

Darwin Presbyterian News

28th Edition

15th July 2011

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Dear Friends,

The Wet Season certainly lived up to its name this year. We didn't have as many of the magnificent thunder storms we usually enjoy, but it just rained and rained and rained. We had over 3100mm for the season. Unlike other parts of the country we were not troubled by massive flooding. Our part of the world is designed to soak it all up. By contrast, when the Dry arrived, the taps were immediately turned off and we have enjoyed beautiful clear and fine days with some very cold nights (down to about 8°C in the rural area).

In the middle of June we had our second annual church camp at Riyala campsite which is about 40km south of Darwin. Stuart Bonnington, the pastor of the Fremantle Presbyterian Church and Superintendent of the Presbyterian Inland Mission was our guest speaker. Stuart spoke on the parts of the Apostle's Creed which relate to the person and work of Christ. The talks were packed full of material but it was served in an easily digestible way that really hit the spot. One of our campers exclaimed that he hadn't been given so much to think about at a camp since he was a teenager.



Stuart Bonnington at Riyala



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One of my tasks over the last few weeks has been to get an updated web page up and running. You can download the talks from the camp there or find all sorts of other information on current DPC events. (including this newsletter!) The web address is at the bottom of this page.

The last Newsletter was just before the Uni's O-Day. We gave away loads of gospel material at our stand, and we have one person who has become a part of the church family. Josephine comes to us from the Congo but spent 10 years in a refugee camp in Benin before coming to Australia. She has a well-worn French Bible and an amazing story to tell!

The major event of the year for Jeanette and I personally has been her diagnosis with Endometrial Cancer. As you can imagine, this came as a fair shock to us, but the Lord has been very good and has taught us many things as we have travelled this path. On hearing the diagnosis some people sympathised with us being so far away at a time like this. Our experience however has been quite the opposite. Instead of being "far away" we experienced the wonderful love of our church family here in Darwin and also in Perth when we travelled there for Jeanette's surgery. Even people who we have never met before provided us with assistance and meals while we were away. The Lord's family is a wonderful blessing! "If I travel to the far side of the (Continent), even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast" Psalm 139.

The surgery appears to have been very successful, and while the specialists will keep an eye on her over the next couple of years, there is every indication that this ordeal has been dealt with. Jeanette is feeling well, but because she feels well, she does too much, and then gets exhausted very quickly. As time goes on however, this tiredness is noticeably abating.

If you would like to read more about Jeanette's dealing with cancer, then you are welcome to read the blog: <http://jrdunc.wordpress.com>.

The Timorese church continues to be an encouragement. Robert Benn, Kevin Murray and I had an unplanned trip there in early June to help them with some issues they were facing. We were refreshed by seeing their growth in the gospel which was demonstrated by a growing enthusiasm to serve the Lord together and to reach out to their neighbours with the news of salvation. I anticipate travelling to Timor Leste again in November for a teaching week.

Thanks to you all for your partnership in the Gospel. Especially to those who have supported us in prayer during our time here in Darwin. May God continue to bless each one as you labour for Him.

Rob Duncanson.

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Please pray:

- Give thanks for the blessings of the 2011 church camp, and pray for the planning of the 2012 one.
- 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.
- Pray for the Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Timor Leste – especially as they move towards their first Synod meeting in the next few months.