



## Mission Partner Update

Christmas for us is a bit unusual, compared to others in full-time ministry. The closer it gets to Christmas the quieter it becomes. Our kids ministries draw to a close early in December because once the school holidays start, a lot of the village kids are sent off to relatives for the break. It also means Katelyn and Joshua arrive home from school, something we obviously treasure.

On top of all our regular work, Chi has almost finished her revised translation of *The Big Picture Story Bible*. We plan to give these to a number of Sunday schools and know they will be a great benefit.

Howard is working away at Bible stories. We will use these from February onwards as we directly target all the grownups in the village. The preparation involves using all we have learnt about the worldview and the ways culture contrasts and opposes the Bible, and then sharing God's word to speak into those points of differences. It's been very interesting that a lot of these points we identified back in our St Andrew's Hall studies in 2016, turned out to be spot on. Animism - which includes retribution, blessing and curse, and appeasement. Karma. Christology - often an under-realised view or with some people, a completely false view of Jesus. The list goes on.

These talks and stories will go for 5- 6 months.

### Funerals

There still continues to be an unusual number of funerals. Which means we stop everything and visit during the evenings before the funeral and attend the funeral.

Grieving is open, raw and very public. Normally at this point there would be wailing, last words shouted to the deceased and tears flowing, but it seems that by now that they just had no more emotion to give. Heartbreaking. It has given us a huge opportunity to meet with them and the villagers in the evenings before the funerals, when they are all gathered. We have been able to talk about life, death, why, sin, a loving God who willingly gave his son and the resurrection. These talks seemed to have opened a lot of doors for when we begin evangelism this coming February.

For us personally, attending the funerals of so many who didn't know Jesus has been very sad and draining and has certainly reinforced the desperate plight of people who don't know Jesus.

### Gift-giving event

A group of Chi's high school friends who are now senior police, doctors and government officials, decided they wanted to support our ministry by doing a Christmas gift giving in the village. Well, other people became quite enthusiastic about it and before we knew it, we ended up with an entire police branch attending. This meant it was now an official police community event and police dictated security was required. So last weekend we had a new experience of a literal truckload of police with assault rifles, body armour and in camouflage, patrolling the front and rear of our house. Howard had a great time chatting with them. The kids had a blast - gifts, clothes, books, playing games, singing and dancing. There were complimentary haircuts (the police doctor offered complimentary circumcision but it was declined on the grounds the boys had school on Monday). Even their mothers received food supplies and boxes of vitamins. It turned out to be a great community event at our place. Fantastic for relationship building and a delight to see so many smiles.

Believe it or not, we have more to tell. But that is more than enough for one newsletter.

Merry Christmas and love to you all.

*From Howard, Michelle, Katelyn, Joshua and Caleb*

## Prayer Points

**Sunday**, Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

### Prayer Points from the Newby's, Give thanks..

\*For all the great connections we have with people here (nothing happens in the Philippines without relationships).

\*For all the opportunities God has given us and that gospel seeds are being sown.

\*Especially, please give thanks this time of year for Jesus, who takes away the sin of the world. Wow!

### Please ask

\*Please pray that Chi's translation will be a blessing to the many Sunday schools, that both the teachers and the kids will come to understand God's big picture for them more clearly.

\*Please ask that God will give Howard wisdom, insight and clarity as prepares for the evangelism this coming February. (It will run for 5 -6 months).

\*That the Holy Spirit will be preparing the hearts and minds of all the grownups in the village to attend the talks next year and that every one of them will believe. Pray that they will come to know Jesus personally and experience the incredible hope that only he can bring.

\*That God would bless the work of Renato as he shares the gospel in his town and that many would come to faith.

## Keeping in Contact

### Senior Minister

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### Children's & Youth Minister

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### Community Pastor (Part-time)

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**The New Moses  
Matthew 2:13-23**

**Notices**

**January Services  
9am at Lithgow  
Followed by Bacon & Egg Rolls  
5pm at Portland  
BBQ Church**

**Samuel, Grace & Tommy Ogg**

Welcomed  
Josephine Jane Ogg on  
December 22<sup>nd</sup>



**Connection Card**



How to support our gospel  
ministries financially:

Account Name: ANGLICAN  
PARISH OF LITHGOW  
DIRECT GIVING

BSB: 062591

Account No.: 10085204

Or please use the offertory  
box at the back of the  
church.

**Notices for Newsletter**

Please send to [office@lpachurch.org.au](mailto:office@lpachurch.org.au)  
by 4pm Thursday



