

The Small Group \$100 Challenge

In July this year our Church embarked on the Small Group \$100 challenge. Each small group was given \$100 and asked to prayerfully consider where God wanted them to use the money. The objective was to demonstrate the love of God to our community in very practical ways. There have been so many wonderful reports from this challenge. We cannot mention them all in detail but would like to say thank you to all who took a step of faith and really threw themselves into the challenge.

Brad Seagrott's men's group took the challenge and decided to help the Grandez family from Churchill. Sadly, Mr Sam Grandez passed away in a tragic car accident shortly after our challenge was issued. There were some amazing connections between our Church and this family which we weren't aware of when we committed to this family but they soon became apparent.

Mr Grandez worked for Boeing and was known by some of our Church members. He was involved in a local Soccer Club where Ps Paul was a committee member, and his son Jonathan was in the same school soccer team as Ben McCulloch. We felt very strongly as a group that God was directing us to this family.

Our main objective as a group was to try and provide something that would show we cared as a Church and would help them to try and find some time to focus on



Jonathan and Karen Grandez at Suncorp Stadium, watching Queensland Roar

other things. We knew this would be a difficult time for his wife Enith and children Karen, Jessica and Jonathan. Ps Paul was able to organise some tickets to a Qld Roar game which included a special invitation to meet some of the players after the match. "It was fantastic to see

Jono's excitement at the game and especially meeting the players. He was talking about the night constantly on the train ride home" Ps Paul said.

As great as the night was, we still wanted to do more. Karen, the eldest daughter, would be a key support for her mum but was working at the Gold Coast and without a car, had to rely on others to get home on her days off. We decided to find a reliable car that we could give to Karen until she could afford something better. After some months of chasing a vehicle and paperwork we were able to present Karen her vehicle. (Thanks to Bill and Coralie Steele and Scott Ball for your help.) We have also committed our ongoing support to the family with practical things around the house.

It's amazing how a simple challenge has motivated our Small Group. Our initial \$100 grew to a value of \$1200. We took a step of faith and God used it to bless a family He cares about very deeply. Enith sometimes attends our services and Elise's small group, and Jonathan has been attending Youth since the project. Our prayer is that they would experience God's presence and comfort in their life. We are very happy that our small group was able to be God's hands and feet in this situation. I guess it's just a shame it took \$100 to get us to take some action.



Karen Grandez, Enith Grandez and Ps Paul with Karen's "new"

Other great \$100 projects:

- ★ \$350 given to Ipswich Hospice for Special Blankets and Blood Pressure meters – Brassall Small Group led by Graeme and Sonia Bull.
- ★ A Birthday Party given to a 2 year old girl in Ipswich Hospital with the rare Mitochondria Syndrome - Small Group led by Dianne Bird.
- ★ An elderly couple's kitchen painted – Small Group led by Roger Roberts
- ★ \$430 purchased clothes, bottles, nappies, stroller etc for a single mum who had just moved into emergency housing – Small Group led by Mick and Carol Hann
- ★ \$300 and a day at Dreamworld for a Dad and his 5 children. Their mum was in Ipswich Hospice but sadly passed away just before they went to Dreamworld – Small Group led by Peter and Sharon McInnes and some Young Adult groups.

Keep those reports coming in!!!

Operation Happy Easter

Earlier this year two of our congregation were involved in a special project called Operation Happy Easter. The project was the initiative of 96.5 with the objective of bringing some Easter cheer to children who had been affected by the devastation caused by Cyclone Larry in North Queensland. Billy Diehm and his son Harrison made the trek to



Innisfail to help deliver the precious cargo of \$35,000 worth of Easter Eggs. Well done Billy and Harrison for modelling our culture of giving in a very practical way!