

AUGUST 2010

# SOUTHERN CROSS MINISTRIES

## Eastern Downs Church of Christ

Kerry and Mona Allen arrived on August 6 and will be with us until Sept. 1. Kerry has already preached for us and shared in a SCBI class in Charlestown NSW. During the remainder of the trip, Kerry will lead a series of lessons from James, speak at a men's breakfast, preach two more Sundays, and share with church members in their homes. Mona has been battling diabetic retinopathy and they were not sure they would be able to make this trip. We are thankful that they were able to come and we ask that you pray for a fruitful time of ministry and for Mona's continuing concerns with her eye health and vision. This is the fifth time in six years Kerry and Mona have joined us.

Our home church gatherings have seen up to 39 people attend on a Sunday so we continue to experience visitors and growth. We have had attendees from Australia, New Zealand, Romania, and the USA over the past few weeks. Becky has had up to 14 kids (age 8 and under) in her Sunday School class.

Some of our members are facing difficult health problems. One of our ladies (a young mother with five children) had four surgeries for breast cancer in 15 days. The last surgery was a full mastectomy. She will begin chemotherapy soon. Another of our members is in his third week of radiation treatments after being diagnosed with metastatic melanoma. He is getting quite a painful burn from the radiation treatment.

On Friday evenings Jim has been conducting a class on preaching/teaching with the men while the women have a devotional lesson. The men say the class is helping them in their sermon/lesson preparation. The Pittsworth group is about 1/2 way through their study of Genesis. The Sunday night group in Hodgson Vale is studying a class called Discipleship 101 which is designed to help build a personal devotional life. The Westbrook group has been studying Philipians. We will resume these studies in September.



SUNDAY SCHOOL IN HOUSE CHURCH



DANIEL LEADING OUR SINGING



SUNDAY EVENING IN HODGSON VALE

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## News from Daniel and Samantha

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For the past several months Samantha and I have been very busy. As some of you may know, Samantha has been working at Eagle Boys Pizza where she is training for a management position. Samantha has also been selected as the church treasurer and has been busy adjusting to this new responsibility. She has been enjoying something quite incredible the past few months—a Bible study with her youth group in Vero Beach, Florida. She has been able to do this with the use of Skype, a video and voice chat program on the internet. What an amazing day and age we live in where we can live in Australia and still see and speak with people all the way on the other side of the globe.



I am still working at Woolworths and while this has provided contacts with people that I may have never been able to make otherwise, my schedule there is always fluctuating and requires me to mostly work in the evenings. It would be beneficial to us and our work here if my schedule was consistent. Please pray that my FBI background check can be completed soon so that I can submit my paperwork to begin teaching. My background check which has been returned to me twice requesting additional information. The reason for this lengthy delay is that it takes six weeks to ten weeks for processing the form each time, so when you add in two weeks for mail delivery each direction, it consumes a lot of time. Please pray that this will be sorted out soon.

The church in Pittsworth is doing well. I have been sharing the teaching, communion, and musical responsibilities with Peter, one of the elders in the church. Peter and his wife, Jackie, are a huge blessing and help in everything in the church. We also have a Romanian couple who have been meeting with us, as well as their one year old son who brings a smile to everyone in our group. Last Sunday we had the pleasure of having Ross Wissmann with us. Ross is the dean of the International Christian College of Manila. He shared a little about the college in the Philippines, as well as a wonderful message that reminded us to live lives controlled by the Spirit, centered on Christ, and to be concerned about the salvation of others. You cannot get a much more straight forward and essential message than that.

The work here is slow, but things are progressing and we take great joy in that. Samantha and I are very thankful for all the prayers, and support that we know we are receiving from all of you back in the USA. We are truly blessed by you and we thank you very much.

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## Southern Cross Bible Institute

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CLASS IN CHARLESTOWN NEW SOUTH WALES

Kerry Allen taught the book of James at an SCBI sponsored class in Charlesown NSW. Thirty-eight people attended at least some of the sessions. Kerry will be sharing these same lessons in Queensland.

The next SCBI class will be taught by long-time friend, Mike Cassara, minister of the Nesconset, NY Christian Church. His class will be on the topic of evangelism. Mike will be here in October.

We are making plans for a full schedule of SCBI activities for 2011. Jim will teach half the classes and we have invited others to assist us in 2011 and 2012. The goal of SCBI is to train leaders and encourage and strengthen Christians and churches in Australia.

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## News from Jim, Becky, and Andrew

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In July our whole family went to the Sunshine Coast for two nights. It is difficult to work around church activities, Becky and Andrew's school schedules, and Daniel and Samantha's work commitments, so our time away was not long, but it was enjoyable.

Becky has received her full Queensland Teacher Registration Certificate! She has taught the required 200 days and received the necessary recommendation from her principal who assessed her work. Thank you for praying about this need over the past couple of years. Becky has received a contract to teach another term (July-Sept) at the Glenvale Christian School. She has 14 great kids in grades 2-3.

Becky has been able to have a positive influence on the lives of her students and is able to talk to teachers and parents about her faith. We are hoping to see some of her co-workers at upcoming church events.

Besides working with the church, Jim has been selected again this year to serve on the steering committee for the Darling Downs Radio Club. These types of activities allow us to meet people in the community and make contacts that may some day bear fruit.

Every six weeks, Jim is joining a group of preachers and church leaders from Restoration Movement Churches in a get together called "Iron Sharpeners." The meetings are held in Brisbane and are building relationships as we explore ways in which we can work together and encourage one another.

Andrew has a little over three months remaining in his second year of studies at the University of Southern Queensland. In his spare time he plays on a basketball team. Andrew is active in the church; particularly the group in Hodgson Vale and is doing a very good job developing communion meditations.

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### Building Approval Granted!

After denials and many delays, the building that will house the office/library has been approved. We hope to see construction begin before the end of August, but we may be optimistic. At least now the uncertainty of the project has been removed.

The building will be 6x7 meters (approx. 20'x23'). While we originally wanted something bigger, this will be large enough to meet our needs with careful planning.

We will keep you updated on the progress of the building and hope to be able to occupy it in a few short months!

### Upcoming Furlough

Jim, Becky, and Andrew will be traveling to the USA at year end. Jim is scheduled to arrive on Nov. 10, in time to lead a workshop at the National Missionary Convention in Lexington, KY. Becky and Andrew will arrive on Dec. 6 after their school terms finish.

We have been asked to share in the celebrations marking the 25th anniversary of the planting of the church in Grenada. We plan to be in Grenada from Dec. 30 - Jan. 10 to return to Australia on Jan. 13.

We have limited time and want to share with as many as possible, but first want to visit those churches we were unable to see on our previous trip to the USA.

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