to reach out and be effective among Indigenous people in the US.*



## Prayer Points

*For Janice Walker and the Mossman Gorge Community Church- for community people to rise up and to stand for Jesus Christ.*

*For Jahshua and Daniel to be successful in discipling young men both in Mossman and Mareeba and for their ministry to go to the next level.*

*For the Lord's Will to be done through IMLA, the team and associated works throughout Australia (especially in the communities) in 2007.*

## NEWS FLASH! Donations to both Carl and Gail Musch and IMLA can be TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

Through our affiliation with an international development and aid agency —we are able to provide Tax Deductible receipts to businesses and individuals for financial donations as well as goods and services.! Please advise us specifically if you want to use this facility.

**Banking Details: For general giving Westpac IMLA BSB: 034197 Acc # 149786**

**For building Funds ; Westpac IMLA BSB: 034197 Acc # 149778 or send cheques to address on the front page. Please email , write, or phone if you have any specific designation for your gift or you wish to support an IMLA network worker.**



< Indigenous Ministry Links Australia is in association with >

