



Douglas Dispatch

First Quarter 2008



Psalm 96.3 "Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous works among the peoples!"

Australia is a wonderful place to live. We have the opportunity to reach people from the many nations of the world. Declaring His glory among the nations can be an every day occurrence. In our neighbourhood, church, and in each ministry we meet people from around the world.



My how the time has flown since our last prayer letter. We know we're late in getting this out. Much has happened and we are praising the Lord!



Christmas time means Christmas caroling for Glorious Hope Baptist Church. We were able to minister twice at the children's hospital near our church. Pastor Sam made contact with a family from New Caledonia who only spoke French (Pastor Sam is fluent), and the church was able to minister to them through mid February as their son was in a coma from an accident.

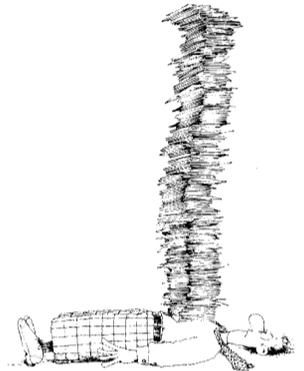
Our family celebrated a quiet Christmas. As has been our tradition, we spent Christmas Eve at the beach. Sunday morning was Christmas service at church, and then we had a quiet day enjoying our gifts and some good food. One excellent praise for Christmas day: Coco, the Muslim young woman who has been coming to church off and on, accepted Christ as her Savior!!! Pastor Sam and Lody have been meeting with her since then for discipleship. She has not yet proclaimed her faith to her family. This is a very difficult situation for her. Please pray!

January is typically a slow month for ministry: school holidays, summer time, everyone is away, businesses close. Matt spent the time installing our new above-ground pool and deck. It was a lot of work, but we are now enjoying his labor. There is still enough warm weather before autumn hits.

School has begun again and ministries are in full swing. Matt has taken the opportunity this year to teach an adult English as a Second Language class. Barb has seven Scripture classes in three different

public schools. We are both involved in leadership of our ABWE team here (vice chairman and secretary). We are welcoming two new missionary families here within the next week. The Matthews arrive Feb 19, and a single young woman, Elizabeth, arrives Feb 22. We are responsible for Elizabeth's initial settling in (which includes finding housing, a car, furnishings, cultural adaptation, etc.).

Glorious Hope Baptist Church is going well. We keep seeing new visitors. Some come again, some don't. There are a couple mothers with children from the neighborhood who have been coming regularly. Please pray for us as we minister to the children, who have little discipline in their lives and can cause disruptions during the Sunday School time. We want to see these families saved. Matt has begun meeting with the young adults once or twice a month. One of the young men asked Matt to be a mentor as he desires to serve the Lord in greater ways. Matt continues to lead the youth, but prays that the Lord would supply a youth worker.



The year ahead will be busy with visitors from overseas. Matt's parents and another couple from their church will be here in March/April. We are hosting a drama team from Corban College in May/June. Matt will be taking part in evangelism at the World Cup Soccer in Germany in June. Matt's sister, brother-in-law and niece will be visiting in July.

Amy and Luke are settled into school (Amy Year 8, Luke Year 5). They are enjoying their friends and the routine again.

Barb had follow-up surgery on her leg to remove the screws and plate holding her bones together. She is experiencing some pain, but is able to get around all right.

In His service,
Matt, Barb, Amy & Luke Douglas

Please visit our web site for more up-to-date information on our ministries:
www.abwedouglas.net

Praise: A Christ-centered Christmas; Coco's salvation; good opportunities for ministry this year; two ladies baptized

Prayer: Discipleship of new believers; follow-up on visitors at church; wisdom for direction in youth ministry; healing and strength in Barb's leg

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