



Ministering to Australia

Inter-Australia Baptist Mission JUNE 2020 UPDATE

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Dear IABM partners, *Pastor Hadley and MLBC family,*

This has been a time of adjusting sails worldwide during this pandemic! Churches in Australia are no exception. **In this time of increased fear and uncertainty and anxieties for many, the Lord has not changed. He is our refuge and strength in troubled times.** All Australia international borders are closed, and some of the state borders are still closed because of the "Rona". The restrictions have been tight and some of the tightest restrictions have been on the churches. Our churches send their great thanks for prayers and help during these difficult days.

In the March update it was shared that the Annual Inter-State Winter Youth Camp had been planned for mid-July. **Pastor Brenton Honeychurch sadly had to cancel this, as no overnight camps are allowed, and he is hoping that next year this camp will return.** It will be much missed! Restrictions are being lifted very slowly.

After months of on-line church, **Pastor Danny Wojcik** let us know that their church was able to meet again in their building the first Sunday in June! **Dalwallinu Baptist Church in Western Australia was the first of our churches to be back in their building for meetings!** They are still meeting by Zoom for their Youth meetings. Pastor Danny and his wife Robbie ask for prayer for Dillon and for a couple he is counseling to come to know the Lord. Also please pray for ones coming to the church for food to be open to the gospel.

In Gawler, South Australia, **Pastor Nick Nikolettos and wife Melesa of Gospel City Church** had a very different Easter Treasure Hunt for the children this year. **Early on Easter Saturday morning, they went to the homes of all the children of their church. They carefully hid chocolate eggs and plastic eggs containing messages and items of the Easter story. What a delight for all the children who had been just staying home to have this treat!** After Zooming for many Church meetings and filming church online on Sunday mornings, they are expecting to be able to return to the building they are renting by mid-July with maybe two services to

*Gratefully received for Apr.-May '20 - \$200 for Napier support.
Thank you for your prayers and care and giving. You are a
blessing!
Love and prayers, Emma*

allow for spacing of the people. During this time of no church in the building, some of the men have been able to build Sunday school rooms at the back of the meeting hall. **They shared that a lot more people were tuning in to their live streaming than were coming to church and this has opened new opportunities to them!**

In the state of Victoria near Melbourne, **Pastor Robert Apps and wife Katie at Open Door Baptist Church in Melton have been pre-recording their service with special music and a sermon.** They ask for prayer that ones outside the church will be listening and be touched by the gospel. Victoria is just now allowing 20 people per building spaced properly, but **this church rents their building from a council facility, and they have not been given permission to meet yet.** It is their hope they will be allowed in sometime in July. **Each week now the Apps go to a home and have a simple service and lunch with a few families.** They encourage other church folk to have ones over to their homes. Pastor Robert says that he is having a good personal ministry with people, some over the Internet and some in person. He is trying to minister as much as he can. They appreciate our encouragement and prayers!

Back in South Australia at **Happy Valley Baptist Church, Don Downes,** faithful long time deacon, asks for prayer for the easing of the government restrictions so they can hold services in the building again soon. **Don with the help of his wife Jeanie have been looking after the pastoral side of the ministry during this time of social distancing.** They have been devoted to calling, to writing, to some limited visiting, and to emailing folks in the congregation. The prayer team and prayer chain are active! About half of this congregation is without Internet. They are very thankful that not one in their church has been infected. They continue to ask for prayer for provision of a pastor. **They are trusting God.**

Lessons have been learned and new ways of doing things have been found. Outreach has been extended with more services online and new ones tuning in! **The churches are coming through this stronger! There is much for which to be thankful.** I am blessed with good health and loved ones here and in Oz! Thank you for your prayers and support.

Love and prayers,
Emma and the IABM Team
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