



July 2017

Dear Friends and Co-labourers,

It has been exciting to hear from many of you that summer and summer programs are in full swing. We have heard about camps, VBS, and special meetings. We pray for God's blessing as you share the gospel with many children during this time.

On this side of the world, although it was a little late in coming, winter has shown up with its usual high winds, cold temperatures, and rain. We have lost power once so far, but we are glad that a hole in our ceiling, that had been there for four months, has finally been fixed.

Life here in Australia is much like day-to-day life in the US. Witnessing to people is often met with the same skepticism as in many Western countries. It is quickly apparent that people want to get to know us before they want to hear what we have to say. Recently we became more aware of this when visiting with a family with whom we have kept in contact with and witnessed to over the last 10 years. The wife talked about how the Christians that she knew were kind and generous. Later she was questioning if someone was a Christian who seemed to not be helpful. While many verses speak of how a Christian should behave (too many to try to mention all of them), Philippians 1:27 tells us that we should behave in a way "that becometh the gospel of Christ." A few ways that we have been trying to show our care toward people is that Sherrie has been baking for neighbors and others, and we have also left positive reviews on the internet for people with whom we have contact through business.

Please continue to pray for the church. We have had some visitors and some inquiries into the church. We also have a couple of girls who would like to attend but live too far away to pick up on a regular basis. As well, there is a South African man with whom I have had continual contact and who is questioning things in his current church setting. Also, please pray for our Muslim convert. He left Australia for a short time of employment in China. He was supposed to return several weeks ago now, but we have not heard from him and all our correspondence has gone unanswered. When he left, I was able to send him with many Bible lessons, and he had written that he had done two lessons on the plane and was looking forward to doing more. We have serious concerns for his well-being as many people were not happy with his conversion.

As always, we covet your prayers and are thankful for your continued support.

To the praise of His glory,

Gary Lester

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