

Darwin Presbyterian News

27th Edition

22nd February 2011

Rob & Jeanette Duncanson, rob@darwinpresbyterian.org.au, 53 Glencoe Cres, Tiwi NT 0810, ph 08 8945 7878; 0413 021 716

Dear Friends,

After an extremely hectic latter part of 2010, we were very pleased to wave it goodbye and drop over the line into 2011.

This year started with us going down to Melbourne for the wedding of Ben (4th son) and Rachael (4th Daughter in law). This was a great occasion held in the Drouin Presbyterian Church with the service led by our family friend of over 20 years, Martin dePyle. It also marked a change in family balance. For many years we have had 6 blokes and Jeanette (who fitted in as one of the blokes anyway). Now Jeanette has collaborators in 4 daughters in law and one grand-daughter leaving us with 6 females to 5 males! It brings a different and enjoyable (although don't tell them I said that) family dynamic.



Ben and Rachael spent some of their honeymoon time in Cairns where they had the company of TC Yasi. The only significant effect that Yasi had on them was to prolong their holiday for a few days while they waited for flights to resume.

Some of you have enquired about TC Carlos which hit Darwin last week. It was much less ferocious than TC Yasi, but it was also very very slow moving. Its actual formation into a Cyclone was a non-event for us here, as at that time we were within its eye, so things were very calm. Over three days we received around 750mm (30") of rain! We lost one large Palm tree from the roadside and lots of minor tree damage, but around the area there were hundreds of fallen trees. One night Dooze (youngest son) took 35 minutes to travel about 7km. He tried seven blocked roads before he managed to find a road which was only partly blocked but allowed him to pass and get home.

The house also leaked a little, but this was just due to the incessant winds driving rain up the corrugations of the roofing iron and under the capping. We have also had another massive growth spurt of mould after so many days of rain.

We have now had over 2200mm of rain for the Wet Season (1st Oct – 30th Apr). It is looking like we will break all the rainfall records this season.

December / January is usually a high turnover time with some people leaving Darwin and others coming in. This season we have only lost two people, but we have already had quite a number of others come in their place.

Just before Christmas we had our second funeral since we have been here. Stan Weeks was a regular at church who first came into contact with us through letter-box dropping to advertise a Good Friday Service in the Park a few years back. Stan had struggled with cancer for some months before he went Home. We miss his fellowship with us, but are thrilled to know that his fellowship is now with the Lord Jesus Himself.



Murphy on one of the massive African Mahoganies which fell over in a park near us.

The Bees Creek Service continues to go well, and we hope that, God willing, this year it might consolidate and grow.

We have a fairly full programme developing for 2011. Tomorrow (Wednesday 23rd Feb) we have a stand at the Charles Darwin University Orientation Day. We hope to make contacts with students and give out many gospel tracts and Bible literature.

Thanks to you all for your partnership in the Gospel. May God continue to bless each one as you labour for Him.

Rob Duncanson.

www.darwinpresbyterian.org.au

Please pray:

- Give thanks for the Bees Creek service which has been going for 6 months now. Pray that we will grow and be an effective witness within that area.
- That our enthusiasm will not wane over time.
- That other Christians who do not have a church home would come and join us.
- That we would be effective in reaching out to those who do not yet know the Lord Jesus, especially at the CDU O-Day. Pray for ongoing fruit as people read the material which was handed out.
- Pray that we will be able to work out ways to get the Bible translated into local languages in Timor and be able to do it quickly.