



Dear Brethren,

We continue for another month in our work in Toowoomba. Each day I feel the work becoming more diverse and exciting with no 2 days looking the same. I find myself reflecting on the training I received at Southeast, as well as my experience in various sales and customer service roles throughout the years, and I can see how God has been preparing me for a work such as this.

I hope these letters bring you as much encouragement as they do for me.

Church

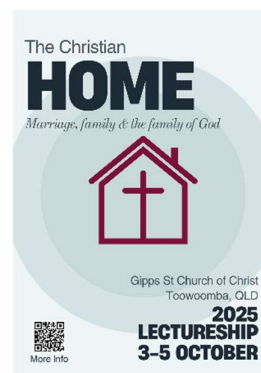
I have been doing some work in preparing for our church lectureship coming up in October on the Christian Home: Marriage, family, and the family of God. I am really excited for this lectureship and think the topics are extremely relevant for today. We have several local speakers from here in Toowoomba, a couple from nearby congregations, and one international speaker. More to come on that once speakers and topics have been finalized.



We were blessed this last month to have a group of students from Harding university in Arkansas visit with us. They were on a mission trip with a congregation in Brisbane, and we were able to have them come up for a day. We took the students around to visit with a few of our elderly, disabled, and shut-in brethren. They sang a few hymns and got to know their story before heading to our midweek Bible study. Instead of an ordinary midweek, we had a special singing and prayer night for the students to be involved in. After this, they drove straight back to Brisbane to continue their campaign.



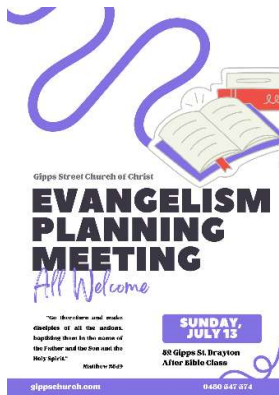
Daniel Smith and I have been continuing our teaching on Sermon on the Mount, which has been a thoroughly rewarding study. This was also a challenge for Daniel and myself to work on continuity in our lessons together. After I concluded my section on the 15th of with a lesson from Matthew 5:38-48 dealing with the treatment of our enemies, Daniel picked up on the 22nd with a sermon regarding charitable deeds from Matthew 6:1-4, and will be continuing until 10th of August. This has given me more time to focus on other projects and assisting with other smaller congregations around Southeast Queensland.



This month I was able to make it out to a couple of smaller congregations and present sermons for them to help encourage them and take a bit of the load off them. I made it to the Helensvale church of Christ in the Gold Coast, Queensland; they are a congregation of about 25 people who meet in the Helensvale library. I also went to the Morayfield church of Christ in Morayfield, Queensland; This is a congregation of about 20 people who meet in a primary school in the far northern suburbs of Brisbane. I really enjoyed my visit with these congregations as I finally had a chance to meet some of the brethren that we would be helping with the work. It is my intention to speak with the leaders of each of these congregations on future visits to find out what is the best way we can support them. Depending on the resources of each congregation, I hope to organize some outreach campaigns and gospel meetings in the future. I must apologize that I did not take any photos with either congregation, and hope to remember to do so on future visits.

Outreach

We had a recent visit from the USA from brother John Reese, who is president emeritus of World Bible School (WBS). On Saturday the 28th of June, John presented a 2-part seminar on how to lead the WBS bible studies and how we can be involved in reaching the lost through correspondence courses. This event was well attended by the congregation, having about 30 members participate. There was a lot of excitement around the program, and several of our members have already put their hand up to be involved.



With all the excitement around outreach that was generated by this seminar, I thought this would be a good time to host an evangelism planning meeting with the congregation. This will be a meeting for me to check up and review the current evangelistic efforts of the church, as well as to get some ideas on what the needs and opportunities are for the congregation are to be more involved in evangelism. I will be breaking the meeting down into 3 categories, world evangelism, regional evangelism, and local evangelism to help us broaden our scope in our outreach efforts and home in on specific needs. Through this meeting I hope to get some new ideas from the congregation and generate more excitement for each category.

Family

This month has been a particularly eventful month for the family (although I feel like I say that almost every month in writing these letters). But this month, especially so. Hannah's grandad, Richard, in Hobart, Tasmania suffered a stroke and was sent to hospital for immediate treatment and eventual rehabilitation. We decided it would be best to send Hannah down on her own to Tasmania to spend some time with him and help organize his home while he was in hospital. This was also a good opportunity for Hannah to share the gospel with him. Richard is not a Christian and has spent his life very much opposed to all kinds of

religion. Hannah and I have spoken to him in the past about the church and the gospel, but he has told us that he doesn't want to hear it. Hannah thought that perhaps, this recent medical emergency may have softened his heart to hear about Jesus.

Hannah spent just under a week in Hobart visiting with her grandad and looking after his pets. He was still in the early stages of recovery while Hannah was there, and he struggled to put a sentence together, but he was very happy to see her, and to hear about how his great-grandchildren were doing. When he was more able to put his thoughts together, Hannah tried to broach a religious conversation but was very quickly shut down. We are saddened by his rejection of the gospel, but we know that the decision is in the heart of the individual. We will continue to pray for his recovery and his receptiveness to the good news.

In lighter news, we also celebrated Olive's 5th birthday this month. She didn't want to do much, so we went to a park where the girls played on a playground, rode their scooters, and climbed trees. Afterwards, we came home and had some chocolate cake with strawberries on top.



As a final note to the letter, for which we are greatly excited. We have made an offer on a house and that offer has been accepted. We are very excited about this as this is our first home, and we are glad to finally be settling somewhere.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

