



# THE YOUNG FAMILY

AUSTRALIANS REACHING AUSTRALIA



## MISSION NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2026

Greetings, and a happy new year from the Young family!

We are so excited for this new year, as we have many exciting plans. We also begin the year with a few changes to our circumstances since our last newsletter. We have been extremely busy, and there are few signs of that slowing down for us any time soon, but we are looking forward to what God has in store for us here in Toowoomba.

I want to express my gratitude for our supporters who have stuck by us through our work in Australia and continue to support this work for another year. Your help has been invaluable in making this work possible.

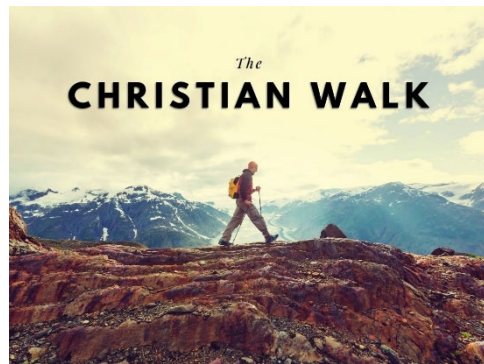
A major plan for this year is a U.S. reporting trip, where I will return to the United States for a few weeks to report on the work I have been doing, and provide some information on the specifics of the work in Toowoomba. I am currently planning the details of this trip to make sure that it is as cost-effective and productive as possible. We reached out to a few of our supporters in November to raise funds for the trip, but unfortunately, we could not raise the funds for the whole family to come, so it will just be me on this

occasion. We plan to make another trip in 2029, and I will be working toward making sure that the whole family can be involved then.

## CHURCH

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The focus on the preaching in 2025 has been on the theme of Covenants: A Promise Keeping God and a Promise Keeping People. Daniel Smith and myself covered several topics throughout the year which focused on that theme. For the last Sunday of the year, I preached a sermon entitled Relationship & Response, in which I recapped a lot the important aspects of the covenant relationship we have with God, I then turned from that important theme to the necessary response to that relationship. Our covenant with God is not all about feelings, it is about action. For this reason, we turn our attention in 2026 to the theme "The Christian Walk: Step by Step Closer to Jesus." This theme will focus on the practical aspects of our Christian life, how God expects us to live and conduct ourselves.



We kicked off this theme in January, where I began a series on "The Fruit of the Spirit." I started with an introduction, identifying the fruit of the Spirit as necessary, organic, and singular, and then going through each of the virtues one by one. We thought this would be a good place to start before dealing with some of the more specific behaviours expected of a Christian in books like James, Proverbs, and the epistles of Peter.



After Bible class on the first Sunday of the year, we also held a start of year shared lunch to celebrate the conclusion of 2025 and to announce some of the plans in 2026. We had an excellent turn out from our members. We watched a slide show of various events from the year, such as the mission trip from the US in January last year, our VBS, our community open day, our World Bible School workshop, The Windsor youth lectureship, The Gipps St lectureship, among other programs and events. This lunch was a great opportunity for fellowship, and a wonderful reminder of all the work that has been done.

This month, I will be having my annual review of my position at Gipps Street. Members have been encouraged to submit their feedback which will be discussed by the men at the next leaders meeting. This is not a meeting to discuss whether I will be staying in the role, but just a chance to review my responsibilities and progress as a minister of the church here, and to make any changes to my own responsibilities or the churches expectations of me. The only item of constructive criticism that I have received thus far is that I preach too long. A struggle that I have been facing for many years.

## OUTREACH

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I mentioned in my last newsletter that we had a baptism in October last year. Ron, who had been searching for a church in Toowoomba for many years. As it happens, he had come across a few people who had told him "When you find a Biblical church, make sure you let us know." Since his baptism, Ron has invited 2 young brothers to Gipps Street, and they have been coming along for a few weeks and we have set up studies with each of them. They are both very receptive, but quite critical in their thinking. We have had some great conversations about baptism and the Lord's supper.

Overall, the outreach of the church is going well. We have 3 new studies going on since my last newsletter, all with young men from age 17-25. This seems to be a demographic that is increasingly interested in the Christian faith.

I have been trying to rethink my evangelism approach over the past few months. While we have some programs and some methods to try and reach people, I want to focus more on personal evangelism and making contacts through some social methods. I hope this year to do more door-knocking, letterboxing, and engaging in more conversations where the opportunities present themselves.

## FAMILY

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With regard to the family, we have a few updates, firstly, Vivien and Olive finished their schooling for the year, and they each had an event celebrating their achievements and the conclusion of the school year. Olive finished her Kindergarten year, and will be going on to Prep, which is her first year of full-time schooling. She is pictured here with her teachers and the school principal.





Vivien finished Prep and will be going on to Grade 1 next year. She also received the class award for academic excellence, a category that I didn't realize was measured in Prep. Hannah and I always knew that Viv was clever, but we were very proud to hear she received the class award.

As school came to a close, and we began the school holidays, we received a call from the real estate agent who was dealing with the house we purchased back in September. She informed us that we would be able to move in on the 24<sup>th</sup> of December. We had been praying that we would be in our house before Christmas, so I guess that prayer was answered! We have finally moved in to our own home. This is a very big deal for Hannah and myself. In only 10 years of marriage, we have moved 14 times, so we are thrilled to have our own place.

January marks 1 year working in Toowoomba, and I am pleased to say that I could not be happier here. I feel that I am able to be effective in my work, my family has formed close bonds with the church, and we are now settling in to our own home. We look forward to what 2026 holds for us in all these areas.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**