

# Stepping Out With the Stuarts

**Phil, Cathy & Joshua Stuart**  
c/- 90 Holden Rd,  
Roleystone WA 6111  
0417 983 385  
stuart@spinifexministries.org.au

## March Newsletter, 2009

Dear friends,

So much has happened personally that we felt it necessary to write a separate newsletter from Dust & Diesel again. It has been a very emotional three months since we sent out our Christmas newsletter late November in Alice Springs.

Just before we left Alice springs, we took the opportunity to check over the house we will be moving into and worked out a furniture list. Then it was time to head West. When we got across the Nullarbor and arrived in Norseman, Phil was getting calls for his 35th birthday when I, Cathy received a call to say my grandmother had passed away that morning. Phil was asked to take the funeral, so we hurried back to Perth and Phil did his first funeral and he conducted a beautiful service.



From the funeral Phil had to turn around and prepare for his first wedding the following week. It was a wedding to remember as it was 'outback style'. Everyone was asked to wear jeans, shirts and hats and even the bride did. It was very special as they had tried to get married a few times but they kept having major events in their lives that meant they kept having to put it off. There were a lot of 'finally' words when they said 'I do'. We all had great time and Phil was in his element being a country wedding, so he could come as himself - he didn't have to dress up at all except a tie and that was a RM Williams one at that!

From the time we got to Perth till Christmas we were donated quite a lot of furniture as well other things so we moved from our tiny storage unit to a much larger one and started putting it all in one spot.

At Christmas time Phil's family had a re-union which was great, and all Cathy's side came 'home' to her parents house and all stayed there for a few days and reminisced.

On Dec 27th a good friend got married and we were thrilled to be back in Perth to witness this lovely event. Then it was our friend Jodie's turn. As Matron of Honour I, Cathy was fitted, adjusted, hair trialed and was thrilled to be around to help with the hand making of the invites and place cards. Then it was the big day on Jan 3rd and as much as it was a thrill for Jodie, I got to wear a very pretty dress for the first time since our own wedding 15 years ago and walk down the aisle to Phil wearing a suit waiting at the end to officiate. It was a very special time for us too. It turned out to be gorgeous weather and a great day was had by all. *For photos of both weddings Phil took, jump on the SM web site - Photos 08 & 09 folders.*

Then we did some maintenance on our families houses before Phil took me away for a three day private camping trip for our 15th wedding anniversary on the banks of the Blackwood River.

We have spent a very busy four days un-packing and re-packing almost all our stuff. It was great to find gear I'd forgotten we owned, but then again we failed to find things we thought we had kept.

Finally the big news is this: Our family has grown to five! We have two new little ones - puppies that is! We have two Kelpie dogs born 30-11-08 and we got them when they were seven weeks old. Phil has 'Luther' and Joshua has 'Smokie'.



### Phil

In January after 18 years I finally got a dog again! Wooo Hooo! Being on the road has been the inhibiting factor, but with us now settling down, I was able to get my beloved Kelpie dog. We (Josh & I) weren't going to get our dogs until we got to Darwin en-route to Alice, or order and fly them in when we got to Alice, but the costs were very prohibitive. We thought of checking in Perth, on the off chance we could find what we were looking for, and within our price range. We found what we were looking for and in our price range, so we got them. The drawback is that they have to travel with us for 4 months. They were the last 2 of the litter left (all 7 sold in 3 hours!) and both were the rarest of Kelpie colours! People didn't buy them, as they weren't the normal kelpie colours - isn't God good. My dog is a Blue & Tan and is called Luther after the great reformer - Martin Luther. (For Joshua's see below).

### Cathy

Well the biggest news from me is that Joshua has officially overtaken me in height. He now stands at a tall 167cm high (being 1 cm taller than me). High schooling Joshua has been a big change for us. The time tables, numerous teachers (all with different days they work), different expectations and different types of workbooks. I do not have to mark his work any longer however Maths has needed some patient teaching (thankfully it was my best & favourite subject!). Working around the different online classes and travelling will be a new challenge, so please pray for us (especially Joshua) regarding the demands placed on all of us in different ways.

On a personal note, I have enjoyed our time in Perth putting together the things we need to live in a house more than I thought. I feel like a newlywed setting up house for the first time. I have not done anything like this since 1999—10 years ago!

Also Phil bought me a deep fryer for Christmas so I could finally have battered fish (& chips) for the first time in over a year as I made the batter with spelt wheat flour. It was so great!

### Joshua

Over the past three months much has happened. From finishing primary school to Christmas to the new year and the starting of high school has made a big impact on me. But the biggest one of all is getting a brand new kelpie pup. Some people say that 'Smokie' (the name of my dog) is a gift from God to show me how disobedient I am to my parents because he is a mirror image of me. Smokie is a fawn (grey) & tan kelpie and on March 1st he will be 13 weeks old. He has been a great companion for me as both of my best friends are in Sydney. Being with family has been very relaxing and having Christmas with them has been even better. Starting high school has been very hard having 6 different people to deal with (5 teachers and a year co-ordinator). It has been chaos!

### Prayer Points

### Praise Points

That all our gear makes it safely to Alice Springs at the beginning of May.

For the many kilometres we have to drive March & April. Please pray for safety on the job and on the road and as we camp on the side of the road.

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. Pray too for Bob & Debbie who are looking after the church until we get there and then help us in settle in.

Pray for Joshua (and mum) who are finding Distance Ed High School a reality check. We don't have so much flexibility as we had for the 6.5 years of primary!

That it was special being able to have Christmas with both sets of family this year for the last time for many years.

That we have almost everything we need, and some more we did not think of, all ready to be sent to Alice Springs.

That we have somewhere free and safe to store our gear until the removalist picks it up in 2 months.

That Phil & Joshua got their beloved dogs so cheap and they are really cute!

### Stuart family Support...

\*\*\*\*\*  
 \* In November we sent out a 'supporter info sheet' to those who were already supporting the Stuart \*  
 \* family personally. After fielding a few emails and phone calls, we have included a 'Stuart Family \*  
 \* Supporter Form' for everyone else this time. There is NO obligation to do anything with it unless you \*  
 \* want to. If you have not received either form by now & would like one, please let us know and we will \*  
 \* send you one ASAP. \*  
 \*\*\*\*\*