



Newsletter June 2008 -- No. 5

Dear friends and comrades in arms,

This is my second newsletter from the field in Australia. I am about half way into a 49 day trip. In some ways it seems like a short time because, (as you can see from the schedule) I have been very busy. Separation from Brenda, however, makes it seem much longer. We thank God for telephones and cheap phone cards! **Has it been worth it?** Absolutely! Good things always happen on these trips and this one is no exception. One of the best things is getting to know more Australian Christians, *"...that I may be encouraged together with you while among you, each of us by the other's faith, both yours and mine"* (Romans 1:12).

Back on Track Seminars – Southeast Church of Christ in Melbourne and Bankstown Church of Christ in Sydney: The three seminars planned for this trip are now over with gratifying results. At **Southeast**, there were 63 in attendance Saturday and 79 on Sunday representing 5 churches including some deaf brethren who came all the way from the **Prospect Church of Christ** in Adelaide, South Australia. Around 50 attended the seminar at **Bankstown** again representing five area congregations. It was a gratifying answer to prayer that in both locations following the seminars brothers and sisters were making plans to go into evangelistic action. Pictures from Left to right: **Hunter Valley** at Camp Elim; **Southeast** in Melbourne; **Bankstown** in Sydney.



Of course, the long-term results are still out. The material can be presented and the encouragement given, but the real test of effectiveness will be churches truly getting...well...back on track! If there is a renewed determination to continue the work of Jesus in our world today then the seminars can be said to be successful. Such determination will be obvious in a significant increase in aggressive evangelism and good works that glorify God and when God's people *"...proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light"* (1 Peter 2:9).

Much work and travel remains ahead as we join **Chris Swinford** and the **Samsill family** to work with the **Macquarie church** in Sydney and the **Adelaide Church of Christ**. That will be followed by a whirlwind tour of three locations in New Zealand with visits to AIM students and the newly-arrived Auckland team. In all these endeavors we will highly value your prayers.

Australian Christian hospitality has been outstanding! First it was **Stephen and Annette Diles** on their farm near Dungog. Then it was Josh Turner in Maitland and his fiancé, Binh Truong, David and

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Kate Adkins in Melbourne (all mentioned in the last newsletter) then, our wonderful long-time friend, **Val Colley** in Brooklyn, **Bryan and Terri Flaxman** at their country place near Bargo and **Warren and Diane Thorburn** in Sydney. I have been richly blessed in each home with wonderful conversation, excellent fellowship, adequate nutrition and good beds.

"Surviving and living your life successfully requires courage. The goals and dreams you're seeking require courage and risk taking." I don't know who said it, but it's so true, isn't it? We see it so often as men and women take the leap of faith to serve God and become one of *"those who proclaim the gospel,"* and *"...get their living from the gospel"* (1 Corinthians 9:14).

That's the kind of courage and risk-taking recently displayed by **Craig, Tomya and Micah Peters** as they spent 18 exhausting months seeking partners to help them work with our new applicant school, MSOBS, in Sydney. Courage and risk-taking are all part of walking away from a regular paycheck to wander in the trackless fund-raising wilderness. All of us who are called to make such a journey enter unknown terrain confident that comrades will be found to send us on our way (3 John 6). To you who send...we express our...

...deep gratitude for your encouragement, prayers and support,



Dwight & Brenda Whitsett



Baptism of Matt White by his dad in the frigid waters of the lake at Camp Elim

STILL AHEAD:

- **Discipleship Workshop** (Samsill & Swinford) – Adelaide – 4-6 July
- **Visit Auckland Team and AIM Students** in NZ with Chris Swinford – 8-15 July
- **Macquarie Lectures** – Sydney -- 16-19 July
- **Global Missions Conference** (attend) – Arlington, TX -- 23-26 July

"I have but one candle of life to burn, and I would rather burn it out in a land filled with darkness than in a land flooded with light" -- John Keith Falconer

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