

WINTER 2010

SOUTHERN CROSS MINISTRIES



JIM, BECKY, AND ANDREW NEWMAN

Winter Down Under



Winter has arrived with much shorter days and cooler temperatures. While our winters are nothing like those in the northern states of the USA, we do get an occasional frost and with many homes uninsulated or poorly insulated indoor temperatures can be uncomfortable. Jim and Becky's home is insulated and stays fairly warm. Daniel and Samantha's apartment is not insulated and can be quite chilly.

Becky and Andrew will be on winter break from school beginning the last week of June. Becky will be attending a Christian School Teacher's conference in Sydney during the first part of her break with the other teachers from her school. Andrew is now through the first half of his second year at the University of Southern Queensland.

Southern Cross Bible Institute

In late May and early June, Dr. Rick Cherok, Professor of Church History at Cincinnati Christian University led in a series of lectures on the History of Christianity with more than 100 people attending one or more of the classes. Dr. Cherok's teaching was interesting, relevant, and helpful. We hope to have Rick back to teach a class on the History of the Restoration Movement in the future.

Dr. Cherok's lectures were video recorded and will be made available to churches and Christians throughout Australia. We are still receiving requests for copies of Ken Henderson's teaching sessions from February. These DVDs increase the outreach of the SCBI ministry.



CLASS IN SYDNEY



CLASS IN NEWCASTLE



CLASS IN PITTSWORTH

SCBI sponsored a retreat for church leaders near Newcastle with seven men attending. Dr. Cherok led us in a study of Worldviews and the rest of our time was spent in fellowship and prayer.

The retreat was a blessing since we don't often have opportunities to get together because of our busy schedules and the miles between us. We hope to incorporate this into our regular schedule of events.



CHURCH LEADERS GROUP

Eastern Downs Church of Christ

Dr. Cherok preached for our last combined assembly on June 6. Several of our brothers and sisters from two a cappella Church of Christ house groups joined us. In all about sixty attended for our largest church assembly to date.



JUNE 6 MEETING IN PITTSWORTH

We have had some new visitors including a family with five children last week. It is our desire to see our congregation reach men and

women for Christ and to provide a place for worship, fellowship, and service.

On June 20, we joined these house churches at a joint meeting held in a community center in Toowoomba where a professor from Harding University spoke. We are certainly enjoying the fellowship with these folk and hope to continue in the future.

Kyle Arnold a recent graduate of Cincinnati Christian University traveled to Australia with Dr. Cherok. He was an encouragement to our congregation and he spoke to a youth group in Sydney and spent several days working with the church in Tasmania.

Prayer Needs

1. Richard, one of our faithful church members, has been diagnosed with metastatic melanoma. He underwent surgery and will begin radiation and other treatments in the coming weeks.
2. Audrey, the wife of one of our elders, has serious back pain which has severely limited her activities. She will be evaluated by a specialist in Brisbane at the end of June.
3. Our building plans continue to be held up by the local council, but we think we are now in a position to gain building approval soon. We hope to see construction begin this winter.

The Urgency of the Gospel

Last week we were introduced to a 68 year old woman named Veronica. She told us about her faulty heart valve, an allergy to anaesthesia which prevented surgery, a hip problem that immobilized her, and other health issues. Her son who cared for her was being sent to prison and she had no other family nearby. Veronica said that she wanted Christian fellowship and would appreciate any visits. Our hope was to love her and share Christ with her. We were only able to have two telephone conversations and one home visit with her before we received the news that she had died. From the time we met her in person to the day she died was only three days.

It is our heart's desire to share the Gospel with as many men, women, and children as possible in Australia and to provide teaching and training so that all might come to maturity in Christ. Every day that passes is a day that people depart this earth unprepared for eternity. May all of us always be reminded of the urgency of the message of hope that has been entrusted to us.

Pray that Daniel, Samantha, and Becky will have more opportunities to share Christ with their co-workers, that Andrew will be able to tell his fellow students at the university about the hope that he has in Christ, and that Jim will have increasing opportunities to share Christ and to train leaders for Australian churches.

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