

January '24



A Word from the Wilhites in Australia

The wise man said, "...a good report maketh the bones fat" (Pro 15:30) After reading our report, you will have an excuse for putting on weight this holiday season. Smile.

First of all, **thank you** to each church who gave some extra finances as a Christmas gift to our family. We are humbled, unworthy, feel special, and were blessed by your generosity. If you expected us to do something special, we have done so. Our friends from the States, the **Dafoe family**, arrived January 5 and leave shortly. Your gifts have helped make their stay more enjoyable.



The big news regards the **Journey through Bethlehem** held here on our property this recent festive season. On the second page you should find some snap shots of some of the scenes. Though the forecast was for rain the entire two weeks of our display, the Lord wonderfully answered prayer, held off the rain, and we never missed a minute of our presentation. Learning some things from last year and implementing them improved the display this year we think. Nearly 750 folks came on our property to view the display and lights, and each family received a gift packet consisting of a gospel booklet, tract, four candy canes, and a "cross" keychain. One of the church ladies did the lion's share of putting together a special packet for kids, and we ran out of those. Several other folks from church helped in one way or another, and fellow missionary, John Edwards and family came out for three nights to sing carols near the manger scene. Upon her leaving, Debbie noticed a lady with tears in her eyes who was touched by the fact that Jesus was born to die for her!



In our last prayer letter, I asked prayer for my neighbor, **Lindsay**. Sadly, he chose to "pull the pin" as he expressed it and stopped the dialysis treatments he'd been having three times a week for the last 10 years. He was tired, and he looked it. The medics gave him 8-10 days, and he passed away on day 9, which was just yesterday for us. I did ask the Lord not to let him die until he was saved. He was taken to the hospital on Friday, but my schedule was very full the next two days. We asked God to spare his life until I could give him the gospel one more time. Bro Dafoe and I hurried to the hospital at 8:30, his family slipped out giving us some private time together, I shared the gospel and he indicated he wanted to pray—after not having been in any church for over 50 years. Later in the day we received a call from his dear wife informing us that he had died about four hours after we left him. I hope he really trusted Christ. It has been a witnessing opportunity for almost four years.

Perhaps it was truly a death-bed conversion. I don't know. When you get this, would you please pray for opportunities to speak more to the family at this time of closure in their lives. He had asked me over a year ago to do his funeral, and I agreed, but that may not be possible now due to extenuating circumstances.

What a joy and blessing to meet up with **Pastor Charles England** and his wife **Connie** recently. They are college classmates from 40 plus years back whom we have not seen since November 2000. They now live and serve the Lord in Anchorage, Alaska, but were in Brisbane for the wedding of one of their 11 children. Here they took precious time to catch a lift and bring some friends along with them to meet us about halfway. Such precious folks of kindred spirits! We have been blessed by so many visitors this year. Thank you, Lord!

On the 24th of this month, the family will be flying to Western Australia to preach a few times for fellow missionary, **Mike Meredith**. My goal is to make this St. Louis Cardinals fan into a Kansas City Royals fan and have developed four messages to make this happen. Smile.

As for family news, we have a new granddaughter in Connecticut born to our son, Jeremiah, and his wife, Noreen. **Phoebe Noelle** was born December 22 and makes grandchild number 23. Our 24th grandchild is due to arrive sometime in June this year into the home of our daughter, Dyanna, and her husband, Matt. We are also hopeful that another little grandson will be ours via adoption in the forthcoming months. Keep our son, **Joshua**, in prayer as he has finished grade 12 and is looking forward to the next step in God's path for him.



Christmas Collage