

Dear Brothers and Sisters

[Stephen writes] One year has passed since Henry Louie and I came on our UK deputation, and so much has changed in our world. We pray for the welfare of God's people in the UK as well as the nation, for you have suffered much loss of life and many trials. My daughter and her family in Herts. are safe thus far. In Australia we have been inexplicably spared during the pandemic in a great measure, an undeserved but sovereign mercy.

After 3 months of lockdown [late March to May's end] and learning how to live-stream services at Wee Waa, we are permitted public worship once more in our buildings and up to 50 have gathered for the last four weeks. Most messages have come from the book of Hebrews, with two from Ezekiel 2 "a great commission" and 36 "a gracious conversion". One consequence of the online services being advertised is that non-church goers have been tuning in, and there are now some newcomers to our relaunched physical services.

During the lockdown Henry could not conduct services but was able to attend distance learning online free of charge with Fowey Lodge Bible School in New Zealand, studying a number of biblical books as well as the life of Christ. He continues to do so and is enrolling at another college online. This is new ground and he appears to be drinking it in.

Henry has now resumed Sunday services in the village of Pilliga, and is intending to expand to a similar small town 35km away called Burren Junction. He and Maria are seeking accommodation in the region, a move of around 200km north-east of their present home. Both these villages lie around 55km from Wee Waa.

Henry recently conducted the marriage of our son Michael Bignall to a lovely young Christian, Naomi Post, last Saturday 27th June; they have rented a home in Wee Waa and she will nurse at the local hospital, Michael already being employed locally. They will attend our church, for which we thank God.

Yesterday 29th June our daughter Joanna gave birth to a son, Theodore Morton, by c-section in the Lister Hospital Stevenage. They are doing well, though we all feel the distance.

Despite no physical classes, David Cox is progressing well with his studies and writes:

Greetings,

Well, I am almost at the end of semester one! This means the year is almost half over – crazy! I have enjoyed the lectures but not being shut out of the library and classroom. Zoom meetings have been OK, but they can't replace the face to face. I imagine most receiving this will know what I mean. The library has been made available to a limited extent, and there is a little hope that face to face teaching may be able to resume next semester. So far I have passed all subjects. This week is study week and then we have take home exams to end the semester. It will be nice to be

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on a short break, and get to enjoy our Grandson again! We'll then resume with four new and interesting subjects: church history, another New Testament subject, OT prophets and writings, and theology (looking at God and the work of Christ).

Rose and I have maintained good health, for which we are thankful. As a couple we have been reading the epistles of Paul which has been great. Privately I have gained much benefit from meditations on the Prophet Habakkuk. Stanmore Baptist, our local body for the year, is starting public gatherings again, which is great. I have been much encouraged by their fellowship this year.

Thank you to everyone for your interest in our situation and practical help and support. One prayer point: pray that we will be clear, at the end of 2020, on what 2021 will look like for us and the church at Dubbo. Pray that the folk at Dubbo will also be giving this some thought. Of course, join with us in praising our God and Head of the Church for electing grace, saving grace, preserving grace and His kind providences. Feel free to share this with any you think may be interested to know.

Soli Deo Gratia

David.

The Coxes also attended our son's wedding which was restricted to 20 people under strict Covid protocols.

Thankful for your prayers, remembering you in these difficult days.

Stephen

Please continue in prayer for these men and their wives, families and possibilities. The Gaius Trust continues to support Henry and David financially on a monthly basis and 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 through **give.net** via our website (gaiustrust.org), or by **cheque** to Gaius Trust, sent to 15 St Margaret's Street, Bradford on Avon, BA15 1DA.