

Stepping Out With the Stuarts

July Newsletter, 2009

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 (for the time being)

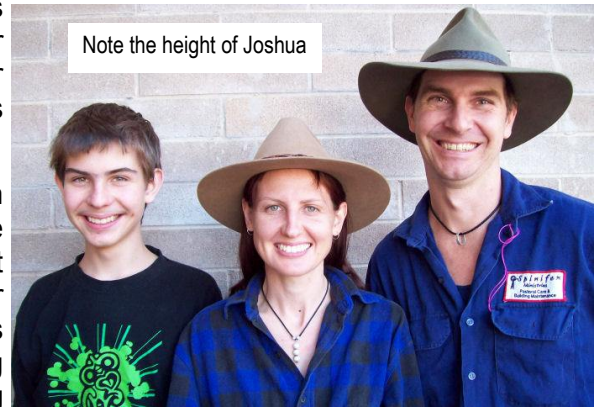
Dear friends,

We are once again writing a separate newsletter and this will be the last time it will go in the same envelope as Dust & Diesel.

We have now officially finished as Full-time staff with Spinifex Ministries. We have mixed feelings as we will miss the friends we have made and the thrill of being on the move, however we are excited by the new challenges we will be facing and the joys that stability, privacy & space bring.

We have been settling in nicely to our new home and are loving the space. We are enjoying the new IKEA kitchen that was donated especially since it is cockroach & mouse free. We have cosy bedrooms, a real lounge room and a dining room. We have been given a lot of furniture & soft furnishings (we have also bought a few bargains) and it all goes together wonderfully well. We are just starting to feel like it's our home as for the first six weeks we felt we were just house-sitting someone else's home.

Phil's parents have arrived and for the last month they have been such a blessing with Gwen in the kitchen & office and Malcolm in the garden. Our back door used to open up into a thin strip of yard that resembled a sort of lane way lined with old gardens and oleander bushes. Being a landscaper, Malcolm has cleared the area and has planned a paved courtyard using the rocks and bricks that are lying around the property. We can't believe just how much room was hiding out there and can't wait to see the finished result!

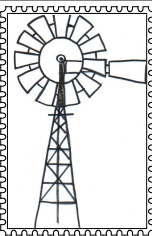


We have generously been given a 2003 Toyota Camry for transporting elderly or sick church folk to and from church. We have already used it extensively with wheel chair bound people and those too fragile or sick to get on & off the church bus. It has been such a blessing to our new ministry here.

So what does our new ministry entail...well we have been given quite a list of duties/responsibilities that have a long term vision for the future of this centre. However in the first period of settling in and due to the 4 week mid year school holidays, we are just having a Sunday morning service. Phil flies to Brisbane for the AIM conference (away form August 2-8) so we will wait till he returns before kicking the program back into at least 3 meetings a week. The goal of our ministry here is to train up Indigenous leadership and work ourselves out of a job. Our next newsletter will have much more detail of what our ministry here entails so stay tuned...

So until then, *Phil, Cathy & Joshua*

If you wish to continue to receive our personal news of us and our new ministry you will need to notify us. Please find enclosed a leaflet with all the information you need to know.
 If you haven't received this leaflet, know that you are already down to receive our personal newsletters from now.



As we are now financially separate from Spinifex Ministries, we ourselves will be requiring stamps for our mail-outs of newsletters and receipts. If you would like to help out by sending stamps, we would be most appreciative.

Stuart family Support...

We are thrilled to report that our promised annual financial support level is slowly getting up to where AIM would like it to be.
 We are about 70% of the way there!

Phil

Our puppies 'Luther' and 'Smokie' are now 7 months old and have enjoyed the space that the Alice property has given them instead of being penned up in their small pen for the first 5 months. Luther has turned into a great companion dog and lays on his mat in my study while I write sermons. He especially loves the heater now it is so cold here. Smokie on the other hand is not too keen on the study and heater and would rather be out playing with the birds who swoop down and tease them both.

I am also enjoying the space of having a study again. Seeing my books again after 6 years of being boxed up, was like Christmas. With Joshua soon going off to school, I am looking forward to taking Cathy on dates on our day off! During these last 6 years it has been very difficult and we have missed being able to do this.

Cathy

What changes have occurred in my life these last few months? I am living in a house for the first time since August 2003. I have a lovely new kitchen and that dishwasher I was promised when Phil & Joshua got dogs. I have enjoyed unpacking things that were wrapped in newspaper dated as far back as 1995. I have found things I thought I no longer had and found things I had forgotten about. It has been a very exciting time. For my birthday in April I got a donut maker that I can use spelt flour with and that has been so wonderful as I missed donuts very much.

I am relieved beyond words that tutoring Joshua is now over and thrilled that he has done so well. I hope very much that he does as well in normal high school as we have heard he has done on Distance Ed.

Finally it has been such a great privilege and blessing to have family and friends plan to take the time & effort to come and visit us. We are loving the support Phil's parents are giving us during this time of transition.

Joshua

The past 4 weeks have been extremely exciting, between having a new room, friends visiting, being enrolled into a new High School and being donated Play station 2 slim (PS2). We have been using it to play sing star (which is form of karaoke - as Dad needs all the help and practice he can get to lead the singing in church!). I'm very excited about going to a new school (July 21st) and making new friends.

Smokie my dog is now 7 months old and he is growing a cheeky & clever personality. He even outsmarts me sometimes (a natural sheep dog). I am still trying to teach him a form of 'tag' that doesn't involve nipping (as Kelpies do to sheep).

It is now only 2 months till my 13th birthday (which means the official end of my childhood and the beginning of my teenage years). I'm now on school hols YAY!

Prayer Points

That Joshua settles well into the local state high school & makes some good friends.

Pray for wisdom as we work cross culturally.

Please pray for the people of the church in Alice Springs, that the people will hold true to their faith and that the church will grow.

For us as a family as we settle into a new way of life and routine.

That our support level will reach AIM requirements.

Praise Points

For the family and friends that have already come to visit.

That all our gear made it safely to Alice Springs.

For the privilege of a dishwasher with so many visitors!

That we have had the time to finish fixing up the manse and almost get up to date on the maintenance on the property before we start with AIM.

That we have started to make friends in Alice Springs