

SOUTHERN CROSS MINISTRIES

NEWMAN FAMILY MISSION

AUSTRALIAN SUMMER 2009/2010

Summer Down Under

Early summer has arrived and it has been hot! The mercury has reached as high as 100 degrees marking the hottest day in 15 years for Toowoomba. Along with the heat has come an ever deepening drought. Thus far, we have had only 16 inches of rain in 2009.

Life Down Under will slow down considerably over the next several weeks. Most Australians take summer vacations during the school holidays and for a few weeks life takes a more leisurely pace.

Australian Christian Convention

On October 10, we attended the Australian Christian Contention which was held in Brisbane. This year the theme was centered around the 200th anniversary of Thomas

Campbell's *Declaration and Address*.

Jim was one the speakers and was asked to address the question: Biblical Interpretation: Basis for Unity or Cause for Division. The convention was a positive experience and we were glad to be able to participate. It was good to see friends from a number of churches in New South Wales and Queensland as well as overseas.

Next year's convention will be held in Sydney. Jim serves on the management committee of the Australian Christian Convention.

Eastern Downs Church of Christ

We have just completed a ten week study on the eldership and plan to appoint our first elders in late January. The entire church has benefitted from the study

and better understand the Biblical function of the eldership as well as how they can support these men in their work.

Pittsworth Church Plant

On November 1 and December 6 we met in Pittsworth. In November, Jim spoke at the meeting and at our December gathering the kids from our congregation acted out the story of the birth of Jesus while Daniel led in a great time of singing and fellowship. Two more new families in Pittsworth visited for the first time.

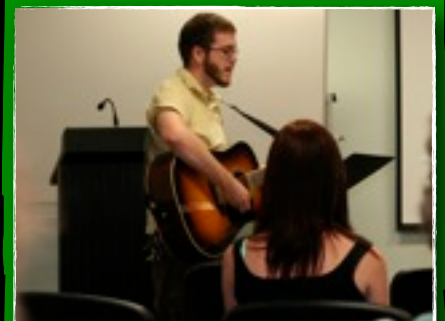
The next meeting in Pittsworth is scheduled for January 3 and weekly meetings will begin in Pittsworth on February 7. We have now canvassed the town with fliers on four occasions and will do this two more times before February 7.



Pittsworth on Dec. 6



Christmas Play in Pittsworth



Daniel Leading Music

Southern Cross Bible Institute

The November class that Jim was to teach in New South Wales had to be postponed since Jim was called to jury duty for the month of November. He was called in twice, but did not have to serve on a jury.

The next SCBI class will be in February and will be taught by Ken Henderson of Teen Mission USA; Lexington, KY. Ken will teach two seminars; one on Creation and a second on the Exodus. Classes will be held in various spots in Queensland and New South Wales. We are also trying to get admittance into some schools.

Dr. Rick Cherek, Professor of Church History at Cincinnati Christian University will be our next visiting teacher and will arrive in late May. He will teach on church history and lead in a leadership retreat.

SINGING CAROLS AT THE NURSING HOME

On December 12, nineteen members from the Eastern Downs Church of Christ sang carols at a local nursing home. It is one simple way that we are trying to reach into our community.



One of our members works as a Registered Nurse at this facility and opened the door for this opportunity.



Youth Camp

We are planning for three days of camp with young men between the ages of 16-22 from January 19-21 to be held at a local camp/retreat center. As far as we know, nothing like this has been attempted from among our churches in Australia. Please pray that we may be able to impact these young men for Christ.

Westbrook House Church



The Westbrook house church is preparing for some changes. One of our families will join the new group to begin in Pittsworth in February. From the beginning until now the church has met in the Newman house, but another of our families is building a new house in Westbrook and will host the group at least some of the time. The Hodgsonvale house group continues to go well and has seen some growth over past weeks.

News from Daniel and Samantha

It has been an eventful three months here in Australia. Samantha and I have gotten a lot accomplished and we are very eager to share all the news with you. Samantha and I have been able to help with church services on a weekly basis. Samantha has been helping Becky with the children's Sunday school and I (Daniel) have been helping by leading worship and doing communion meditations with the other men.

Samantha and I have been working on her VISA since we got to Toowoomba and at this current time of writing she has received her "bridging" VISA which allows her to stay here in Australia until the outcome of her spousal VISA is decided. This bridging VISA also allows her to get Medicare here which means she can visit the public hospitals for free and get discounts on medication she may need. At this point in time we are applying for Medicare and once we have received it we will be taking Samantha to the doctor for medical tests that are required by the Australian government for her spousal VISA. We are currently in our third month of the VISA process so we have at least three more months before the outcome is decided.

The paperwork for my teacher registration has been submitted, however, it could still be four months before it is all approved. All there is to do at this point is wait for it to be returned to me. In the meantime I have been working at Woolworths Supermarket. The work has been okay. The bosses are fairly nice and have been good to work for. I am making a lot of contacts here and I think it has been a good way to get to know people in the community of Pittsworth. Currently they are not giving me very many hours but it will hopefully be enough to get by until my teaching application is approved.

Samantha and I have rented an apartment! It was great to finally get into our own place in Pittsworth. The house is a small two bedroom unit that is attached to three other units. We will try to send pictures once we are moved in and do not have boxes cluttering the entire house and once we actually have some furniture. We hosted the young adult's Christmas party there last Sunday. It was a great time for all of us.

I am sure there is more to speak of but that will have to wait for another newsletter. Thank you all for your wonderful support. We have been blessed by it and are truly on our way to being settled in here in Australia.

We would like to thank everyone for your love, support, and prayers during 2009. It has been a year in which we have been blessed in many ways and in which the Australian church has grown and matured. We hope that all of you have a wonderful Christmas as you remember the birth of Jesus and that 2010 will be a great year of service for Christ.

Jim, Becky, Daniel, Samantha, and Andrew Newman

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