



What's in This Newsletter?

Contacts, Carols, and Catch-ups, Happy and Hot Holidays, and a Vision for 2025

Contacts, Carols, and Catch-ups: This December/early January have yielded several positive results. First, we have made a few **good contacts** in Footscray, and God has blessed our Bible study with a new attendee coming each time as well as two returning attendees. Second, I was able to support some of my friends with an outreach to their family and friends with a **carols event**. Although Aussies are increasingly becoming less affiliated with religious groups, the culture has maintained the tradition of Christmas carols, and Aussies enjoy carols events at the park. This was a good way to share the gospel around Christmas. Third, I was able to develop some **relationships** with several individuals in the last month or so, the most special being my fiancée, **Ira**, who visited Melbourne in preparation for moving here in when we are married. I am thankful to have a fiancée who is tender towards people and ministry and wants to help reach the people of Footscray with the gospel.

Another individual I was able to connect with several times is my neighbour **Jack** who attended Men's Brekkie at church, came over for a couple games of Jenga during the holidays, and met with a friend of mine and me for a conversation. My friend, who shares some experiences with Jack, was able to witness to him, and although he was the most positive toward the gospel I've probably seen, he's still a bit challenged understanding and believing the Gospel. I am praying that God will put him into a position where he is forced to look totally to God because he is too self-confident. I would ask you to pray with me in this way, but for sake of privacy, please do not post this information online, at least where it can be viewed publicly. However, I am providing a specific insight personal to Jack based upon what he told us was his reason for not coming to faith so that you can pray specifically for God to break through his self-sufficiency. Please earnestly pray for this young man whose future is in the balance. He has a lot of potential, but he is going to have to make some big changes, and I am leaving the neighbourhood soon. But I do have his phone number to stay in contact.

Happy and Hot Holidays: Christmas was a bright, sunny, and hot day. Aussies typically spend Christmas doing BBQ's. I met with a couple friends who invited a young Muslim man named Sammi. He came and ate our vegetarian burgers and snags (hot dogs) because the meat we had was not halal. We are learning that we will have to take other people's religious views into account in this multicultural mission field so as not to offend them and prevent us from being able to have a conversation about spiritual things. Thankfully, one of our group that day was vegetarian, and we had veggie burgers, fruit, etc. So Sammi had something to eat. We were able to develop some friendship and discuss religious topics. I learned a bit about Islamic eschatology, and he learned more about the Christian faith. Our prayer is for us to be able to continue our friendship with Sammi and lead him to Christ. But as you could imagine, he is entrenched in Muslim teachings and will need much patience and prayer. I want to meet with him again to play a game he taught me called Koshtaka. It involved throwing a tennis ball at each other! We might use a softer ball, but it would be a good excuse to meet up again.

During the holidays, I got some happy news. I think I have mentioned a young man named **Pitou** (Toby is his English name). He is Cambodian by birth and has been living in Australia. He was staying with a family from Calvary, and we all were witnessing to him and praying for him. He has moved to Sydney but trusted Christ recently and is getting discipled at a good church there. He told me he just can't get enough of the Bible! Praise God for the answered prayer and fruit of our witnessing labour.

Vision Sunday: The first Sunday of January, I cast the vision for the church in 2025 to our small group with the theme of "Grounded for Growth." We plan to begin a discipleship study as well as a prayer meeting. This will lead to the next quarter when we will try to finish some foundational teaching for the church and prepare for the official church launch in July.

Thank you for your prayers and support. I do ask that you uphold Ira and me in prayer as we prepare for marriage. Since things will be busy, I will likely not send another update until after the wedding which is on 15 February. But we do appreciate your prayers. Also, please keep the church plant in earnest, fervent prayer for wisdom, safety, a building, skill for ministry, and good connections with the community. I am reminded of Jesus' words, "Without Me, ye can do nothing." Thanks again!

Joshua Zacharias

joshzach.jz@gmail.com • www.zacharias2australia.com

Sending Church: Campus Church • 250 Brent Lane • Pensacola, FL 32503 • www.campuschurch.com

Serving with: Baptist International Missions, Inc. • Account #1641 • PO Box 9 • Harrison, TN 37341 • www.bimi.org