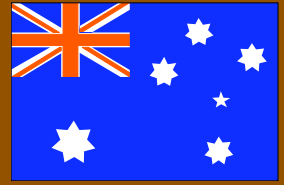


Southern Cross Ministries

FEBRUARY 2008

NEWMAN FAMILY MISSION



Sharing the Good News of Christ and training Christian leaders in Australia

Philippines Trip

From January 19-26, Jim made his third teaching trip to the Philippines after previous trips in 2006 and 2007.

During this trip Jim taught a class on the Final Week in the Life of Christ to forty upper-level Bible students. As with all "block" classes an entire semester was compressed into a week with 35 hours of lectures completed from Monday through Friday.

This year, David Bogdan joined Jim on the trip. David, a member of the new church, worked to construct an awning over a porch which will keep rain from flowing into the school's kitchen.



We are most pleased to say that the new church provided the funding for the building project and was able to donate additional funds for the school. It is our desire to impress the importance of world evangelism in the new church from the beginning.



A student after 35 hours with Jim

More of our members want to travel to the Philippines to help at ICCM (<http://www.iccmnila.com>) in the future and I hope to continue to make an annual teaching trip. We are pleased to partner with a sister

mission to assist in the training of Christian leaders in the Asia/Pacific region.

We ask that you pray for ICCM, for Ross and Cheryl Wissmann who direct the school, and for the outreach of ICCM.

Furlough 2008

We are now filling dates for our furlough which will take place from April 28 - August 4. If your congregation, Sunday School Class, missions committee, or other group would like a personal update on the work in Australia, please contact us by phone at: 513-276-4519 or by email at: jim.newman@yahoo.com

Priority will be given in our schedule to those congregations we did not visit during our last trip to the USA. After these churches are scheduled, we will accommodate as many requests as we are able. Please do not hesitate to call or write as soon as possible.

Eastern Downs Church of Christ

The name Eastern Downs Church of Christ has been chosen for the new congregation. This name reflects our location on the eastern fringes of a region called the Darling Downs (or simply the Downs). Since we have members stretching from Toowoomba to beyond Pittsworth, we wanted a regional location name.

Our intention in the coming years is to establish a network of churches throughout the Eastern Downs in Westbrook, Pittsworth, Millmerran, and other communities south and west of Toowoomba. We already have 22 regular attendees in the church, but other families have visited and we expect continuing growth. We have a number of prospects that we are working to reach.

This is the first new church planting in Australia among independent Churches of Christ/Christian Churches for many years. Australia is a resistive field and we know that we will face many obstacles in developing a strong congregation. However, we are also convinced that the message of reconciliation is the only hope for this world.



The Eastern Downs

Australian Christian Training Ministries

For the next few months ACTM will offer small group classes in homes. In the second half of 2008 we will host at least one major seminar and will provide additional teaching opportunities in the local area. We have located meeting facilities for our short-term seminars at community centers and at the Curves Ladies Fitness Center. Both will offer large rooms at an affordable price.

The most pressing concern is: "What do we do for a permanent (or semi-permanent) location to house the ACTM library, an office, and a classroom?" We have looked at three main options:

1. Rent a building. The cost of suitable commercial rentals is about \$2,000.00 per month.
2. Purchase land and construct a building (or buy an existing building.) This would cost at least \$250,000.00.
3. Remodel, insulate, and finish the inside of the shed on our own property. This could house an office, library, and small classroom and would cost about

\$25,000.00. We could then hold large classes in a community center or the Curves Ladies Fitness Center (which is owned by one of our church members).

We are aware that none of these options are perfect. Our goal is to best meet the needs of this ministry at an affordable cost. Perhaps the Lord will provide an option that we have not even yet considered.

Prayer Requests

1. Wisdom in developing the ACTM.
2. Thank God for the rapid development of the new church.
3. Thank God for Andrew's new job at Weises' restaurant.
4. Pray for Daniel and Samantha and their upcoming wedding.
5. Pray that the Lord of the Harvest will send forth more workers to the harvest field of Australia.
6. Thank God for those who support this work.

Yours in Christ,

Jim & Becky

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