

The Wilhite's

Missionaries in Australia

March 2023

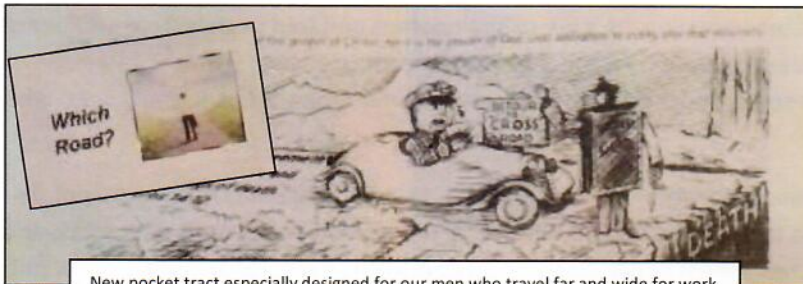


Dear Prayer Partners,

Greetings again from the Land Down Under and the continent of extremes! For months we have had no rain; then, in the last few days we have inundated with showers with more on the way. There seem to be spiritual extremes too. Dr. Tom Strouse used to say in seminary class, "Balance is the key to the Christian life." That's worth pondering and practicing.

As you can see, we have a new family photo. If you need one for a missionary display, please contact me via email (jerrywilhite@gmail.com). Just promise me you won't crop the old guy in the upper righthand spot! Also, on the home front Debrianna has moved up a level with her driving skills to a Green Class P, and Joshua now has his Red Class P, meaning both can drive alone anywhere, and as long as Josh doesn't get a moving violation in the next year, he will advance to the Green Class P level. He chose to purchase his own 5-year license, so maybe that means he will be around here for awhile even though he is in his last year of homeschooling. Debbie is in her 34th year (and final one) of homeschooling. In June, she and I will celebrate 42 years of marriage, and with the homes crumbling around us, it is so good to kneel with her regularly and commit our children, grandchildren, and day unto Him who loved us and gave Himself for us. As for a computer matter, please pray for God's grace as it seems that I have lost the last three years of files.

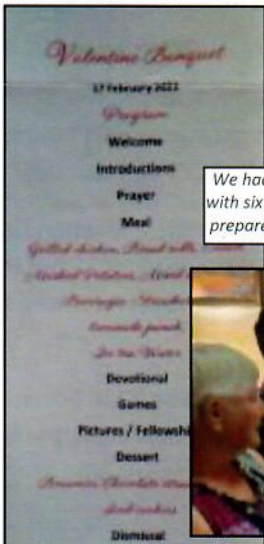
By way of outreach the past couple of months the pictures below say much. Also, we have followed up on many who came to the Journey Through Bethlehem. Today, we began teaching a Bible Institute class after our Sunday morning service, and eight of the registered nine were there. This first course, of which we hope will be many, is entitled "How to Study the Bible."



New pocket tract especially designed for our men who travel far and wide for work



Six non-member adults have joined us for this outreach Ryan is overseeing



We had a delightful time with six couples for a meal prepared by Bri and Josh!



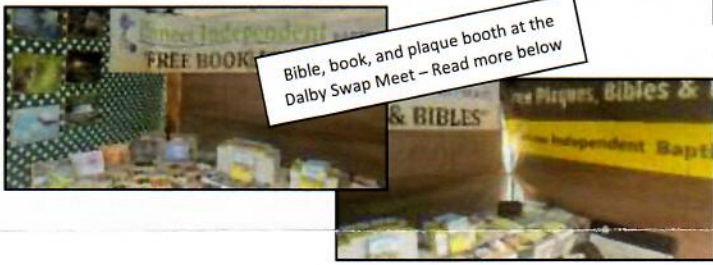
The Watermelon Festival in Chinchilla (pop 6000) drew 15000 guests this year. Being our first experience, the 100 copies of the new tract we developed were quickly gone. We plan to have our own booth the next time it is held in 2025





The Lams, members of Trinity Baptist in Brisbane, designed and printed these sharp magnetic signs.

This homeless couple spent two nights at our place on their preaching tour through to New South Wales. Buddy and Susan Smith have been doing missionary work here in Oz for 50 years and was my first contact into the country nearly 10 years ago.



Bible, book, and plaque booth at the Dalby Swap Meet – Read more below



Very first Bible Institute Class

Travis found himself in line at the grocery store behind a lady we knew. Joy Shields (83) didn't have enough money so Travis paid for her goods. They got to talking and found out he was headed over here to our house for a Bible study. A week later, Joy contacted me to say that she wanted to do something for Travis, so we scheduled a time to go to her house, and while there she told me about a 21-year-old chap who had taken his own life. I just happened to know Robert, the boy's father, who runs a meat market on the other side of town....

At the Agulto twins 3rd birthday party, Deb and I met a Filipino couple who gave us their names and told us they lived on Palmer Street, the street right behind the meat market that Robert operates. Taking a sympathy card to Robert with the intention of popping in on Benjo and Virginia, I decided to knock on some doors on Palmer Street. In time I met Bec, a friendly lady, who told me briefly about her hubby, Kersey, and her kids....

This past Friday was the Dalby Swap Meet, and it was raining, so when I got to the gate I asked if there was an indoor spot due to the materials I had to display. Gladly, there wasn't. In the rain Bri helped me set up the gazebo, make-shift tarp walls, and display; then she headed home. An hour later I went to the nearest chuck wagon, and as ordered my chips and coke, I thought, "This lady sure looks familiar." Now, if I had gotten an indoor spot, I would have gone to the chuck wagon closer to the inside stalls, not the Big Red Tucker that I was now standing in front of. "You came to my door recently," said Bec! Then she and Kersey both told me how much they had enjoyed our Journey Through Bethlehem back at Christmas time!

Why was I still surprised when they showed up in church yesterday with two of their teen children? Carrying Bibles? In Bible cases? Why was I surprised that David and Lois (who live an hour west) stopped through for church on their way east whose son just so happened to be a good friend of Kersey's 20 years ago? Why was I surprised they said they'd be back next Sunday?

Why was I surprised when Shane showed up at church yesterday after meeting the Landman's at the Bible booth, and when he said to me, "I know where you live. I was pulling a boat through the gully behind your house and noticed the magnetic sticker on your car." He moved to town two months ago just around the corner from us and asked the Lord to let him meet a Christian here in town.

Why was I surprised when Michael and Daniel just happened to come to the Swap Meet in the rain and walk by the Bible booth? These are two 21-year-old guys who have attended church a few times but have never committed to a Bible study. Well, there in the nearby arena aside the Big Red Tucker wagon I gave them the Good Person Test and conviction seemed to set in.

I tell you why I was surprised but shouldn't have been. Because it was your faith in your God to answer your prayers. Keep on praying! Maybe someday I will exercise a bit more faith. Ain't God good!?!

Bro Jerry