

## *News From The Homefront*

### Cyclone –

While living in Port Hedland, we had several warnings of dangerous cyclones coming. We stocked up on water and pantry food. All that we ended up getting was strong rains. After we moved to Geraldton, we didn't think anymore about cyclones as they rarely hit this far south on the continent. We did get an email from our property manager that a cyclone might hit, but there was little in the news about it. However, on a late Sunday afternoon, the severe winds and rains hit. It lasted about forty minutes and was so loud that we could barely hear each other talking. Then suddenly, it stopped with just a few drops of rain. It felt somewhat eerie hearing how loud it was for a time and then silence. Also adding to the silence was that the electricity went off.

We keep extra water on hand, but we still had water available. However, we eat mostly fresh food and had not stocked up on canned goods. We had some things in our refrigerator and used that Sunday and Monday night before the food went bad. By Tuesday, two grocery stores opened using a generator. It was a cash only system as the credit/debit card machines didn't work. Frank was blessed in that he uses cash and still had some. However, many people had no way to get any money as the ATM machines and banks were closed.

The hardest part for us is we had a portable modem that didn't work all that well and we aren't sure what emails and texts went or came through. Also, our phones and the modem and a small electric lantern had to be charged daily and Frank used his scooter. It charged things faster than our vehicle and used less fuel, but with several things charging at a slower rate than electricity, it took half of his day charging things.

The cyclone hit land about an hour and a half drive north of us, and several towns were devastated. As far as we know, they still do not have power. We are praying that the clean-up will get accomplished soon and people can get back into their homes.

### Perth and Covid –

We needed to go to Perth to tend to some medical tests and saw a specialist for my illness. As there is only one small Target in Geraldton for shopping, we decided to see what we could find at the Joondalup Shopping Centre. The next day, we arrived home and turned on the TV news to hear that Perth had several cases of Covid show up and the city was locking down for at least 3 days. It started with a man who served his fourteen days in quarantine and was cleared to go. But then after he left, he found out that he had caught Covid from someone at the motel where he was staying. They listed all the places in Perth and surrounding areas where he went, and then where the two others had been that caught Covid from him. Frank said it was chasing us as one of them was at the area where we had dinner with friends. Then we think we barely missed being in contact with one of them who was at the same mall we went to. They have apps and sign-in sheets here that track where everyone is. It amazes us how they shut the whole city down over three cases, and now over 49,000 people have been tested and there are no more cases so far. Our Premier (Governor) takes it seriously and closed our state border to other states for months in 2020. Now, the other states have closed their borders to us. Covid is not funny, but we get smile at the politics of it all.

### Mice Abode –

As we were cleaning for our rental house inspection, I decided to wipe out some kitchen cupboards. Then I opened the bottom drawer of the oven. We never use it, but to me everything needs wiped out now and then. Lo and behold, it was immediately obvious that it was a place where the mice had been hiding. We gave it a good cleaning and Frank looked for holes but could not find any to plug. We still aren't sure where they are getting in. At least we know one main place they have made their home. Therefore, it now feels like the game, "Hide and Seek." 😊

A friend in Christ, Cyd James