



Douglas Dispatch

April / May 2011 AD



Dear Faithful Supporters:

God has been so good to us this term here in Australia. We have seen Him direct our paths to a new location—a place where we have been able to use our skills in church planting as well as in construction to help rebuild/restart an existing church. The work is hard—there is much physical work to be done; the people we are leading are sometimes very set in their ways and fear the changes that will be necessary to transform the church into one that is relevant for their

community; and the community itself is apathetic and unconcerned about spiritual things.

God has been good to us materially. We have, unlike in previous terms, been able to maintain our support level at nearly 100%. This is not to say there aren't needs! The exchange rate has hurt us terribly this term. The weak American dollar against the strong Australian dollar has caused the rate to soar over parity (i.e. right now we receive only

\$.90 Australian for every \$1.00 US; last term we received around \$1.20 Australian for every \$1.00 US). This makes it so we have to stretch the paycheck even farther by the end of each month! But God is good to provide us with housing right now. Living on the church property has afforded us the freedom to be able to sell our home in Blacktown, look for property and decide on a home we would like to build here in Corrimal at our leisure—not under pressure.

The ministry advances

We enjoyed the Easter holidays. The church held an Easter Sing-along on Good Friday evening. We had a program of music to remember Jesus' death and resurrection. We had a few visitors, which also came back for Easter Sunday service.

Our people have worked through setting goals, establishing a purpose statement, and are now tackling some changes to the constitution which need to be made to conform to government requirements here.



We would like to change the name of our church, which is going to be a stretch for some. We're building consensus even now.

We are looking for some ministry teams to come out throughout the next year to help in the church property renovations. You can find information on ABWE's website: www.abwe.org/serve/construction-project-details/suburb-of-sydney/ There are jobs for the skilled and unskilled worker. We hope you can come.

Family life

We are selling our home in Blacktown to former missionaries to Papua New Guinea—a lovely couple with four teenage boys. We are thankful that God has provided another Christian family to take up the witness on Wistaria Place. We enjoyed the home and we pray our friends who are buying it will find it a blessing also.

The children God has given us make us thankful and proud. Amy has been working part time at Eagle Boys Pizza, while looking for either a second part time job or something full time. She is also preparing for the big move to the US—she has been accepted at Cedarville University and is excited about trying out college life. She'll be starting there in the fall semester in August.

Luke will be 16 on the 25th of this month. He's hoping to have a big party—inviting some of his friends from his old school and some from his new school. Being 1-1/2 hours apart, we're working out the logistics of transport for five friends to come down to our new home. He seems to be enjoying school and making new friends all right, but we know he still misses the former life back in Blacktown. He would also like to find a job to earn some extra spending money.

Thanks, Matt & Barb Douglas

Praise the Lord

- Nearly 100% support continuing. Thank you all!
- Housing while we sell and buy again.
- Renovations on the church property.
- Part-time job for Amy/acceptance at Cedarville.
- Visitors at Easter time.
- Settling in well in our new location.

Pray with us

- Growth of the church—numerically and spiritually.
- Jobs for Amy and Luke.
- Amy's departure and settling into college.
- A good new name for our new church.
- Renovations still to be done on the church property.
- Building friendships/relationships with people in our community for witness and outreach.

Until further notice our field address will be:
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If you would prefer our Douglas Dispatch via email
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