



Outlook

A New Year

From Tom Gonderman <tommyinoz@74987158.mailchimpapp.com>

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As the summer holidays have passed, the pace of life here in Sydney has stepped up to its normal speed. The change of seasons is always a good reminder of the similarity in the work of God. We had just come out of a time where several people received Christ, and as 2024 was ending, they were being discipled and beginning to grow in earnest. Since that time, we haven't seen many come to the Lord, but our evangelistic efforts continue. The start of this new year looks to bring some new opportunities for evangelism in an adjoining town, and we are also looking to start outreach into the mountain towns and villages along the major route west of Sydney.

At the end of December, we held a carols night and invited the community. We had around 50 guests that evening for a time of food and fun, and then I told the biblical story around the prophecies and happenings of the birth of Christ. Many people afterward told me they had never heard that story, which further reinforces the reality that Australia is in a post-Christian era. There continues to be an influx of around 12,000 immigrants into Australia each week (per 2024 statistics), and many of those are from India and, to a lesser extent, other Asian nations. The challenge this brings is an immediate shift in the religious landscape. Where once there would have been a broader knowledge of Christianity here, we are now seeing (at least in Sydney) the radical shift to Hinduism and Buddhism, and an unfamiliarity with the Bible. We certainly need

wisdom to adjust to this change in ministry.

With the turn of the new year, the Lord provided the opportunity to begin training one of our men here for pastoral ministry. He and his wife have been serving for many years, but the Lord has now opened the door for me to now have the ability to train him in preparation for pastoral ministry. Alongside of that, another young man in the church has now stepped into an intern role, and we've begun the process of instructing him as he prepares himself for the gospel ministry. Pray for these men as they embrace the call of God in their lives. Our weeks are spent in practical ministry work together, times of instruction in doctrine and theology, and working together in the verse-by-verse study of the books of the Bible.

There continue to be battles in the lives of the single moms that have gotten saved in recent months. They are one-income providers and parents, and the challenges of surviving in Sydney on a single income as well as being a parent and a faithful church member are hard to overcome. Please pray that these mothers would have the wisdom and fortitude to continue, and that we might be able to really minister to them as they grow in the Lord. We had been intending on starting a dedicated time of teaching for these single mums, but it's been quite a challenge for them to find the time to come together with the demands on their time. Heidi has a real ministry to these ladies, and spends much time talking with them, counselling with them, and helping to guide them in their decision-making.

We had the privilege of having Pastor Bevans Welder and his wife Anne with us recently for a summer Revival, and the church here was challenged by the time spent in the word of God. Heidi and I were also personally refreshed by the fellowship and encouragement, and we're grateful for friends in the ministry that partner with us in this work. Another church family from Texas is sending a team to visit, so we anticipate a special time of outreach with them in July.

A "broken family" got saved not long ago, and as the months have passed, we have invested much time into trying to help them get a new start as Christians. It seems everything that could go wrong in their lives has gone wrong, and just recently there have been some real struggles with depression and attempted suicide. This is not uncommon here, as Australia has a suicide rate above the global average. Oh, how we need wisdom to give sound, biblical and practical counsel to people with such broken lives. Please pray with us, that the Lord would enable my wife and I to provide clear answers and

help.

I led a man to Christ about two months ago, but his fiancée did not get saved at that time. She admitted her pride was getting in the way, and so we've been slowly praying and waiting. I believe the walls are starting to come down, but she has not yet come to Christ. She has, however, invited her neighbour to church, and after the last number of weeks in attendance, I sat with her and answered the questions that had been roadblocks to her faith. The Spirit had been at work, and she bowed her head and confessed her need to be born again. We're grateful for Julie's salvation and now begin the work of maturing her in her new faith, and we haven't stopped praying for the fiancée to get saved!

I wanted to take the moment to say thank you for all that you've done to enable us to work here in this field. Your support allows me to be able to invest more deeply into the training and equipping of men who will become pastors and missionaries. We do take the work seriously and are rejoicing in the fruit of that ministry that is now serving on various mission fields around the world. We would really ask for your prayer in the days ahead, that the Lord would continue to open doors to preach Christ, to break into new areas with the gospel, to equip the saints and train labourers. Please pray that God would raise up others to become pastors as well.

Thank you for your love for the Lord Jesus, and for giving once and again to the work of missions here in the South Pacific.

Yours for souls,

Tom & Heidi Gonderman

PLEASE NOTE: As indicated some months ago, our email has changed. Please direct any correspondence to *tommyinoz@gmail.com*



Pastor Bevans and Anne Welder, visiting from Corpus Christi, Texas



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This email is for those who support and pray for the ministry of Tom & Heidi Gonderman.

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