

REACHING THE WORLD DOWN UNDER BUILDING GOD'S KINGDOM IN CAIRNS, AUSTRALIA



Australia Day is on January 26 and commemorates the establishment of the first European settlement at Port Jackson, now part of Sydney, in 1788. There was quite a bit of discussion on radio and TV as to whether it is right to celebrate the day given the country's colonial history.

Brothers and Sisters,

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord Jesus. Happy 2014! We are thankful to each of you in your faithfulness to the Lord and to his mission.

We have found a lot of similarities between Cairns and Papua New Guinea, one of them being school holidays. In December and January things slow down, if not shut down. School holidays plus monsoon rains encourage families and those who are able to leave Cairns for sunnier, more pleasant destinations. Having said this, half of our church left Cairns for two months! For those of us who stayed, we enjoyed lots of rain – 200+mm. On a positive note, the mass exit of many of our members provided a space and place for those who remained to practice and experience leadership roles in the church.

Happy New Year! Not so much at the Moriarty house. This year, I, Jason, was the last one standing, literally. This was not because of a late night but because all in the house, with the exception of the one who faithfully eats Trix (not really, but let's just say I am not as health conscious as my wife), had the flu. Fun. Story gets worse. I, Jason, was working on our computer when for what appeared to be no apparent reason, a bag which was stored above our computer came off the ledge and landed straight on our hard drive! Ouch! Ah, yeah, \$700 fix ouch. It took a month, money, shipping to another city, to recover the data but thankfully it was all recovered.

Young Adults

The young adults have begun meeting outside of church meeting for social outings and studying on relevant questions pertaining to their faith. As a group we have begun a series called 'Reason for God'. In the study we deal with six common objections to Christianity. To date we have completed the first two questions: first, is the story of the Bible a myth and some reasons why it is not, and second, how can you say there is only one way to God. The study has proven helpful to the group and also myself. Every culture asks different questions. In Australia, the questions posed are those previously mentioned, whereas in Papua New Guinea there is never a question of the existence of God. The question for Papua New Guineans was, who is more powerful, the ancestors, the shaman, or God? So for ten years I have answered those questions never needing to work through the logic and inconsistencies within the pluralist environment we find ourselves in Australia. The study has been good.

Sunday Adult Class

In January we began a class on Discipleship, and the various ways that Jesus chose to disciple the twelve. We have structured it so it is done in groups, which has enabled an environment where people can share and be honest.

Sunday morning class.



Some of the young adults on an outing to a nearby lake.



In your relationship with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus. . . Philipians 2:5



It has taken about a month but we are now at the point where participants are sharing where they are spiritually – and being honest about it. They are answering questions such as “over the past year have you grown or changed at all in your faith?” Another question is “who reads their Bible daily?” The Christians are sharing honestly with each other. What a testimony that we are all on the same journey yet all at different stages. This class has been instrumental in helping the Christians to open up their spiritual lives to each other.



Culture Corner:

Curlews are a fairly aggressive ground bird frequently found in residential areas in Cairns.



What does Curlew, mowing, and golf clubs have in common?
Jason!

This past week Jason was attacked by nesting curlews who reside in our front yard. The task had to be completed so Jason resorted to pushing the mower with one hand and holding a golf club in the other. Occasionally when the curlews charged Jason had to leave the mower and defend himself with the golf club. Who won? Sad to say but the curlews did. Defeated, Jason had to complete the mowing several days later for fear of being attacked.

On a more practical note, costs continue to rise steadily. This is to be expected, yet we see things getting tighter financially at present. I recently learned that an entry level position in Cairns brings \$63,000 + benefits. We currently live on \$48,000. We only mention this to give context to the steady rise of living in Australia. Pray for us this year.

In closing, we are thankful to each of you for your continued love for us and for the ministry of our Lord. It is the Lord who we serve and our pray is that He will bless you for your faithfulness.

God be with you this 2014.

Jason, Sheryl, Callum, Zoie, and Eve.

"...God...made every nation...and determined the times...and places...they should live...so that men would seek him...and find him..." Acts 17: 24-28



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