

TERRITORY MATTERS

30th November 2008



Greetings friends and partners in the gospel. For a number of reasons (none of which are very good excuses) it has been quite a long time since our last update – so enjoy this double issue of Territory Matters.

At St Peter's Nightcliff (the church we attend at 5.00 pm as a family) we have just finished a series on Philippians. Paul writes, "I rejoice greatly in the Lord that at last you have renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you have been concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances." Phil 4:10-11.



Camping for Felicity's 'Big 4' birthday

We continue to give thanks for our partnership in the gospel and ask that you pray we might learn the secret of contentment because we are assured, "[our] God will meet all [our] needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus" Phil 4:19.

The Family

The good news is that we are surviving our first 'Build Up'. And survive is what everyone does. As I write the outside temperature is around 33° and 63% humidity. Most days clouds roll in and threaten to rain but with no relief. Even so we have been lucky to have 4 or 5 short bursts of heavy rain during October/November mostly in the middle of the night.

All the kids are now having weekly swimming lessons.



Matthew and Laura are improving significantly each time in

the water and Felicity and Oliver enjoy water familiarity classes with Jodi. Bruce has been riding his new bike around Darwin.

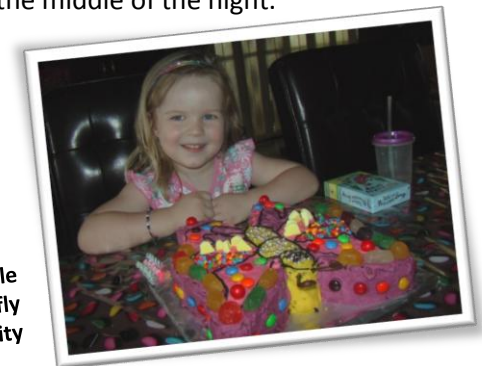
There are bike paths right around the city and surrounds. Riding is very enjoyable because everywhere is dead flat. Matthew loves to go riding with his dad whenever he is able.

Jodi is enjoying life in Darwin more each day and has found an escape in a local suburb Parap, which holds markets each Saturday. Unfortunately, though she has had a stomach complaint the last two weeks which has meant she is unable to eat more than toast and rice

We are very excited that both Matthew and Laura are excited about reading the Bible at the moment. Matthew has been using some study notes to help him each day. Matthew read Revelation recently over two days and has been asking lots of questions. They both enjoy sitting in on the weekly Monday night youth bible study at our place.

A few weeks ago, Matthew attended a 3 day school camp at Batchelor (100 km south of Darwin). The camp has lots of activities including snorkeling, canoeing, low and high ropes, abseiling, and rock climbing. Matthew and his Mum survived his first two nights away from home.

Finally the Chapman birthday season comes to a close next Monday with Matthew's 8th birthday. For Felicity's birthday (4 on 7/11) the family spent a night camping in a tent at a Caravan Park just outside Darwin. We all survived the experience despite dad putting the tent up the wrong way then having to start again and Laura vomiting all over herself in the middle of the night.



Our little Butterfly Felicity

Ministry update



6 months on . . .

As I reflect on 6 months in Darwin, I am struck once again by the grace of God and the enormity of the task we are engaged in.

In the last 'Territory Matters' I outlined the four areas for my ministry in the Territory. An update for these is included below.

However, the most significant event in the last couple of months was 3 days I spent in Sydney with Steve Jeffrey (Youthsurge), Bradley Young (10 years as Anglican Diocesan Youth Officer for Perth) and David Hopper (6 years as Presbyterian Youth Minister for Nth Qld). It was really helpful for me to learn from these guys and to use their wisdom in my own ministry setting. We are all convinced that we need to concentrate on building up our Christian youth and equipping them for mission amongst their peers. This is a long term strategy and requires patience. It means that my short term focus in Darwin will be concentrating on growing the youth ministry and leadership team at St Peter's Nightcliff so that we can influence and grow youth ministry in churches throughout the Territory.

St Peter's Nightcliff

Nightcliff scripture seminar

Last week I spent 3 full days in Scripture seminars for



Dinner with youth on Monday nights

yrs 3-6. Religious Education (RE) only happens in a small minority of schools in the NT. And when there is RE it might only happen like at Nightcliff twice a year (equates to 6 hours for a year). We thank God for the

privilege even though some of the classes were very difficult. We had to fit in with a topic of 'attentive listening'. Day 1 we looked at Jesus age 12 in the temple and talked about Jesus being a person worth listening to. Day 2 we explored the parable of the soils and thought about listening and understanding the words of Jesus. The final day we contrasted the rich young ruler and Zacchaeus from Luke 18-19. Two rich men with very different responses after listening to Jesus.

Marrara girls bible study

I have just finished 5 weeks of meeting with some indigenous girls who attend Marrara Christian school. The school has a programme with 10 houses around Darwin set up for boarders from all over the Territory. One of the families at St Peter's run one of these houses and invited me to lead a bible study. Over the last 6 weeks we have met. This group will probably not continue next year but has been a great opportunity and learning experience.

Northmead and Arndell mission teams

In the first week of October we had visits from two Sydney youth mission teams. A group of year 11 students from Arndell Christian school and some of the senior youth from Northmead Anglican spent time with our youth at the conclusion of their missions. It was great for our youth to hear of their experiences, join in Christian fellowship and be challenged to think about mission themselves.

