



What's in This Newsletter?

Here's a glance into life and ministry in Down Under! Some **stories, updates, and thoughts** from the last couple of months.

The Gym

There I was... at the gym. Yes, the gym. I really don't like going to the gym. But I wanted to try to connect with one of the teens at church, and he is into weightlifting. Many Aussies are. So there I was... at the gym.

And the worst part, he wasn't there. So I began working out. In fact, I was close to finishing when he and his friends walked in. At least, it wasn't all for nought! It turned out to be a good connection. I was able to workout with him and some friends although I was pretty worn out after essentially accomplishing two workouts in a couple hours.

In the follow days, I was able to build a little rapport with one friend in particular. He approached me one day and asked if he could "interview" me. I said, "Sure." He started videoing me on his phone and asked me a couple questions. Then he said, "Do you believe in Jesus?" My reply, "Absolutely."

Then he was done, but the Lord wasn't. I felt that I needed to talk to him after he had opened the opportunity to chat about Christ. So some minutes later, I prayerfully watched as God opened an opportunity for me to pull him aside and ask if he had ever embraced Christ for himself personally. His reply, "Not really...I'm Catholic." Unfortunately, that's a common occurrence here in Australia.

But as I asked the question, it seemed that he had never been asked that question before. I'm thankful for the chance I had to put it to him, and I pray that it will plant a seed. Since then, I haven't had much interaction with him, but I pray for another chance at some point down the road. ***Please pray for opportunity to reconnect with him and see him saved.***

Pinwheels of Opportunity

One day, as I was heading home from the gym, I noticed a house with some very unusual yard decorations. There were tons of airplane pinwheels all over the yard. It was a windy day, and they were all going a mile a minute.

I went and knocked on the door and asked the owner if I could take a picture of them. I found out he was a 90+ year old widower who began making airplanes out of old fan blades--ceiling fans, rotary fans, etc.--when his wife passed away.

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I've met with him a couple times and tried to show Christ's love to him and have left a tract for him. ***Prayerfully, he will have read it, and I will be able to follow up with Mr. Berando again.***

One Open Chair

Once a month, the church hosts a seniors' fellowship, and they are kind enough to let me join if I am at church. They might feel sorry for me since I am living the bachelor life and have to cook for myself, but I think they enjoy having someone young around.

Anyway, in September, I was able to join, and one of the couples there was from a Church of Scotland background. It just so "happened" that the only available seat at the table was next to the wife. While we ate, I was able to talk with Joan and answer some spiritual questions she had. She is not saved because she doesn't see how God would send a good person to hell. I gave her a gospel booklet and pray she will read it. Last I knew, she had not read it and she is pretty obstinate that being a good person will get you into heaven. ***Joan needs prayer for opened eyes to see her sin as God sees it.***

Youth and Young Adults

I've recently been trying to connect more with the youth and young adults of the church. I have found that there is a need to build deeper relationships within the church's young people. People really want someone who will listen to them, and I have had the chance to develop some relationships with others by chatting over coffee or doing something with them. I am grateful to see some steps of growth, and ***I pray for opportunity to have more influence and discipleship opportunities.***

Grand Prix

On Saturday, Oct. 14, our church held its annual Grand Prix outreach event. It was a fun day of racing some pretty fast wooden cars, hitting a top speed of 104 km per hour. I was able to present the gospel. ***Please pray that God will use the seeds planted in the hearts of the visitors and give us continued opportunity to minister to them.***

Going Online

Along with teaching the youth on Sundays and having Friday night youth meetings, I have launched a podcast as another avenue of ministry and outreach for our church's youth and young adults as well as others.

I am also working to develop more gospel/apologetics videos to go online to be used for outreach. With the heavy use of phones and the internet in Australia, I believe this will be an effective way to

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engage the community with the gospel and raise awareness of the church. My prayer is that these online forms of ministry would benefit the listeners as well as connect them to our church for a more in-depth connection.

To check out the website, go to rev411.org (It stands for Revelation 4:11). The podcast Rev411 is on the website, Spotify, and Apple podcasts.

Aussie Insights

In my experience, people in Australia tend to be very pluralistic: “Your beliefs are good for you; mine are good for me. Everything is good.” ***They need prayer that God would open their eyes to the reality of the objective truth, especially the truth found in Jesus Christ.***

Also, Aussies tend to be very independent and even self-sufficient. Along with a laid-back personality and even a skepticism of church organization (sadly this is often because they have had bad church experiences), this tendency affects even believers’ willingness to come to church and to be involved in a formal way. ***An important prayer for church ministry in Australia is that God would help Aussies to realize that they need the edifying element of the church body as well as a place to use their gifts. In addition, I need prayer that God would give me grace in dealing with people, even believers, who have been injured by previous church experiences.***

In the last couple of months, I believe the Lord has been teaching me about prayer and the importance of abiding in Christ. ***I would appreciate your prayers for me in the spiritual battle of abiding in Christ on a daily basis and maintaining a prayerful, positive attitude as I conduct ministry in Bayswater, and as I do, that God will provide me with more contacts or opportunities to share the gospel and see souls saved.***

Looking ahead

In the coming months, we have several events planned for the church. **Family Camp will be Nov. 4-6**, and I would appreciate your prayers for our families to be revived and challenged in their spiritual walks. In December, we have **Christmas events and a special community presentation scheduled, Dec. 15-16**. We need prayer for the preparation of the play and carols event on the 15th and 16th. Prayerfully, many in the community will attend and hear to the gospel.

In Christ,

Joshua Zacharias

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