

44 Nottingham Street  
Northmead, NSW 2152  
AUSTRALIA

28 June 2023

Dear Friends and Faithful Supporters:

Greetings to you in Jesus' name! It is a cold, wet winter's day here. I have seen enough droughts over our years here to keep me from complaining about a little rain. So too I have seen the Lord's good hand work in and through life's darker times so that I most often try to look expectantly past them.

Recently a man who regularly attends our church services and prayer meetings experienced a dramatic psychotic breakdown. Unknown to us he had had a history of bipolar disorder but had been properly medicated and had live quite stably. Then, he suddenly decided to stop all his medications. As I indicated, the results were dramatic to say the least. At one point he turned on me and challenged whether I was truly saved, since I was urging him to resume the medication that had been previously working so effectively for him. He then left his wife and started driving northward up the highway from Sydney. Travelling at 40 kph in a 110 zone, his car was hit by a truck. Thankfully he was not seriously injured and after being examined at the nearest emergency room he was assessed as being mentally unwell and taken to a psychiatric hospital. He remained there for a few weeks. The doctors there identified his condition and resumed his medication. When he was allowed access to a telephone he immediately phoned me, remembering very little of what had happened. He is back on track now.

But during all this drama his unsaved wife came to see me. And over the next few weeks I was able to share the Gospel with her. She has now begun reading the Bible daily and appears to be very close to making a faith commitment to Christ. Before this episode she had been openly hostile toward our church and the Christian faith in general, being a disillusioned Catholic.

About 25 years ago I organized the first of our AFBC fellowship's annual Bible conferences. As I recall, there were only about 30 people in attendance. Discouraging! This year we drew more than a thousand! After years of discouragement the Lord at long last blessed our intents and efforts and brought tremendous blessing upon His churches here.

In April Annette and I were able to revisit our Christian and unsaved friends in Vietnam. I am prohibited from preaching there or distributing literature, etc. But I was able to visit and spend time with some of our precious Christian friends and to witness to several people while we were there. One day I met a man who had been a Viet Cong fighter. He and I were in the same places at the same time. At the end of a lengthy conversation we both agreed that we were happy that neither of us had killed the other. The Lord has really put Vietnam and the Vietnamese people into my heart. It is my hope that Annette and I might be able to continue with our contacts both there and here.

I continue to preach morning and evening services at our church. I sometimes also preach to a little congregation of Korean folks on Sunday afternoons. In recent months I have also ministered at a church conference and at a young adults' forum. Annette still teaches Bible at the preschool where she has now been for about 25 years. People ask me from time to time about my plans for retirement. I typically answer that when the Lord is finished with me I expect He will let me know.

So we continue to look forward. Annette and I both continue to enjoy reasonably good health. And it seems that the Lord keeps laying opportunities before us. In two weeks I will be officiating at a wedding of two middle eastern young people. Their families hail from Lebanon, Iraq, and Iran. What an opportunity to present the Gospel to people who are normally deeply entrenched in their cultural cocoons!

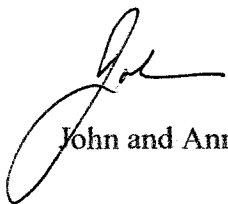
I have been spending time with a young Korean man whose father passed away a few years ago. Apart from his mother and two sisters he has no relatives in Australia. So I have become his adopted "uncle," the closest male mentor in his life. Please pray that the Lord will enable me to guide him through this phase of his life.

There is another church near to us that has no pastor and is looking more and more like disintegrating. Pray that I might be able to help them decide their pathway!

Annette has a continuing relationship with a woman who once served in India as a missionary. Her marriage fell apart when her husband became unfaithful. She is estranged from her children who seem to blame her for his philandering. Annette is about her only friend.

All around us here, just as where you are, there are people who have hurts and heartaches that only God can heal. Often the situations appear grim and discouraging. But we count it a privilege to be here to be used in some small ways as instruments in His hands. And we are so grateful for the part that you have had in the work here. May He bless you richly for your faithful support and prayers in our behalf! We remain . . .

Your servants for Jesus' sake,



John and Annette Wickline