



**February/March 2024**

Dear Pastor, family and friends,

Greetings from Australia in the Lord Jesus Christ.

We are thankful for each fellowlaborer that gives of their time, resources, and prayer to enable us to serve the Lord and preach the gospel here in Sydney. Your love for the Lord and your sacrifice has great profit, and we continue to be encouraged by your faithfulness.

In early February we met for a night of prayer, beginning with an hour of self-examination and confession, followed by several hours of intercession for other believers, the widows and the fatherless, and missions and evangelism. Nothing will heal division faster than a clean life and kneeling in prayer before the Head of the church. My earnest desire is that this flock would be in a right standing with the Lord so that He could begin to work once more, and since that night we've already seen some beginnings of God doing that very thing.

I can tell you that some who have been out in the world have made definite steps back to a right relationship with God and the brethren. This is a source of great joy to watch. A man in his mid-20's has surrendered to the call of God to preach the gospel, so we are working toward the beginning of his ministry training. As mentioned last month, I've started teaching Bible Institute again, developing courses on 1 Corinthians and a series for men and preachers on the Man of God. We are several weeks into the semester and have seen some great fruit in the personal Bible study of the students. I've been meeting with some who are from a charismatic background, not yet saved but religious and searching, a very slow and deliberate process of unwinding false doctrine and letting the true light shine. I am praying for the Holy Ghost to illuminate their understanding and am hopeful that they will trust Christ in the days ahead.

The Lord has been intersecting me with many Muslims in these past weeks. All of them are young men, the most recent was Kazi. In his mid-20's, born in Australia into a devout Muslim family, Kazi doesn't hold strongly to Islam. Australia has secularised him enough that he has a strange blend of Islam, Hindu and Buddhist beliefs, which shows the massive influence of the immigrant community on the belief systems here. Kazi listened with interest to the gospel, he had a great many questions, and the door is open to further discussion. He is only one of many in recent days with an identical story, and learning to deal with this blending of religions has become an exercise in prayer for me. I have

rewritten a tract I developed years ago to try to help answer the questions of such people, and these recent encounters reminds me of Paul after his message on Mars' hill:

*Acts 17:32 And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked: and others said, We will hear thee again of this matter.*

I continue to pray for the ones that want to hear further. Please pray with me about this.

On the family side, our son Luke is preparing to get married in April to a fine young lady from the church here. The rest of the family is doing well, many things happening as they are all adults and following the Lord's path in their lives. Heidi has been well, by the grace of the Lord, and is an immense help to me in counselling and helping ladies.

The church commissioned and sent out Br. Keegan Moodley just a week ago to start a new church in our area. Not only is this a blessing to the brethren, but it also shows the younger men that there is a pathway forward in the ministry for them.

Our hearts echo the gratitude of Paul to the believers at Philippi when he said:

*Philippians 1:3-5 I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy, For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now...*

May God continue to bless and provide for you as you support the work here in Australia.

Yours in Christ,

Tom & Heidi Gonderman