

## Minister's Message – February 2011

### Floods, Fires

**'Floods Easing.** August 2. The Weather Bureau predicted last night that the rains which have engulfed south eastern Australia over the last two months have finally eased. The Bureau believes that the heavy rain depression bringing havoc to large parts of New South Wales and Victoria has now broken up'.

**'Bushfire Menaces Sydney Suburbs.** November 4. A severe bushfire is continuing to burn north of Sydney ... with flames reaching up to 30 feet in height. At least another 30 small grass and bushfires were attended in other parts of Sydney'.

These two headlines were taken from newspapers in 1952. I remember my grandmother had a mark on her wall where the big flood of 52 came up to. She blamed the atomic bomb for the freak weather – Britain tested its first nuclear bomb in October that year.

Global warming, we were told until recently, greatly threatens to human existence on this planet. After the big freeze in Europe and the USA we no longer hear of global warming but just climate change. Not long ago terrible droughts were predicted but then came the snow and the floods 'of Biblical proportion'. The Queensland floods were on the world news bulletins, until replaced by floods in Brazil which killed hundreds of people, and then floods in Sri Lanka. The floods continue, following a devastating cyclone in Queensland – thankfully without loss of life.

Biblical proportions! The media thought everyone would understand what this meant. Presumably they were thinking of the worldwide flood in which all human life was destroyed, apart from that of Noah and his family. I just bought a children's book and on the first page is written 'The Great Flood'. 'God told Noah to build an ark and collect two of every creature. A great flood was coming. God kept the ark safe until it found dry land. Noah and his family gave thanks to God'.

What a beautiful story. But why did God send the flood, and what happened to all the other people. The earth was corrupt and filled with violence (Genesis 6:11). People were evil continually. God was sorry that he had made human beings. Only Noah found grace in the eyes of God. So in the great flood everyone was drowned apart from Noah and his family – and two or seven of all the animals.

God saves those who seek his grace. God judges the wicked. That is the message of the Biblical flood. If the recent floods were of 'Biblical proportions', remember what that flood was about. You might also remember how Noah gave thanks to God after being saved. You might also remember the promise God gave to Noah and the sign of that promise, namely the rainbow.

*While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, winter and summer, and day and night shall not cease.*

Do not let the messengers of doom deceive you. They deceived many into thinking that we descended from the apes. Into their theory of evolution they try to fit every fossil they find. What about climate change? The jury is still out regarding anthropogenic causes. The facts are not in, but some are trying to fit every drought, fire, cyclone and flood into their theory.

The fact is the earth has cooled in previous ages and has warmed in previous ages. Our parents and their parents before them battled floods, droughts and fires. Many of them acknowledged their dependence upon the Lord, the creator of heaven and earth. They pressed on in faith to build the society in which we now live. Like Noah they walked humbly with God.

*Rev. Dr. Dennis K. Muldoon*