



# Matt & Barb Douglas

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## *Christmas 2004*

*“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for calamity, to give you a future and a hope.” Jeremiah 29:11*

We want to update you on what the Lord has been doing in our lives during our furlough this year. We have really enjoyed all the traveling, visiting and reporting in our churches. We have enjoyed some real quality time as a family. It has been a blessing to see friends and meet new friends in our supporting churches.

We are three weeks away from completing a year of “home schooling” with Amy and Luke. They have performed admirably, and trust that they are right on track to continue in school next year (the Australian school year parallels the calendar year).

We recently talked with our Glorious Hope Baptist Church team in Australia. They are reporting a steady attendance, some visitors, and some challenges. Many of the challenges come from new adult believers who need to be discipled. Please continue to pray for this church as they seek to honor God in their worship and teaching of the Word. We are eager to get back.

We came back to the states with a significant shortfall in our support. While we have made up a considerable amount, we are still too far short to return to the field when we had hoped. Our airline tickets expire at the end of December, but it does not look like we will make it. We are trusting the Lord that the rest of our support will be made up within the first month or two of 2005. In fact, there are several supporting churches considering raising our support, and also non supporting churches considering supporting us for the first time, many of these making decisions in January. We also need more one-time gifts for our Outfit and Passage account.

Our later return has a lot of ramifications, such as: Amy and Luke may have to start school late; our home will be vacant from December onwards, so we will have to pay our entire mortgage from here on out (besides security issues of our home with no one living in it); scheduling new meetings for January and February (pray that God would lead us to churches that would partner with us in ministry in Australia); having to purchase new airline tickets; missing out on the ministry in Australia; missing our friends and coworkers there. We know that God has a perfect plan in all of this, and we are eager to see how He will work in this situation.

Thanks for praying for us. God is so good to give us faithful prayer supporters. We trust that the Lord will give all of us opportunities throughout this Christmas season to share His love and the reason for His birth, life, death and resurrection.

In His service,  
*Matt, Barb, Amy, and Luke Douglas*  
ABWE Australia

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