

Southern Cross Ministries

Jan/Feb
2011

NEWMAN FAMILY MISSION

Queensland's Devastating Storms

The recent floods have brought loss of life and incredible destruction. At least twenty are dead, others are missing, and many thousands are homeless.

There are many grieving families who have lost loved ones as well as homes and businesses.

In Toowoomba, six feet of water ran through the streets in an incredible flash flood bringing death and destruction. For a few days the city was cut off by roads that were impassible and east of Toowoomba in the valleys, the destruction was far greater with entire communities destroyed. Rebuilding will take years and cost many billions of dollars.

Cyclone Yasi added an additional burden on Queensland. We were completely out of the path of the storm which caused billions of dollars of damage in the north of the state.



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Jim, Becky, and Andrew Return to Australia

Jim, Becky, and Andrew arrived safely back in Australia on January 15th. During our time away we were able to update ten congregations on the work, help present a workshop at the National Missionary Convention on church planting in Australia, and travel to Grenada to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the congregation.

While in the USA, we were able to spend some much appreciated time with family and friends.

Our house was spared any water damage in the recent floods. We did get some water in the shed which is of some concern because the library books are stored there. Though we won't know until we unpack all the boxes, it appears that the water damage has been minimal.

Becky returned to work at her school and after a week of staff meetings and preparation, the children arrive to begin their school year on January

24. Becky will be teaching grades 2 and 3 full-time this year.

Andrew's year at college will not begin until around the first of March. In the meantime, he is working to earn money for the school year.

We are pleased that Roger and Janet Epley, from the Hillsboro, OH Church of Christ joined us from Jan. 21 - Feb. 3. Roger is an elder at the congregation in Hillsboro.

While they were here Roger taught/preached and Janet shared with the ladies. We were greatly encouraged by our time with Roger and Janet.





The Church in Grenada

It was encouraging to spend time with the Grenadian Christians celebrating the 25th anniversary of the planting of the church. The church in Grenada started with Hank and Pat Davis, Jim, Becky, and Daniel Newman in September of 1986. We met first in an apartment and then in a house until a church building was constructed in 1990.



Many people assisted with the work in Grenada through the years, but special attention needs to be given to Louis and Patsy Hall who joined the work in the early 1990's and continue to make teaching trips to Grenada to this day. The church might not have survived without their efforts.



Mike and Dadra Smith lived in Grenada and were effective full-time workers in the early 1990's making an enormous difference in the lives of many. Tim and Sandy Stamper made numerous trips to teach and preach. Additionally, literally hundreds of men, women, and kids from churches across the USA came on short-term trips at least one time and in many cases numerous times.



While in Grenada, we witnessed the birth of a new brother when Nick was baptized into Christ. We also were a part of the ordination service for a new evangelist and a deacon. Though there will continue to be challenges to the church, a faithful congregation exists in Grenada. Previous to 1986, there were no independent Churches of Christ/Christian Churches in Grenada. We thank God for our Grenadian brothers and sisters and pray that the congregation will be effective in reaching those who are lost across the island.

Building Progress

We are happy to announce that the new building which will house the library and office is now under roof. One of our church members is a network specialist and is running phone and data cables for us. The electrician is scheduled to begin his work the week of February 6. The next steps will be to get the building insulated and drywall hung. Following this, flooring will be laid, a heating/air conditioning system will be installed, and bookshelves and other furniture will complete the building.

The building project has been a long time coming, but now we are well underway. The office/library will be a great help to the work. It is our hope to see the building complete and in use in the next few months.



News from Daniel and Samantha

A lot has happened in the past few months. Samantha and I had the wonderful opportunity to move into a new home. God has blessed us with a place to live that seems a more permanent home for us than the small apartment we had been renting. Having a place to live that is comfortable has really been a great uplift to our spirits and we go into 2011 with refreshment.

Unfortunately all that has been happening has not been good. Over the past few weeks many people in Queensland have lost their homes, family members, and friends in the floods. One of the girls in our church group was stuck at her workplace for several days because they were flooded in on all sides. That area sustained heavy losses of both people and property. Many people are downcast and others are in shock as to what has happened to them. Please pray earnestly for the people of this region. Pray also that ways to help will present themselves so that we could show the glory of God through our caring of people.



***Pittsworth House Church Meeting
in Daniel and Samantha's House***

In the upcoming months we will be starting the Truth Project in our house. I led the other two house groups through a study of the Truth Project previously and now I have the opportunity to do this again in our own house group. Please pray for this as I believe it could be a wonderful series of lessons and I hope it will be beneficial for everyone who is able to attend.

Samantha is working at the Tea Centre currently and enjoying it for the most part, but they have cut the number of hours she works. Samantha is hoping to start teaching piano in the coming months. Pray that this goes well for her as it is something that she thinks she would like to do long term and would be another way to meet people and reach out in the community.

Southern Cross Bible Institute

SCBI will resume classes in the coming weeks. We are still working on our overseas teachers for 2011 and 2012. Jim will conduct the first class of 2011. Last year was our first full year of classes with over 100 people attending a least part of one of the seminars. We hope to see similar numbers this year.

One of the most important developments in the life of SCBI is the construction of the new building. This will allow us to display all the books and other materials as we organize the library. The job of cataloging the books will be a major undertaking and will probably consume much of our time in the second quarter of this year. Please continue to pray for the Southern Cross Bible Institute as we endeavor to train workers for the Lord and his church in Australia.



Roger shared a study with Jim and the elders



Due to flood damage many rural roads remained closed



Roger helps mow; a big job after all the recent rainfall



Road repairs will continue for many months

Eastern Downs Church of Christ

The church continues to contend with illness and health issues. One of our members has melanoma which has now spread into his pancreas. He has spent a number of days in the hospital recently. Another of our members will complete her radiation treatments for breast cancer in mid-February. In early February, one of our older ladies fell and broke her hip. She had surgery to repair the hip bone and will require a lot of physical therapy. The same week an eight year old boy in the church fell and broke his elbow requiring surgery to repair.

On a brighter note, we have had a number of new faces in our assemblies. Some of the visitors are immersed believers who have moved into the area from elsewhere, others have previously been involved in churches, but are no longer associated with any church. We continue to work to make contacts as we are able so that we might share Christ with others.

The Sunday morning group in Westbrook will resume their study of 1 Peter on Feb. 13, while the Hodgson Vale group completes a study of Discipleship, and the Pittsworth group finishes their study of Genesis.

Prayer Requests and Praise

1. Improved health for church members who are sick or injured
2. Speedy completion of the new office/library
3. Quick recovery for those who have been harmed by recent storms
4. Continued growth in the local church and in the Bible institute
5. Health and strength for the Newman family
6. Adequate finances in the face of a very strong Australian dollar
7. Thank God for the growing and maturing church in Grenada
8. Thanks for the encouragement of Roger and Janet Epley
9. Thanks to all those who made our trip to the USA so enjoyable
10. Thanks to our newest supporting church: Capri Christian in Naples, FL

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