

Larry & Dawn Nelson Missionaries to Australia

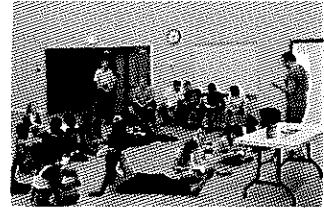
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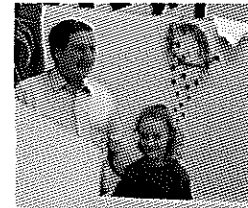
April - June 2017

Dear friends,

The other evening a young Sudanese boy with his sister came along to our AWANA (children's ministry) with one simple question, "Is this the place where you teach children about Jesus?" What a delight. "Oh, yes, this is the place, welcome!" They ran back to tell their parents waiting in the car! Other kids attending our church had told them about it. A week later a lady came by to see our children's club for the first time and asked me if her three teens could come to our Sunday school and youth activities - "They really want to come because they like your church!" We're seeing visitors every week as our people are out inviting them. This reminds me of Philip's invitation to Nathanael, "Come and see." Two young ladies received Christ as Saviour this month and several more are listening carefully to the gospel message. Please also pray for their parents as they hear the gospel.



One of our couples fosters twin boys and a girl who were neglected by drug-dependent parents. This is a powerful ministry. They love them giving them a stable and safe home environment which includes bringing them to all the church activities. A couple weeks ago the 12 year old girl told me she had received Christ as her Saviour and now wanted to be baptised. Her testimony of salvation gives a greater joy when you understand her background. She now experiences love, acceptance and forgiveness through Christ and now has a real home. Four more young men are also being counselled for baptism.



Over the last few months we've had many overseas visitors - visiting preachers, my sister & brother-in-law from Washington and my mother visiting from Oregon. It has been so nice! The church organised a "pot-luck" to mark the occasion of the 30th year of ministry. Many testimonies were shared as we recounted the blessings for the fruit that has come from this work and the churches started. This is fruit that will "abound to your account"!



The men's Bible study group is growing. Several of the men have said that that fellowship & accountability is what they have needed. The fresh and practical application of God's Word is building their faith.



This Sunday evening we will be conducting an ordination service for our youth pastor, Mark. Mark has been working with me for several years while completing his formal studies and has been taking on more ministry responsibility during this time. He is now serving full-time and supported by the church. He and his wife, Ashleigh, are truly dedicated and I am so thankful for them. I have asked eight other pastors to join us to form an Ordination Council for this special occasion. Mark & Ashleigh are also expecting their first child in August! I'll give you a report in my next letter.

As we enter the second half of 2017 I am reminded of the Apostle Paul's exhortation to be "*Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.*" (Ephesians 5:16-17) We are praising the Lord for the many visitors we are seeing and for those who are receiving Christ as Saviour and starting to follow him. But we are also praying for wisdom and understanding as we deal with each one. **Thank you for taking the time to pray for us. Thank you for your investment in this work.**

His Servants & Yours,
Larry & Dawn Nelson