



Glen Tattersall **Tasmania** *Report*



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Dear brethren,

I send greetings to you from the Northern Midlands church of Christ. By the time you receive this report, Spring will have begun here in the Southern Hemisphere. It is one of the most beautiful times of year, with the temperature picking up from the cold of winter, the trees coming into blossom, and the days beginning to noticeably lengthen. In whatever season it may be where you are, I hope that it is one of spiritual growth and peace for you.

July began with me making final preparations for my trip to Perth, Western Australia. Some while back, the brethren of the Central North church invited me to come and conduct a Gospel meeting for them, and to also teach at their annual family camp. The Central North church is also the congregation where Trevor has placed membership, and so I was looking forward to meeting with him again.

Very early on the morning of July 4th I travelled from Launceston to Perth, via Sydney, arriving late in the afternoon. Trevor picked me up from the airport and took me to the house of sister Janet Lee where I would be staying for the duration of my trip. Janet has several single brethren boarding in her large house including Trevor. She was a very good host and made my stay comfortable.

The brethren have been blessed, after many years of renting meeting rooms, to be able to



finally acquire their own building as of late last year. It is a splendid facility, having been built previously as a church building for a denominational group that outgrew it. Nonetheless, it has a seating capacity of well over one hundred, and so it should serve the Lord's church now meeting in it, for many years to come. This would be their first Gospel meeting in their new building.

Gospel Meeting Banner

The theme of the Gospel meeting was “Ever Wondered...” and it consisted of the lessons: “How can I be sure there is a God?”, “Is the Bible credible?”, “How can a good God allow suffering?”, and “Will all good people go to Heaven?”. There were several visitors from the community, however I am unsure as to what contact they may have had with the church since the meetings.

The family camp went from July 11th-13th. The theme of the camp lessons was “Confronting Culture”, and the lessons we covered were: “Transgenderism”, “Entertainment Choices”, and “Woman’s Role in the Home” (in which we spent time in looking at how the messages of modern culture were proving very detrimental to women’s wellbeing and their families, and indeed how those messages were often ruining their opportunities to even have a family). We also examined “The Christian and the Environment”, and “Preaching the Gospel in a Post-Christian World”.



Teaching at the family camp



Although the camp is short, the brethren do a great job in organising it and making it a very enjoyable and edifying time.

The beautiful venue for the family camp

Other lessons were also taught at the regular assembly times, making for a total of thirteen lessons in ten days.

Trevor took me around sightseeing, and we had numerous coffees together. A number of brethren invited us for meals either in their homes or to dine out. It was a blessing and privilege for me to have been there, and I pray that the congregation, especially now that they are now meeting in their own facility, will grow from strength to strength.

In returning to Tasmania, the focus once again shifted to continue to move forward with our building renovation work. With the design work completed, we had a building surveyor give his input as to whether the plans met regulations. We then contacted numerous builders, with four of them submitting quotes. In mid-August, we finally gave approval for one builder to do the work. His schedule only allows him to begin work around the beginning of October (all the builders seem to have a lot of work on!), and he estimates that he will complete the work before Christmas. We will then need to install floor covering,

signage, and to do the carpark. We are looking forward to 2020 when we can start to meet in our building. For this reason, we have booked the halls only until the end of the year.

In the meantime, I have been busy – and will continue to be busy throughout September – with removing the old “ranch wall” lining from the rooms, ready for them to be relined with plasterboard. I will also need to rip up the old carpet and other floor covering. Labour charges for trades work in Australia are in the order of \$70+ per hour, so doing this preliminary work will help keep our costs down.



Although, it is awkward not being able to book one definite meeting location for each Sunday, we recognise that the work of evangelism cannot be put on hold until our building is complete. For this reason, we have been door-knocking on a nearly weekly basis in the town of Longford (which is where we are located). Gradually our contact list is growing, and it is pleasing to hear that people are beginning to notice where our new premises are – something that did not tend to occur in our previous location. Our goal is to have door-knocked every home in Longford by the end of next year. We then have other nearby towns to evangelise, so Lord willing, we will be effective in helping many souls come to Christ. We ask for your prayers as we begin – what is essentially – a new work.

Greg Shea, my co-worker, left for the USA on August 1st on a reporting and fund-raising trip. We miss having him with us, but we are thankful that in his updates, it is evident that the Lord is blessing him in his travels. So far, a highlight for him has been to attend this year’s Polishing the Pulpit.

Over the past few months we have had a number of visitors attend. A denominational couple who saw our signs came and visited one Sunday evening, and we have also had visits from brethren from the Mersey-Bluff church attend our Thursday mid-week classes. Everald Treloggen and his wife Colleen have visited three times since the beginning of July, and Everald preaches for us each Sunday morning they come down.

For my part, I have visited with the Mersey-Bluff church twice for their Wednesday mid-week classes, and they have extended to me the privilege of being able to teach on both occasions.

Leigh and Carol Stokes from the Eastern Shore church have been visitors to the congregation and a great support over many years. Over the past couple of months, they have been watching their youngest son Joshua (who is also well known to us), finally succumb to a seven-year battle with brain cancer. Joshua, who was a faithful Christian, passed away on August 23rd, just five days after his twenty-fifth birthday. Over many years, Joshua and Trevor often played online video games together and were good friends, so Trevor travelled across from Perth to attend with me, Joshua's funeral.

Joshua's passing serves as a reminder that a long life is by no means guaranteed, and of all that we do, there is nothing more important than walking with the Lord - even from a young age. We all take comfort in the fact that Joshua is now in Paradise, and his race is complete.



Brethren from five congregations attended the first "Spotlight on the Family" seminar

August ended with Trevor and me travelling to Devonport to support the brethren of the Mersey-Bluff church, as they were hosting their inaugural "Spotlight on the Family" seminar. They had a Friday evening session, and then three lessons on the Saturday. The brethren there understand that the Bible's teaching on the family is something that is vitally needed in both society and the church. Indeed, Australia is facing a growing catalogue of problems which all have their root in society's rejection of God's plan for the family.

As I bring this report to a close, I again wish to thank all of you for your interest, prayers, and support of the Lord's work here. One long time supporting congregation has recently had to discontinue their support due to declining numbers, and I know that some of you are facing pressures with your own budgets; so I want you to know that I am thankful to God for each one of you for your continued help both financially and in prayer. May the Lord continue to bless you in your labours for Him.

brotherly

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