



What's in This Newsletter?

Fires, Footscray, and Fun Stuff!

Fires: I enjoy a good fire. Recently, I have been able to do ministry fireside! I attended a Friday night **bonfire** in the country to speak at a youth/young adults' activity and then preached at their church the following Sunday.

One aspect of Aussie culture is "hard rubbish." People put unwanted items on the side of the road to be collected by the council (local government). If it's on the nature strip by the road, it's fair game for anyone to take. I found a **fire pit** in good condition one day, and I have been using it to invite people over for fellowship. One couple that I invited over is keenly interested in helping with the church plant. **Please pray for us as we seek God's wisdom in pursuing the church plant.**

In July, I was able to preach a couple times at a combined church young adults' camp. The camp was packed with every bed used and then some! We had six from our church attend. The last night of camp finished around the **fireplace** singing hymns, telling jokes, and having a good time.

Footscray: I've been praying about a location for a church plant and have been visiting an area called **Footscray**. This location is to the west of the city centre of Melbourne with access to thousands and thousands of people in all directions, and there are several factors leading me to the area.

I've been able to make some connections with some people who work in the area: **Long** (a Vietnamese young man who recently moved from Vietnam and knew little about Jesus), **George** (a local coffee seller), **Emily** (a Telstra employee), and others. When Pastor Manny and I visited, we had the opportunity to talk to a Catholic Filipino student named **Avery** studying culinary arts. Praise God that we had the opportunity to share with her the message of John 3 and salvation in Jesus alone and not of works. It was really neat to hear her say, "It's all Jesus." I was glad to hear her say that she had a "born again" friend, and I pray God will use this friend to continue working in her heart. **Please pray for God's direction to the specific location for the church plant.**

Fun Stuff: In ministry, many days are filled with "the norm": helping pastor with maintenance around the church, taking out the rubbish, tract distribution, etc. I don't mind the "mundane" things at all, but it is nice to have a change of pace once in a while.

In June, I was given the chance to preach at the **Senior's fellowship** and enjoyed my time with them. Also in June, we had a **teen conference** with the theme "Work in Progress," and I preached on Colossians 3 regarding the work of putting off the old man and putting on the new. We had a construction theme and encouraged the young people to dress like tradies (construction/road workers, carpenters, plumbers, etc.). They all notably wear "hi-vis" (high visibility clothing).

In July, I spent several weeks in Sydney where I preached at my fiancée's church a couple of times, helped a friend with his church's holiday kids' club (VBS), planned for the church plant, and

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attended another young adults' conference. During this period of time, the Lord gave me an opportunity to talk to **a young man** who was seeking some spiritual guidance. It was a blessing to see his heart tender to the things of God and sincere in desiring to follow Him. I also enjoyed taking some of my fiancée's little cousins to the kids' club. Thankfully, at least one kid from the group I was assigned to went for counselling **for salvation**, and I believe several others did as well.

Just a couple of days ago, I flew to New Zealand to teach an **evangelism seminar** at Victory Baptist Church in Ashburton with Pastor Brett Hoffman, a fellow BIMI missionary. I'm thankful that I was able to see people taking in the messages and taking time that weekend to go out into the community to invite people to church. I'm praying that they will see salvations result from being strengthened and equipped to witness for Christ.

This next month, my goal is to make more preparations for the church plant while attending to some responsibilities at Calvary, although at a reduced load. The last 18 months have given me the opportunity to learn about Aussie culture and make connections. I can see that God is directing things one step at a time, and I am continuing to trust that He will make the next steps known at the right time. I appreciate your prayers, support, and encouragement. Thank you so much!

Your fellow labourer,

Joshua Zacharias

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