

The Boots

Reporting in after Sunday, 6th February, 2011

It is said that "Man sacrifices his health in order to make money. Then he sacrifices his money to recuperate his health. And then he is so anxious about the future that he doesn't enjoy the present. And as a result he doesn't live in the present or the future! And he lives as if he's never going to die and then he dies having never really lived!"

On Sunday, 6th February, 2011 our family experienced trauma, fire and anxiety like we never have before!

It became very real to us that our times are really in God's Hands and there is absolutely nothing we can do when natural disasters occur except believe that God has us in the palm of His hand! In Him we live and move and have our being.

Fire came rolling across Brookton Highway right onto the property of Angie's sister, Tina, with no warning, and no time to prepare. The grass and trees were burnt, but the house and all who were in it, at the time, were safe.

Even before the Fire Brigade arrived, Don and Angie tried to drive down to the house to see if

Angie's mother was safe, but we were driven back by the smoke and the heat, so then our third born

son Micah, ran down through the fire and smoke to check on Angie's Mum. Our brother-in-law went in search of his son and Angie's sister (Tina) drove right through the fire and smoke to check on her family and home, oblivious of the danger all around her. God is good and she got through safely without hurting anyone in her way!

Alison Dench (Tina's friend, a missionary from Mongolia, home on furlow, had this to say:

"My friend (Tina) picked me up for lunch, on Sunday, and as we headed for her home (Scott Rd, Kelmscott), her son phoned to say that their property was on fire.

Tina flipped on the headlights, jammed down the accelerator, and sped us through thick smoke – the maternal instinct in full expression! We (and 6 other adults) spent the next 4 hours praying, filling up the bathtubs and sinks, shoving wet rags in the house



Everyone on the roof, trying to see where the fire was headed.



Just some of the aftermath of the Feb 6 fires.



The smoke billows past our back verandah.

gutters, and putting out spot fires. Fortunately their trees (some of which were on fire) were no closer than 300 metres to the house, and the embers stayed at a distance – though it ate up the grass within a 100 metres of the home.

Firemen came a few times to see if we could defend the property, and told us that – as the power lines were down and live – we would not be allowed to evacuate.

With the thick smoke and flames, it was difficult to know exactly what was going on, but when **4 helicopters** (3 water bombers and Channel 9) all converged over the house at the same time, we knew we were in the middle of something big.”

From a newsletter our son, Aaron Boots, wrote to the church:

“Closer to home, I heard the story of Micah charging off into the flames and smoke to try and find Mamama (who’s house was surrounded, the whole property ablaze, but was miraculously spared any damage to herself or her home) when no one could reach her on the phone.

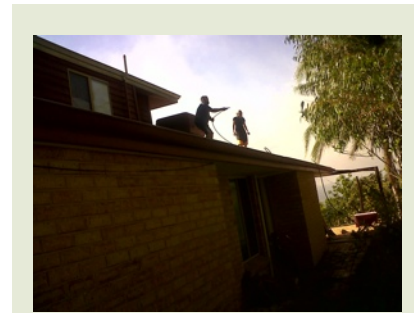
And how Jono and Bj drove to my parents house to help man hoses and wet the house down even as the fire came towards them all. They left the safety of their home and headed into the disco inferno.”

Yes, as they so aptly put it, life suddenly became so fragile! Bec and Angie stood by and watched as Don and Micah disappeared into the flames, not knowing if they were safe, but once we knew they were fine we had another decision to make! Was it time to turn tail and head home to our home (Don & Angie’s) to defend it from the fire coming our way.

For the rest of the day we stood on our roof deciding when to water our property down. A couple of time we thought we needed to evacuate! Half our street left but we decided to stay and defend our home. After a long and restless night we still had strong winds for another forty eight hours and remained on red alert.

We packed our precious belongings in the car, especially all the Wedding (Micah & Bec’s) clothes and Marriage paperwork etc waiting to see what will happen. We are happy to report, we are all well and our homes are intact, which is not true for so many around us. There seem to be no rhyme or reason why some houses stood while the one next door to them was burnt to the ground.

An email Angie wrote to friends while everything was happening:



Wetting the roof down.



Smoke over the hill opposite our home.

“Thank you so much for praying! Keep praying specifically for the wind to stop as fires are still raging over the hill from us. Our home and my sister's home survived but you will see the extensive damage all around when you get here!

At one point we had 5 young people on our roof wetting it down!

Bec and I were standing next to a house when it went up in flames! Now that was quite an experience!

You see it on TV but it's different when it's on your doorstep!

Micah is suffering from smoke inhalation as he ran into the fire to check on my mother before fire fighters got there!

There's hurricanes, floods, land tsunami's, fires, high winds.....in Australia! Earthquakes in New Zealand! Snow and ice in the Northern Hemisphere. The political unrest in the East! And the list goes on and on and on.....We're wondering what this means to us right now.”

This has been a different report than we normally send but this has been a very different month for us on home soil!

On a lighter note, as we are on the homerun to the Wedding on 12th March, life is busy and plans are going well for Micah and Rebecca's Wedding. Please pray with us that it will be a fine, sunny, 25 degree day and all will be well.

There's an ancient proverb that goes something like this: “The miracle is not to fly in the air, or to walk on the water, but to walk on the earth”. So, let us together walk diligently with our God at this very uncertain times, and let us “....pray about EVERYTHING. Tell God what we need, and thank Him for ALL He has done!” (Philippians 4:6, NLT)

Love and blessings,



More of the results



Don and Angelina Boots