



THE YOUNG FAMILY

AUSTRALIANS REACHING AUSTRALIA

Monthly Newsletter

April and May 2025

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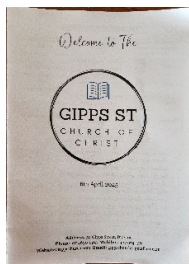


Dear Brethren,

We have now been working with Gipps Street church for nearly 6 months. This time has flown by, we have been keeping very busy in our work, and a starting to feel more and more at home in Toowoomba. We have spent quite a bit of time in the last 2 months trying to find a more permanent place to live. We are currently renting in Toowoomba, but are hoping to buy our first home soon, potentially in one of the small country towns surrounding it. We have made a few offers on houses but are struggling to be competitive in the real estate market. We are trying to be very frugal in our spending and to save as much as possible for a suitable deposit. Please keep this endeavour in your prayers.

An exciting feature of this newsletter is that I have a “guest” author for the letters Family section. A few of my readers have commented that they would like to hear more from Hannah, and how she is going. As such, I have asked her to write the family section of the letter and to include more information about how she’s going, and her regular adventures with the kids. Please be sure to reach out and let her know what you think of her contribution to the newsletter, I’m sure she would greatly appreciate it.

Church



I have recently begun writing a weekly bulletin for the church. This includes a few ministry notices such as who’s on cleaning that month, or who’s organizing the Lord’s Supper each week. It has details about the Bible classes we have available, contribution figures, what’s on this week, order of service for the Sunday morning worship, and a prayer list for the brethren with ongoing prayer requests. This bulletin has received some very positive

feedback from the church, as they feel much more informed about what's going in the church, and they appreciate having a regularly updated prayer list.

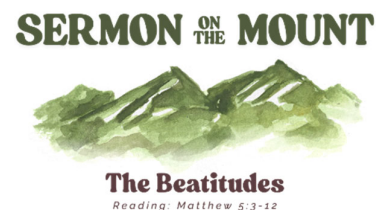
One of my responsibilities at Gipps Street is to organize some assistance to some of the smaller congregations around South-East Queensland that need a bit of help. Unfortunately, as I have been on the Sunday sermon for a majority of the first half of the year, I have not been able to do much of this. However, we were recently contacted by a church in Coffs Harbour, in North-East New South Wales, telling us about a camp they are hosting, and they needed more men to help lead singing and devotionals for the camp. As the camp was over the school holidays, and was over weekdays and not on a Sunday, I decided I would take the opportunity to bring the family to a church camp. We all had a great time, and the girls loved the activities and crafts that they had on each day of the camp. We also had an opportunity to swim in the nearby lake, something that we are not able to do much in Toowoomba. The lake



is surrounded by paperbark trees which have discoloured the water with tea-tree oil. This means that swimming in the lake is less like swimming in water and feels more like swimming in sweet tea. While it is initially a little uncomfortable getting into water that colour, it is apparently very good for your skin. Before heading back home, we took a quick trip to the coast for an early lunch, where we got to see a proper surf beach for the first time in over 5 years. The girls liked watching as people tried to catch the waves and ended up getting swept under them.

Another church that recently reached out is the Windsor church of Christ in Sydney. They have recently lost one of their regular preachers and are about to be getting a full-time preacher in October this year. Trevor Tattersall, a fellow Tasmanian, just graduated from the Southeast Institute of Biblical Studies and will shortly be making his way back down to Australia to work with Windsor. Before Trevor arrives, the Windsor church have asked for some help in hosting a youth event to help get the youth motivated and involved in the church. In the winter school holidays (June/July), several of the members and youth of the church at Gipps Street will be taking a trip down to Sydney to assist with this event. I will be presenting one of the lessons focused on strengthening and motivating the youth of the church.

Back at Gipps Street, I have finished my sermon series through the book of Jeremiah, and we have begun a new series on the Sermon on the Mount, which will go for 16 weeks. Unlike previous series, in which Daniel would preach from the book Deuteronomy, and then I would take over and preach from the book of Jeremiah, Daniel and I will be preaching on the Sermon on the Mount together. One of our focuses in working together is to present a cohesive and intentional approach to our preaching. To this end, Daniel and I spent some time studying Matthew 5-7 together to figure out how we were going to preach through the material. This was very helpful in ensuring that we both shared the same



views on the sermon and could present it cohesively to the church. Daniel began the series with The Beatitudes and Salt and Light, focusing on the theme of “Kingdom People.” I will be picking up from here, and dealing with the rest of chapter 5, focusing on “Kingdom Living.”

