

NEW VISION

2011 OVERSEAS TOUR NEWSLETTER

TRAVELING THROUGH AUSTRALIA AND THE UNITED STATES



Becca Grinham, Simon Bartholdy, Kyle Meissner, Erin Clayton, Jonathan Lemmon

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Youth
ENCOUNTER

THE CALL

By Jonathan Lemmon

Nearly two years ago now I first received my letter of call for “New Vision”. To make a long story short, things didn’t work out for me to be on team in 2009-2010 and things didn’t work out for New Vision to come to Australia that year either...which opened a door for me to be here now. When I finally arrived in Perth, Australia I was flooded with emotions of excitement, relief, joy, happiness, and fear. It was as if I had finally opened a gift that had been sitting around for a couple of years, and by now I wasn’t sure if I wanted it anymore.

Soon after my arrival I began to see how wonderful the country and its people are. We spent the first couple of weeks getting “acclimated” to the new beach culture we would be a part of (which wasn’t all that tough). The scenery is beautiful and after 26 hours of flying it was almost needed. We began at our first congregation just under two weeks after we arrived, then a few days later we visited our next congregation. As I am writing this, we have ministered with five congregations so far. To be honest, the ministry in Australia is not really anything like I expected. The congregations are wonderful, but there are many times that I don’t have that warm fuzzy feeling inside that I thought I was supposed to have while doing ministry. This is something I struggled with for a few weeks. Then I was reminded of a verse that I often share: John 3:30, “He must become greater, I must become less.” This verse reminded me that although I don’t always have that “awe” feeling while ministering, it’s not about me and my feelings. It’s about putting my feelings aside and focusing on why I am here in the first place, and that’s Jesus. He must become greater! He is working here in Western Australia through New Vision. And at this point in my tour, I am very happy I chose to open that gift.



The Southern Ocean, how beautiful!

IT’S ALL ABOUT HIM

By Becca Grinham

On January 12th, I landed here in Perth, Australia with my teammates. I would never even begin to think I would have had the opportunity to assist the elderly, lead youth groups and play music in a different country, and be so happy. The anticipation alone was crazy and I had never been so excited to go anywhere in my life before. Now that I’m here, I may never leave.



Becca with students at St. Patrick’s Primary School in Katanning W.A.

Coming to a different country I didn’t know exactly what to expect. I guess you could say I had all the stereotypes down, and was ready for anything. To my surprise, there weren’t kangaroos everywhere and there was more than just bush and desert. I am still pleasantly surprised at how much Perth reminds me of Southern California, my own home. Culture shock hasn’t really “hit me” because of how comfortable I feel being here. Working with children and youth in schools has been our focus since we have arrived. Our first booking with a school was just about 2 weeks

long, and we got to work in the classroom with middle school aged students. There were times when I didn't feel I was ministering to them as I would have liked. As our time came to an end we started to get a lot of questions from our fellow peers, about our faith, God, and Christianity. They have now started their own walk and will continue to minister to those students there, as we move on to more schools. It's funny how even though I felt no ministry was getting passed on, God had his way of working through me; reminding myself that it's not about me, it's all about Him.

I have learned a lot about my faith and myself and have been motivated in ways I had never thought about. I feel like God has shown me an entirely different strength in my faith, and I can't wait to take it home. One thing God has reminded me of is just how important my relationship with Him is to me. Being a part of the Lutheran church, I am constantly reminded and amazed at how I can travel thousands of miles away from my home congregation, and still worship, pray and give thanks to my same Lord and Jesus Christ. There is no greater feeling to me than being in a building with several youth and families raising our voices in song, reaching out to each other and giving that love to one another. The love of a family is a precious thing, and I miss mine more than ever, but it truly is comforting to feel the power and love of God hard at work with our newfound friends.



Kindred at Morley Elementary.

“Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God.” - Romans 5:1-2

“The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him.” - Psalm 28:7

NAVIGATING A NEW CULTURE

By Erin Clayton

It has been fun learning to navigate in this new culture.

No one here actually says crikey or g'day mate or has shrimp on the barbie... They do drive on the left side of the road and play cricket and go to the beach all the time. They don't understand just how cold it gets or how fun snow can be, cause most of them have never experienced it. The attitude of just about everyone is really relaxed, very 'no worries.' They use Celsius, liters, and kilometers. There is no equivalent to a penny in the Aussie money; the smallest coin is a 5 cent piece, and they also have a 50 cent piece!

And I have been keeping a list of all of the words and phrases that are different here in Australia so I could share it with you:

- Thongs = flip flops, sandals
- Footpath = sidewalk
- Fuel = gas
- Gas = liquid petroleum gas
- Windscreen = windshield
- Sausage sizzle = hot dog cookout
- Bitumen or ashfelt = asphalt
- Chockers = full, stuffed
- Bloke = guy
- Bogan = the Aussie version of 'rednecks' who like souped-up cars and wear a uniform of thongs, tanktops and board shorts
- Kip = nap
- Feral = wild person, usually involving alcohol
- Dag = extremely silly or stupid person
- Prawns = shrimp
- Fallback = monitors
- Leads = both leash and electric cords
- Arvo = afternoon
- To have tea = to eat the evening meal
- Desk = sound board
- Ta = thank you
- Knackered = tired
- Lemon squash = lemonade
- Boot = trunk

Other differences:

- Muffins are sweets, never breakfast food
- Pancakes are either eaten with lemon and sugar (such a weird grainy texture!) or with chocolate sauce and ice-cream
- They eat jello and ice cream together!
- They do not have ketchup, they have tomato sauce, which is like salt free ketchup minus the vinegar
- Their exit signs are green and have no letters, just a picture of someone running!!!