Preaching

I have been preaching roughly every two weeks at St Peter's. As I mentioned previously we have just finished a series on Philippians. I will be preaching most of December

as Mark (my Senior Minister) travels south for holidays.

Youth Group

The senior group continues to meet at our house on Monday nights. We have been studying Hebrews, which has raised all sorts of great questions. Next week we farewell the



Senior Youth bible study at our place

couple who have been running the youth ministry for the last couple of years. We are praying for new leaders for 2009.

Update continued . . .



Darwin Area

FUSE

This interdenominational youth event meets on the first Saturday of every month. The last 3 months of the year went under the theme of 'Gratitude'. I gave the talk in October on giving thanks to God for who he is and what he has done (Psalm 136 & Col 1). About 80-100 youth attend from about 8 different churches. In October we prayed for local service people (eg politicians, police, fire) and wrote our thanks on big cards which were then presented to each service with a group photo. For November we wrote letters of thanks to people in our lives which were mailed later. I am now on the planning committee for FUSE and will be speaking at the first of three months on 'Evangelism' in early January.



Bruce preaching at a youth event

Visitation

I continue to regularly visit the Anglican churches in and around Darwin on Sunday mornings. This included a visit to Batchelor Anglican. A small community about 100 km south of Darwin. The congregation there were enthusiastic and I joined in their once a month special children's service.

I have also started visiting other churches in Darwin. So far I have gone to Darwin Presbyterian Casuarina Uniting and Darwin Baptist churches.

Ministry Wives

Jodi joined a new group of wives of men in ministry. Jodi had the opportunity to meet some new women. She was encouraged as they read the Bible and prayed together.

Indigenous Church

One of the priorities for 2009 is visiting the Indigenous Community churches. It was a privilege therefore to meet with some of the Aboriginal church leaders at Nungalingya College (Indigenous Bible College). We were able to share our vision for youth ministry and discuss issues unique to the communities. This time was good for building relationships and a platform for visiting and training in 2009.

Camps

In 2009 I will be involved with Katherine Christian Convention (2-4 May) planning and co-ordinating a youth programme with a mission team from Sydney (for anyone interested contact Youthsurge for information). There could be up to 100 indigenous



Batchelor Anglican Church

youth attending the convention. I will also be attending the Kriol Indigenous Youth Camp in July.

Northern Territory

Next week we have our second Diocesan Youth Taskforce meeting. We will be discussing a draft document of measureable goals for my job description.

I have been meeting with the Bishop every month, which has been very encouraging. Greg is very supportive and keen to see youth ministry grow. Please pray for him as he seeks funds outside of the Diocese to help fund my travel.

I have contacted Alice Springs and hope to visit there early in 2009. Scripture Union run a camp for high school youth in years 7-9 at Easter.

I have been asked to run the small group programme for the camp in 2009, which includes training

leaders. Preparations are underway now planning for this camp 6-9 April 2009. Finally, I am looking at the possibility of bringing a group of youth down to Sydney for KYCK 09.

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For prayer . . .



Give thanks for

- God's word and it's continued impact on our lives.
- Bible Study on Tuesday nights for Bruce. I have been greatly encouraged and challenged studying Exodus. It has been a great group to get to know guys in the church.
- Marrara girls bible study
- the opportunity to join the FUSE planning team.
- Matthew and Laura enjoying school and making friends.
- Jodi getting to know the women better at Monday Playgroup and in her Thursday bible study group.
- Jodi feeling more settled and comfortable in her new environment.
- Upcoming holidays to Brisbane and Gold Coast in January to stay with both sets of parents for a week each.
- Prayer and support from friends, family and all who partner us in the gospel.



Steve Jeffrey, Bruce, Dave Hopper & Bradley Young

Coming up

- Christmas talks at St Peter's Playgroup on Monday 1 & 8 December.
- orientation for preschool in 2009 for Felicity
- Diocesan Youth Taskforce meeting on 3 December.
- Women's evangelistic Christmas breakfast on 6 December.
- Preaching at the Chinese Christian Church on 7 December.
- St Peter's Carol service at 5 pm on 7 December.
- Bruce preaching throughout December and Christmas on Isaiah at St Peter's Nightcliff.
- 11.30 pm Christmas Eve service
- 9.00 am Christmas Day service
- Preaching at FUSE on 3 January 2009.
- Scripture Union Easter Camp (yr 7-9) 6-9 April 2009. I am writing small group studies as well as training small group leaders.
- Katherine Christian Convention (KCC) 2-4 May 2009. I am helping to coordinate and plan a youth programme with a mission team from Sydney.
- Youthsurge on 27 February 2009 with a meeting for parents of youth.

Please pray for

- Jodi inviting and encouraging women at Playgroup and church to come to the Women's Christmas morning this Saturday 6 December.
- Coping with the upcoming storm and cyclone season.
- Jake who directs the SU Easter camp. Pray that youth will be keen to come to camp and invite their friends. Also that we recruit sufficient small group leaders for the campers who register.
- Preparation for KCC as this will be the first planned youth teaching programme. Pray for the young people (mostly indigenous) that they will attend the programme and find it helpful. Pray for Gavin Poole coordinating the mission team from Sydney & recruiting people to come to Katherine.
- Good routines of Bible study and prayer individually for Jodi and Bruce, together and as a family.
- Wisdom as we make some small changes to the youth programme at Nightcliff in 2009.
- Diocesan funding to be made available for travel around the NT in 2009.

For information on how you can support us financially or to become a member of BCA and receive regular free information on the society and prayer updates contact BCA NSW / ACT.

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