

Gaius prayer letter – August 2019

Dear Gaius supporters,

We remain most grateful for your support for the work of the Gaius Trust.

Stephen Bignall and Henry Louie from outback New South Wales visited the UK on deputation recently and were able to speak at several churches across the length and breadth of England. The main purpose of the trip was to introduce Henry to supporting churches in this country and to give an update on Stephen's work.

As many of you know, Henry is pastor of the church in Gilgandra and is also planting a church in the more remote village of Pilliga; he also preaches and ministers widely in the NSW region. Stephen has worked alongside Henry for nine years since the Bignalls' return to Australia. Stephen is now pastor of Wee Waa Presbyterian Church.

Henry was able to share something of the difficulties and challenges of ministering in his context: the resistance encountered to the preaching of the gospel, the apathy



toward Christian things among many people and the terrible social and economic difficulties experienced by the aboriginal people and others among whom he is ministering. Yet there are encouragements, with some conversions and evidence of the Lord's working among his people to promote greater unity in Christ.

Just before returning home from deputation, Henry received the sad news that his stepfather had died – and two weeks ago, his stepbrother also died, a member of Stephen's congregation. We trust and pray that Henry will know the Lord's comfort and strengthening at this time.

Ministry matters for prayer include:

NSW has been in severe drought for the past 2-4 years, and the localities where Henry and Stephen minister are among the hardest hit. Please plead for rain to fall and the gospel to enter hearts.

Each week Henry and Stephen teach RE from the Bible in three state schools in Gilgandra, Gulargambone and Wee Waa – ask God for the conversion and discipling of the students.

Travel over large distances on remote roads has its dangers – seek the Lord for continued safety. Both brothers have had their cars damaged recently by animal strikes (kangaroos and even wild horses wandering the roadside foraging in drought).

Stephen has been preaching through 1 John each Lord's day for several months and taking a small midweek study through Mark; both are nearly complete. We look to God for growth in the grace and knowledge of our Lord among all attending and guidance in preparation.

Please continue in prayer for these men and their wives and families.

The Gaius Trust has recently started to support Henry financially on a monthly basis. The Trust continues also to make grants towards the high fuel costs which aboriginal pastors incur due to the long distances that they need to travel. If you would like to contribute to any of these needs, you can do so via the website www.gaiustrust.org.

Yours in the Lord Jesus,
Robert Strivens
On behalf of the trustees of The Gaius Trust

