

Dear brothers and sisters – our praying friends

Our last news and prayer letter being mid-summer 2020, we thank God for his mercies over the rest of a difficult year. Australia has had its problems due to the pandemic, with worship and travel impeded [especially in vulnerable indigenous communities]. But the Bignalls know from their own family and fraternity within the UK that things have been pretty rough for you. They are in weekly contact with daughter Jo and her family in Herts. as well as regularly with the other Gaius trustees [all pastors in England] – Aussie believers often pray for God’s people in Britain and for its wellbeing.

David Cox



David Cox completed his year’s study at Christ College Sydney and will graduate with a Diploma in Theology and sense of renewal, resolve and energy; he and Rose have now returned to Dubbo NSW and to their congregation. David preached there [for the 1st time in 12 months] last Sunday and has begun a series on “the church – definition and role, body life and purpose”. They have a dedicated group of godly ladies [mainly aboriginal] who are prayerful, practical and studious [loving the Word]. The men do not coalesce as readily, but David has identified 5 younger men whom he hopes to mentor and nurture, some recently converted, investing time in the Word together, serving the Saviour within the body and in their community.

Training

Training initiatives are very much on our minds for 2021, and at least one young aboriginal brother is considering moving back to Dubbo, to serve for a time alongside David. His name is Brendan Garlett and he is qualified as a community mental health worker, as well as completing studies in a Western Australian Bible College, but he wishes to learn more of pastoral ministry and direction “hands on”.

Another young married man shows potential; he and his wife, both saved over 3 years ago, have been a great encouragement and really appear to have a steady faith in Christ at work in them and good attendance upon the Word. They are Jerakye and Sally Goolagong [Jerakye is pictured].

Jerakye is a local council worker and is just finishing his apprentice training. He has real intelligence and a hunger for teaching; a firm grasp of the doctrines of grace and has benefitted from books such as *Redemption Accomplished and Applied* by John Murray and *The Bruised Reed* by Richard Sibbes; he is able to discuss key points but also apply truth to his life and walk.

We hope that he continues to grow, he also reads devotional works with Sally so they may grow together. He loves Scripture and he is real about his own failures or struggles.



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Henry and Maria Louie



Henry and Maria Louie have had a difficult year health wise, and their children's work in regional towns and schools impeded by COVID restrictions; Henry is 64 and this is 'aged' for an aboriginal man [average male lifespan is still only 58]. But they ended the year uplifted as they were able to have a Christmas gospel service and lunch in Pilliga village as well as distribute food hampers among folks who struggle out there. Maria purchased foodstuffs and organised this and Henry brought the Bread of Life.

Stephen and Fiona Bignall

Stephen and Fiona Bignall have served the church at Wee Waa for 3 years but continue Scripture in Schools at Gulargambone. It is now 10 years 'outback' for them. Lord willing, they hope to continue for at least 3 more years with Wee Waa church; but there is a growing desire to attempt to plant a church in Gulargambone supported by the Dubbo Church [possibly in 2023 – they would be 62]. Family wise - Mike happily married Naomi and Jess became engaged to Brady, this year. A new grandson Theo [Herts. UK] is 6 months old.

We are all very thankful for your support and love, there is much to pray for in the above, Christ be with you all...

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.