This is MORE than a newsletter. This is an URGENT plea for your INTERCESSION on our behalf! *Carl Musch from Indigenous Ministry Links Australia writes;*

Dear Friends, *08/09/10*

You may or may not be aware that some terrible deceptions have been unleashed among Aboriginal Christians and this has spread across the country. Statements such as "The Dreamtime is the same as the Bible" and "The Rainbow Serpent is the same as the Holy Spirit" are heard in some churches and bible colleges. The origin of these doctrines lies not solely with Aboriginal people but non Aboriginal theologians who have sought to make Christianity more acceptable to Aboriginal people.

Sadly, the results are visibly two fold.

#1 Ministers preaching and believing this stuff are unable to maintain or grow ministries/churches and are quite impotent in evangelism (if evangelism means long term changed lives). The same ministers usually tire of laboring in the flesh for human religion and give up on Christianity altogether or nearly such.

#2 The second result is that the churches are nearly emptied. Revivals break out but are quickly stifled. If the Bible and Dreamtime are the same then with all the cultural pressures to conform and participate in traditional ceremonies then why bother about Church and the Bible at all? That is the reaction and particularly of men. I have witnessed this over and over again.

Initially this compromise seems like a relief to the minds of some Aboriginal believers, but then it makes Christianity just an irrelevant burden if it has no more power than what they have known before.

I'm afraid that I either have to reject Jesus as a lunatic or accept him as the Lord who declared "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life and none come to the Father except by me" John 14:6. This could equally be the most important ministry time I have embarked on. It is real life and death issue if I read my Bible right – both temporal and eternal life and death.

I really believe that these deceptions are a spiritual root behind the rampant youth suicide rate and hopelessness. Despite millions of dollars being poured into Aboriginal health, people are still dying 10 years younger than non-Indigenous people. Of course there are many natural causes which we must not ignore however these are being addressed to some degree and more still needs to be done. Now the spiritual issues need to be addressed if real and lasting change is going to come.

This weekend I am meeting with a few remote area Aboriginal men who are Christian leaders who want to talk about the bible and culture and particular cultural practices.

- *Please pray for the discussions and studies that God will give us as wisdom and understanding and love for Him more and for each other.*
- *Pray for protection both spiritual and physical.*
- *That God will generally bless this time of ministry and fellowship.*
- *That we will have the courage to apply and declare the truth we discover with boldness and wisdom in love.*
- *That the Aboriginal Church that has been bound by this deception would be set free to walk in blessing and fruitfulness.*

- *Pray for my family – protection and blessing for Gail, Hope and Joy and for other IMLA workers and leaders by name, Tony, Anderson, Janice, Clara, Kim, Mark, Carol, Leon, Noelene, Wayne, Charmaine, Kim, Lance, Donny and their families and ministries and all the many associates as Satan likes to attack through an open back door so let's close it and lock it in prayer.*

Gail, Hope, Kim, Sarah, Mel, Ben and Mareeba Youth at Camp at Easter

Tony Rodgers ministering in Maningrida

Banthula Church Elders at Opening

Thank you for your prayers for the Musch Family and the Indigenous Ministry Links Australia team around Australia and in PNG.

We apologise that we have not kept up with the bi monthly prayer letters since earlier this year. It has been an extremely busy and stressful year and unfortunately we still do not have enough help on field to keep correspondence up to date. Since April so much has happened both good and bad but God has been so faithful throughout. We are commanded to "Enter His gates with thanksgiving in our hearts and enter His courts with Praise" so we praise God for what has happened since April- some of which are listed below;

- the success of the Tony Rodgers and Steve Grace tour of remote NT Aboriginal communities
- Carl and Mark's Literacy Teachers and Missionary Training in PNG
- The Aboriginal Youth Camp at Walsh River with Sarah Weinholtz.
- The official opening, in partnership with Compassion, of the Mossman Gorge Playgroup which is growing and going strong.
- Neil and Julie Spring's ministry visit through remote Arnhem Land with Carl, Tony and Kevin Sigai and opening of the Banthula Church Building.
- The help we received from Sine from the Omega Missions Network in PNG (a growing mission's partnership) with our vehicles and Colin from Melbourne with helping fix our visitor accommodation (caravan) and with the IMLA base renovations (yes they still are going and we still need help please).

STOP PRESS – Tony Rodgers and Kim Green announced their engagement and will be married on Oct 2nd at Mossman Gorge Community Church with Pastor John Andy and Carl conducting the ceremony. Please pray for the happy couple.

Thank you for your continuing support
Banking Details: Westpac IMLA BSB: 034197 Acc # 149786
or send cheques to IMLA address. Please email , write, or phone if you <u>need a tax receipt</u> ,have any specific designation for your gift or you wish to support an IMLA network minister.
NB: Clive and Linda Weir are no longer with Indigenous Ministry Links Australia.