- Hire = rent
- Mackahs = McDonald's
- Chook = chicken
- Carbath = carwash
- Potato gems = tater tots
- Bathroom = room with bathtub and sink
- Toilet = room with a toilet and nothing else
- Jumper = long sleeved sweater or sweatshirt
- Cordial (cor-dee-al) = really sugary sweet beverage, similar to McDonald's orange drink or liquid jello, comes in many flavors
- Jelly = jello
- Jam = jelly
- Bathers = bathing suit
- Capsicum = green bell pepper (or red or yellow or...)

Really common sayings:

- No worries!
- I reckon...
- How are y'going?
- Good on ya!
- She'll be right.
- Cheers!
- Fair dinkum (more of an eastern states saying) = an expression of surprise meaning wow, good, no kidding

SPIRITUAL FOOD

By Simon Bartholdy

A couple months have passed since the last newsletter and much has happened! As I write this, we are now traveling Western Australia, the largest and most deserted state in Australia. I am still having a great time and I praise the Lord for sending me to boiling hot Australia and the wonderful people here!

One of the new things that my team and I have started doing is intentionally seeking solid spiritual food. It is not always easy to make sure that you yourself (as a teamer) are being properly fed when all you do is share, share, share. So now, we have decided to watch one sermon a week by a pastor named Marc Driscoll. He preaches every Sunday at Mars Hill Church in Seattle, OR, and his sermons are great! He preaches for about an hour and he is very good at challenging the listener,

giving food for thought, and being provocatively blunt! The whole team is very much enjoying this one hour a week of refueling.

Today was actually our sermon day, so after a visit at one of the local public schools (where we did a puppet show (during which, the puppet curtain fell down and (to the enjoyment of the audience) exposed our terrified faces) and puppet making workshops with the kids) and now you're lost in the brackets) which is understandable) we put on a sermon about the cost of discipleship. It was very, very interesting and led to a discussion about whether or not we are ready to die for our faith - literally and in a more figurative sense. And would we as Paul and Silas are doing it in Acts chapter 16 be able to sing hymns while sitting in a prison cell? Or as the apostles are doing it in Acts chapter 5 rejoicing because they had been counted worthy to be flogged?! I think it is super healthy as a Christian to think very hard about whether we are truly ready to carry our cross (Luke 14:26-27). And with 'cross', Jesus is not talking about having to eat pizza two days in a row, He is talking about making big sacrifices if needed. So I guess this is just an invitation to do the same reality check as we did today. Is your relationship with Jesus the most important relationship you have? If not, what are you gonna do about it? I challenge you to reflection AND action!

The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you. My love to all of you in Christ Jesus. Amen!



New Vision watching a Marc Driscoll sermon for their devotional time.

CHANGE By Kyle Meissner

First off I would like to say I am probably the last person to get in my newsletter in, but now I can write about a FANTABULOUS booking in Australia. If I wrote this when it was due you wouldn't get this story. Therefore, in my opinion, my tardiness was a good thing. Australia was an awesome experience and the last few weeks were filled with crazy ministry opportunities that revved up my passion for ministry heaps. (heaps = Australian slang)



Street ministry in downtown Perth.

The beginning of our time in Australia started really slow, and I had days asking myself, "Why am I all the way across the world just hanging out with people?" I didn't expect all the hangout ministry. One of the last bookings we had in Australia was at a school that had around 1100 students, and I was really excited because the pastor (Mike) and the school chaplain (Richard) planned for us to be busy. This is where our time in Australia changed.

We got to the first day of school, and we started off with a school chapel Richard called "the tough crowd". Richard was right, they just basically stared at us and drooled. Then we had the high-schoolers and they were a little more into the music, and a few jumped around. The rest of the day the kids asked

us questions like if we have been to Taco Bell, or if Simon can speak in Danish. It was fun, but we also learned that about 20% of these kids were Christians. This is pretty much what our first few days there were like.

The second half of the first week was rather different, though. We had the chapels in the morning and after walking around classrooms and hanging out with these kids, they started to open up, and we got them going CRAZY! It was awesome – we were jumping around during chapels, kids were swarming to us around recess time, and wanting to see what we were all about! We did a Bible study with the high-schoolers and all this awesome ministry! These young people were opening up, and we were having a blast. We were just excited and wanting to have fun the entire time we were around them, and they thought it was cool. They were wondering why we were there? So we told them, JESUS! We had a lock-in the first Friday we were there, and this kid came up and said he wanted to give his life to Christ! That moment right there was worth the entire 3 months, but God wasn't done yet!

The last night we were there we had a Family Night Program, and we went all over the school inviting students, teachers, families, friends, strangers, anyone and everyone. When we started their were about 302598230698 people there. This might be an exaggeration, but you get the point.



Kyle jumping for Jesus.

This was one of my favorite moments of my life! Just being up on the stage screaming, jumping, laughing, and having a great time! Two short weeks before, kids were sleeping in their chairs and now they were jumping! I can't say for a certainty they were ALL jumping because they wanted to give their life to Jesus, but I do know God enabled our team to do work in that school, and those kids were paying attention! We received an email a few weeks later telling us the atmosphere around the campus was still different – the students, and faculty were still taking about what a breath of fresh air we were!!! ALL GLORY TO GOD!!!

We are now in Hawaii, and I can't wait to see what God has planned for us here!!

Thank you for your prayer and financial support!

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