

In the last three months I've heard more from American friends and churches regarding what they've heard about Australia in American news than ever before. I won't take the time to explain the "Aussieness" behind what motivates Australians and the Aussie governments to make the kind of decisions they are making, just to say I believe that Australia and the nations of the world are probably getting what we deserve as the time of Christ's return draws near. Praise God that souls are still being saved regardless.

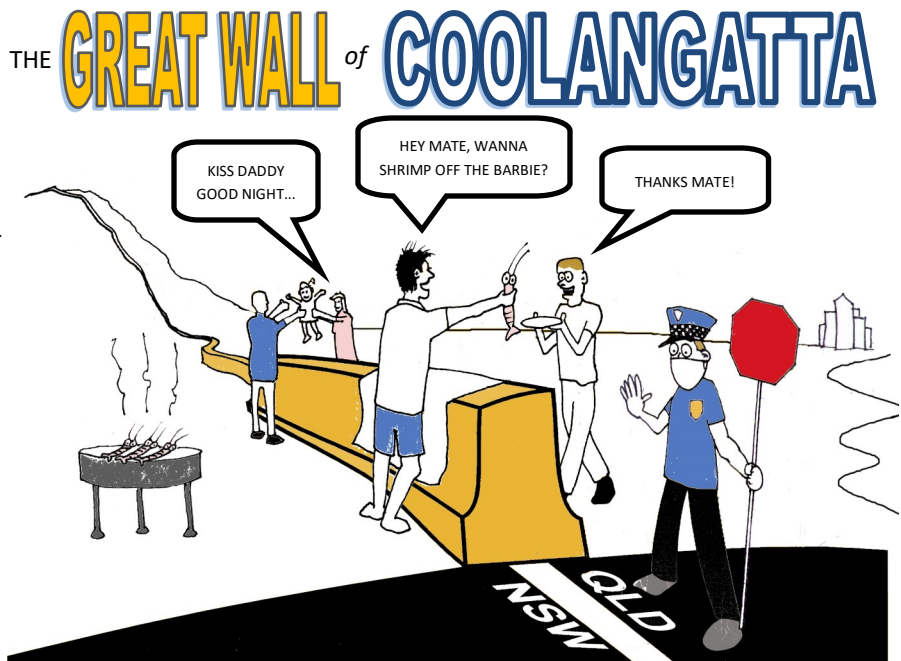
There are only about 26 million people in Australia, in a land mass about the same as continental US. Over 75% of the population live in the 7 metropolitan state capitals along the coast. The federal government leadership has turned the governing of the pandemic over to the states, and the three states' governance that effect our ministry the most are Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland, the state we live in.

These three big states have set the percentage of people vaccinated to be 70% before ending the lockdowns. The city of Melbourne (capitol of Victoria) has been in lockdown for over 265 days, and now holds the world's record. Each state has "hotspots", and Queensland has locked OUT others coming into Queensland from those hotspots. (Except for the rugby teams, they were allowed to come into Queensland and bring their families to play some footy). The Queensland government is trying to keep the virus out, the Victorian government is trying to keep everybody in. **Church attendance has grown here in Beenleigh, and our ministry to the islanders is in New South Wales, so we can go down there but have to go into quarantine when I come back home. In the meantime we minister to the guys by live-streaming our worship services.**

As far as the violence Americans may have seen reports on, it has been going on mostly in Melbourne. The Australian governments have approached totalitarianism as they remain in a "state of emergency", giving the premiers and health ministries of each state the right to make rules and mandates. Besides mandates that some tradesmen and workers were to be vaccinated, protests were also made regarding the lockdowns and separating of families. Currently there are over 36,000 Australian citizens locked out of their own country. Bonnie and I can't LEAVE the country right now, even though we have US citizenship. The protests started peacefully, but unions and thugs got involved and violence escalated from there. Unfortunately the police also used unnecessary force against protesters that were seeking to keep it peaceful. The scenes of policemen firing at and pepper spraying peaceful protestors is by far one of the saddest things I've ever seen in Australia.

Probably the most ridiculous thing we've seen is a barrier on the border that passes between Queensland and New South Wales down on the Gold Coast, at the southernmost Queensland town of Coolangatta. They'd set up a traffic barrier during the lockdowns and workers couldn't come back home each day, so they'd just meet up with their family each evening, sometimes having a picnic or dinner across the barriers with each other. It was dubbed "The Great Wall of Coolangatta".

It is a spiritual battle that is going on worldwide; I do believe global missions is going to be impacted in several ways, but we're surrendered to the Great Commission and know that God's grace is always sufficient. It's God's plan, and in this part of the harvest fields we just want to remain faithful. Thank you for your prayer.



Tim & Bonnie Meyer



Oceanic Baptist Outreach
PO Box 736, Brockton, MA 02303-0736

OCTOBER, 2021