

October 1, 2007

October Report

Dear brethren,

The work of the church here in Armadale, Western Australia continues faithfully I am pleased to say. We have gone through a wet and cool winter without too many illnesses among the brethren, and we are looking forward to continuing on with our service to the Lord.

We continue to have good responses to our correspondence course, gaining new students regularly. We advertise this course in the local newspaper, through letter box drops and on our website: <http://www.newtestamentchurch.info>. All of these avenues have proven successful which is very encouraging. We have had one sister, who just came back to the Lord, who has finished the course and one other lady as well. I am expecting several other students to finish the course in the next few weeks and am hopeful that further studies will come from these. We are offering a free leather Bible to those who complete the entire course and that seems to have proven an attention grabber.

In the congregation here we have two other regular teachers: Mark Burt and Jim Howard. Both of these men have been teaching for many years and are excellent students of the Bible. It is a real encouragement to have these men helping me. We also have two younger men that we are training up: Jamie my son and another man, Troy Robinson.

The way our speaking roster is worked out, I speak each Sunday, normally in the morning. Mark and Jim take turns teaching in the other services with Jamie and Troy speaking once every six weeks. This system seems to work well with all the men seeming to have enough time to get up good lessons.

We meet on Tuesday night, privately in members homes and I teach nearly each week excepting when it is in Mark Burt's home, when he teaches. I have been working through several books of the Bible – some of the books we have studied in recent months include Job, Daniel, James, 1st and 2nd Peter. We are currently doing a study on the book of Galatians – I have written a study book with an outline of each chapter and focus questions. This has proven an excellent way to focus the brethren's minds on the study.

We have an elderly couple, John and Mary, who have been attending services for a while now and I am very pleased that they have agreed to start studying with me. I am due to study with them tomorrow for the first time. They come from a denominational background, so to them a lot of what we do seems very strange. I think they have taken their time looking very carefully at what we do. With the Lord's help I think these will prove to be very good studies.

I have recently started a web log (blog) - <http://jottingsfromthepreachersdesk.blogspot.com/>. It is only early days, but I am hopeful that this new media will prove successful in spreading God's word.

Keith and the Kangaroo.

On recent Sunday morning we had an unexpected visitor into our yard. Up until late on Saturday evening my wife, Anne had been planting some new plants at the front of our house. This is rather exciting as we are just finishing off the house we have built ourselves. So early the next morning I got up and had a look at the wonderful work she had been doing.



The mist was rolling up the valley and the newly risen sun had a halo effect around it, it was truly beautiful! I looked over at the new planting and there; about 15 meters away from me was a kangaroo. Now, we see 'roos around our house, but not this close, I crept back into the house and quietly called for Anne to come and have a look. By the time she had come the 'roo was not to be seen. Going around the side of the house I saw it in the yard that we have fenced off for the dogs.

Kangaroos can easily get panicked and I didn't want an incident with the dogs so I jumped over the fence to quietly encourage the 'roo to move before the dogs got a whiff of it. I thought it would bolt way from me, but rather all it seemed to want to do was share my cup of tea. Eventually I got it out of the yard, all without the dogs moving an inch from their beds – so much for our wonderful guard dogs.

I thank the brethren for their continuing interest in the work here in Western Australia and I would ask for your continued prayers. Thanks for all your help - past, present and future.

In Christ's Service.

Keith Thomson