



## January 2021

Dear Praying Friends and Family,

What a year 2020 turned out to be. We started with bush fires and finished with COVID-19. Circumstances were continually changing, and it was only by the Lord's steady guidance that we could navigate this tumultuous year.

*Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.*

*—Proverbs 3:5-6*

Here is a little story to illustrate this thought. As the restrictions on public gatherings and state border crossings eased in July, we were presented with a church retreat opportunity. We believed this to be an excellent avenue for reuniting and refocusing ourselves as a church body, especially after several months of limited physical fellowship. We picked a weekend in September that looked promising and chose a venue. As September drew near it became evident this was not going to work due to an outbreak interstate and new border restrictions, so we rescheduled for November.

Everything looked promising for November and our people were getting excited. Everyone was registering, and the special guest we scheduled was safely in the state. Then the week before the retreat, a cluster of cases broke out in Adelaide's northern suburbs, but things seemed to be under control, and we moved ahead with our plans. Two days before our retreat, though, the health services received misleading information leading them to call for a very strict 6-day lockdown. Our retreat was cancelled. It was disappointing, but we knew God was in control.

*A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps.*

*—Proverbs 16:9*

We must let God lead, and allow Him to order our steps and trust in His guidance through the valleys and over the mountains. He knows what His sheep need. We thought the retreat was the key, but it seems that God used the relaxed Christmas and summer season to bring us closer together and refresh our hearts.

We are encouraged by the spirit of hope in God among our church family as we come into 2021. They have seen Him lead through a year that could have been much worse, and they are excited to see what God is going to do in the year ahead as we live for the King.

In a few weeks time things begin to roar back to life as school starts and the summer holiday season comes to an end. Schedules will be full with activity and the hustle and bustle of life. Pray as we will be meeting with some of our core families to layout a vision and plan for this year. We are excited for what God has in store.

Thank you for your investment into our ministry, and know that you are personally in our prayers, as well as, the prayers of our church family.

*We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers; Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father;*

*–1 Thessalonians 1:2-3*

Your Fellow Servant,



Adam Gibbs

Australia

## **Praises**

- A new couple attending
- A refreshed spirit of hope and unity in the body
- The opportunities given to share of the hope we have in Christ

## **Prayer Requests**

- That our young adults would find their foundation upon Christ and His Word.
- Guidance for how we might be able to engage our growing international community with the Gospel.
- Opportunities to share the Gospel through a new avenue of the community starting in February.

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