Outreach

I have been working on getting some material together to assist the church in reaching out to the community. The church here does not have a specified community outreach plan and has generally committed to doorknocking and letterboxing around specific events. I am trying to put something together to help with the regular and ongoing outreach of the church. I recall my time at the Karns church of Christ when they hosted Rob Whitacre’s American Mission Campaign. In this, I saw a great deal of outreach resources and opportunities that I believe would be greatly applicable to work in Australia. While I have not yet implemented the strategies of the campaign, I have put together some greeting cards that include the churches information on the back. After our recent campaign in January, I have had a few of the members of the church write cards out to some of our contacts. However, I would like to also focus on writing cards to contacts made through the church members themselves and see how we can reach out to our community without the need for a campaign or an event.

I have recently organized some new visitor cards to take down the details of our visitors to the church. This has gone quite well and has resulted in a few outreach opportunities. Whenever we have a visitor, after I get their details, I like to establish contact the next day to thank them for their attendance and warmly invite them to attend again. This is usually done with a hand-written card and then followed up with a phone call later in the week. We have been greatly blessed by a few repeat visitors, one of whom will hopefully be studying with us in the near future.

I have recently been in contact with World Bible School about the use of their material. One of the leaders at WBS is going to be in Australia next month, so we are going to have him visit for an outreach seminar focusing on how we can use WBS material in our outreach. I am not particularly familiar with WBS material, so I am looking forward to hearing about it and how we can implement it into our evangelism plan.

Family (by Hannah Young)

The past few months have been very busy for our little family.

We celebrated Vivien’s 6th birthday with a fairy themed party with her friends from school. The girls painted little fairy (bird) houses then had a scavenger hunt around the house. Andrew and I were delighted to have the opportunity to get to know her friends and their parents a little better. It was great to watch them all work together and encourage each other without any input from the parents. We could not ask for a better group of girls for Viv to go through school with.



With the beginning of term 2 we were both nervous and excited as Olive restarted Kindergarten. After term 1 ended within a few days because of her separation anxiety, she suddenly declared she was ready to try again. We took her at her word and with a lot of prayers, tried again. This time she took to it like a duck to water. She comes home so excited each day to tell us of everything she learnt. Her teacher has been very impressed at how well she knows her bible stories.

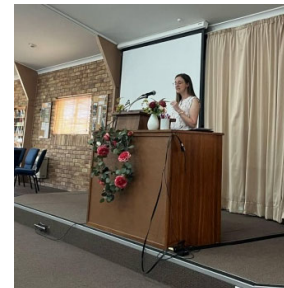
Both girls had their school photos done in the first week. We're yet to receive those back yet but will be sure to include them when we do.

Vivien had her cross-country running race in the second week. This was a whole school event with parents being invited to watch. Viv ran with the other Prep girls. Her enthusiasm and excitement shone through. She ran the best she could and even with a fall as she approached the finish line she got straight back up and finished the race with the same enthusiasm that she started with.



While her big sisters are at school Evelyn seems unsure what to do with herself. She often tells me that she misses them but also very clearly enjoys her games being uninterrupted. She also loves getting all my attention and being carried everywhere we go. We make sure to fill our days with busy-ness. Evie's favourite mummy/daughter activity is going to our local gardening store which has a cafe. We wander around the flowers and watch the bees then stop for a hot chocolate before heading home.

Gipps Street held their annual Ladies Day this month. It was a whole day event starting with morning tea fellowship. It was a run a bit differently to the events I've attended in the USA as it had a more informal feel about it. We covered the book of Esther with two speakers. After each speaker we split off into smaller groups to have more in-depth study and discussion. It was a wonderful opportunity to get to know the women of the congregation even better.



Each week we hold a ladies bible class. We have a group of around 10 ladies who attend this regularly. At the moment we're working through 1 Peter covering a chapter a week. I love this opportunity of encouragement with the older ladies in the congregation.

As for me: I know some of you have been asking for a while for me to write the family section of our newsletter. Truthfully, I've been struggling with C-PTSD (Complex Post Traumatic Stress Disorder) for many years now, and in recent years I've experienced many events that have greatly exacerbated this. I was finally properly diagnosed last year but I still find small tasks, like writing this newsletter, to be strangely overwhelming. I ask for your prayers and understanding while I work to return to my usual self.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

