

The

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CYCLONE SEASON

Psalm 44: verses 5-6

“Through thee will we push down our enemies, through thy name will we tread them under that rise up against us. For I will not trust in my bow, neither shall my sword save me.”



We cannot imagine that there were many people in the Mackay Region, on Saturday evening 20th March, who did not look to God in prayer and ask for His protection. The cyclone that had formed east of the Queensland Coast had been officially named ‘Ului’, and was headed directly for our region as if drawn by a magnet.

‘Ului’ was a big cyclone by all standards, and travelling quite fast – at one stage 32 kilometres per hour; with wind speeds close to 200 kilometres per hour recorded in some areas. The Weather Bureau had predicted that it would cross the coast between Ayr and St Lawrence, and this proved accurate. By Friday, it was clear that the area between Bowen and Mackay would be affected, and on Saturday, all the final precautions were taken. On Saturday night, ‘Ului’ officially crossed the coast in the Airlie Beach /Proserpine area, although many believe it was a little further south. The Eye (centre) of the cyclone was some 100 kilometres across, so it was hard to pinpoint. In the darkness of Saturday night it was difficult to know the extent of what was going on, but as Sunday morning arrived, the day revealed an amazing scene.

In the Mackay area, over 50,000 homes were without power. This situation was not able to be rectified for many days in some cases, due to damage to powerlines and other electricity infrastructure, caused by fallen trees and branches. Prayers were indeed answered as there were very few injuries reported, although many sustained minor structural problems and water damage to property. Dangerous situations were everywhere, with fallen powerlines causing problems. Instructions were issued, via the media, to stay off the roads, so members were obliged to obey these instructions and not attempt the trip to Church on that day.

The following is an extract from the Apostle’s Sermon the next Sunday, Psalm 44: 5-6 :

“As we came out of this cyclone, no doubt with thanksgiving in our hearts which we offered unto the Almighty God, if we have looked around and seen the creation of God, we would have realised how Christ’s words are so true and how we should link ourselves only to His words. He related unto the people to consider the birds that can fly, they do not work as we work. Consider the lillies how they grow, they do not toil, and yet God looks after them and feeds them. Within a day of this cyclone if we were observant we would have seen all the birds still flying, all the butterflies, all the dragonflies, all the plants responding, showing that Christ’s words are true, and we should therefore take a lesson from that, and learn to know more of His words and His promises, and measure our life accordingly to that.”

We thank God for His protection and care, as well as all the members, both in Australia and overseas, for their prayers and support.