

Happy New Year!

The Gibbs Family in Australia

January 2020

Dear Praying Friends and Family,

Let me begin by thanking all of you for the encouraging Christmas messages. Whether in the form of a physical card or email, each little note brightens our day knowing we have a supporting family that prays for our ministry and those whom God has called us to serve. Thank you for your encouragement.

Bushfire Report

As many of you have heard, Australia has been quite hot these past few weeks, and very dry for the past few years. These various issues have led to massive fires that seem to be raging across our beautiful country. I want to assure you our family is safe and out of harm's way though we know many who have been affected by these tragedies.



Bushfires are a part of life here, its something you expect, and life usually continues as usual for those who are not in harm's way. Yet when they reach this magnitude, the whole country feels the pain. The fires in our region, though devastating, have not reached the monstrosity of those in the Eastern states of Australia. There has been significant damage across the entire country with millions of acres of the pristine bushland being burned and countless loss of personal property (vehicles, homes, livestock, other buildings). The loss of animal life has been tragic with what they are saying is close to one billion animals, with many more being displaced. There has been a sad loss of human life with the most significant losses in New South Wailes.

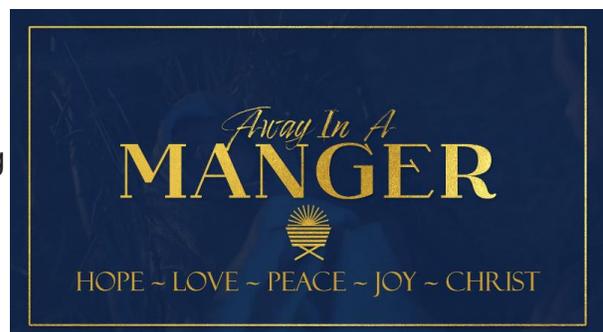
You can find a detailed report about the effects of the bushfires in an article found on the website of [The Guardian](#).



Your brothers and sisters in Christ across Australia ask you would pray for God to send rain. Pray for the safety of our firefighters and that God would give them the wisdom and strength as they continue to try and get these flames under control. Pray for those who have lost homes, livestock, crops, and family members. Pray that there would be no more loss of life or property. For many, life is unaffected. Yet our country mourns with the thousands who have lost everything.

Ministry Report

On the ministry front, we are thanking the Lord for the beautiful Christmas season. We continued our church's tradition of conducting a special service the Sunday before Christmas. Our program focused on who and what was found "Away in a Manger". We looked at various individuals involved in the Christmas story and saw the messages they reveal about what Jesus brought to a world in darkness.





We are also excited about another wedding at the end of January. It has been amazing to see God continue to bring individuals together as one within the body of Christ. Each of these individuals was once a person who wondered if they would ever meet "the one." Yet as they submitted to the Lord, learning to be content in His will, God brought them to their "one." Continue to keep these couples in your prayers. Satan desires to sift them like wheat and see their

unions crumble. Australia needs more solid Christian families who are committed to living out the Gospel in their relationships and raising children in ***"the nurture and admonition of the Lord"***.

We genuinely thank you for your faithful prayers and support of this ministry. As we embark on a new decade, I am amazed at the faithfulness my God and His amazing grace in my life. In August, Bethany and I will celebrate 15 years of marriage. Our three children will each turn another year older, with our oldest, Michaela, beginning seventh grade. And in April, the church will celebrate its third year as a local body of believers. We serve a great God.

