

17 Princeton Street
KENMORE 4069
30th November 2020

Dear Christian Friends,

I do want to thank you all again for your continued interest and support. I know that this is expressed in so many ways. Its been a difficult year for all of us but I'm sure that our thoughts and prayers have been with each other and again we are reminded that our God is the same yesterday, today and forever. Like many of you I wasn't able to get out in recent months however, as we came to the second half of the year I was able to move around a bit here in Brisbane and to get more involved with some of the events that needed to be attended to.

For some time I've been very interested in Seminars and to be able to help people understand our issues, look at the past and see how we can be more effective in the future. I do want to say that there have been at least three or four gatherings (seminars) and they were well attended even though we were only allowed to have a small number, and their interest was very encouraging. For so many it was the first time they had heard issues relating to aboriginal people, including our ministries and also for the first time some had never met an Aboriginal person and they were very interested to learn more and to come on the journey with us. Lord willing we may be able to continue these kind of events in the New Year. Of course like many of you I too have not been able to travel anywhere, however there has been enough work to keep me busy. I am grateful too for the support that's been given by a number of folks especially in the area of food for so many of our families do not live near shops and do not have vehicles. On behalf of them I want to say a big thankyou.

Right now I am very busy getting ready for some of our Christmas events like having a luncheon for them, not on Christmas Day but leading up to Christmas. Brisbane is a growing city and we need to cater for so many. I think there should be 7 events altogether although we are not able to have them all this Christmas – some will be held in January. After conversations with them, they are quite happy for this to take place. January is always a very difficult month for most of our folks so with us coming together in January it will help to meet their needs. At the end of January we plan to have more Church Services in most of the cities and hopefully the bigger towns. Soon after Christmas I hope I'm able to have a brief break and catch up on some sleep.

I'm planning to go down to Fingal which is just over the border – I'm very anxious to visit our Aboriginal Church at Fingal Point and meet up with some of the folks there. In years gone by it was one of our thriving churches in this country and they did so much, not only to support their own ministries but others around our Nation. I've learnt so much through that Church but sad to say today most of them are not with us but have gone home to glory. One of the leaders in the Church today worked with me here for some time in Brisbane. She and her husband have been very much involved in the Church in recent years. Sad to say her husband passed away recently. I was not able to attend the funeral but she is quite happy to have me down there for a visit very soon.

I also plan to visit Glennie and Kevin at Coffs Harbour – Kevin has been very ill and I would ask for your prayers for both him and Glennie at this time. Glennie continues to do her art work and I have been able to help her with the sale of her items. For well over 30 years they have been faithful in Christian Ministries, especially with young people as well as being very supportive of other Christian ministries both prayerfully and financially.

My friends Charles and Anne Green have retired to Coffs Harbour too and they are also waiting for a visit from me. Charles and Anne were also involved in one of the schools in Melbourne for almost 20 years – they too have been very supportive of Aboriginal ministries.

As well as our Christmas activities I will also be able to help some of the families with Christmas vouchers and am grateful to the people, especially some of the churches, for supporting us in this way.

Before I close this letter I just want to inform you all that the Rev Allan Moore from St Andrews Church South Brisbane retired in September. He was the Rector there for 28 years and during that time I was able to have three of my big events every year – that was the Soup Night, the Dinner in August and my Christmas Café in December. It all began in a very small way but it soon grew into something very well known and supported here in Brisbane. So any people from various denominations attended, and as people gave on those evenings and with the auctions that were held, we have been able to support so many of our ministries. The Rev Allan Moore was a tremendous supporter of myself and our Aboriginal Ministries as well as all the young people in the Church. Previous to Allan was the Rev John Arnold and I believe that Church has stood out in this Nation with its relationship with Aboriginal people.

I trust you all will have a blessed Christmas and God's blessing upon each one in the coming New Year. Hopefully I'll get another letter out in January.

My grateful thanks to you all again,
Christian love,

Jean.