

Dear Gaius supporters,

A warm hello from western NSW emerging from winter. NSW is in lockdown presently and once again churches prevented from meeting except online. For the first time COVID cases are averaging over 1200 each day, one of the hotspots is Dubbo where David Cox and Dubbo Christian Family Church are located, also sadly for the first time Aboriginal Australians have died there. In the small mainly aboriginal outback town of Wilcannia over 10% of the populace have now tested positive. Compared to UK statistics numbers are pretty small but, given that the aboriginal community is under 700 000 in total throughout Australia, it is a growing concern.

Dubbo

David Cox writes, "I have bittersweet news, Brendon Garlett won't be coming to Dubbo now, that is the bitter part. The sweet part is that there has been an increase in interest by locals in the ministry where he is in remote Dareton. He and his wife feel it difficult to leave the place and the people at the moment, not knowing who would be coming to replace them. He is always welcome at Dubbo should his situation change. I would like to thank the trust for their eagerness to help in this matter, and I am certain we will be in touch should things change. Soli Deo Gloria". *Please uphold the Garletts in prayer. As matters stand, financial support from Gaius will not now be required.*

Jerakye Goolagong's wife Sally has safely given birth to Jerakye Jr (pictured), and the Cox's daughter Janelle Simpson had little Judah a week ago weighing in at just over 10lbs. Jerakye Sr continues to be studious with David's guidance and helpful in the church's worship and life, publicly reading and leading services. *We are sure you will remember these growing families in prayer.*



David also writes, "I have been encouraged to see growth in different areas and in different people. I only preach now on Sunday mornings...evenings, a time of study and interaction that has been well received and fruitful. I have moved through Genesis in an overview. Beginning next term Sunday, evenings will be a time of reading and thinking about the 1689 confession so people know what is in it. Also, I will preach Sunday mornings on what it is to be a reformed and Baptist Church from Scripture. The two should complement.

Another project has been some in depth studies of the Old Testament. We recently had a young man move to Dubbo. He is planning to go to Morocco to teach English and preach the gospel as opportunities arise. He expressed interest in going to college but said it is too expensive. I asked if I could help by studying any area together which he felt deficient in, and he nominated the Old Testament. Another young brother has joined us." This OT study has continued on Zoom, as have services. *The Gaius trustees believe the Dubbo Church with David are key to any future work the Lord permits in central NSW among aboriginals.*

Gilgandra to Pilliga

Henry's health has improved after discovery and successful draining of a large abscess above his front teeth behind his nasal passage. He has begun to hold Zoom services regularly with the folk in the town of Pilliga, on their mobiles. Their children's clubs have necessarily been suspended. He and Maria seem in good spirits; they also catered for Jessica Bignall and Brady Watson's wedding reception in late April and did a superb job. They keep in touch with Jess who lives with husband Brady in Gilgandra now. Henry was their coach at school and mentor in community.

Wee Waa and Gulargambone

This term due to the lockdown, primary aged RE in the 3 schools Stephen visits has been suspended – Principals tell us when we return that only fully vaccinated folks will be permitted on site, Fiona and Stephen are due for the 2nd jab of AZ on 13/9.

Both the Bignall's youngest, Jessie and daughter in law Naomi are pregnant, Jess is due 2nd week of October and Naomi in January... exciting! *Thankful for all prayer.* We are keeping in touch with the Louie's and the Cox's regularly and our eldest daughter Jo and family in Herts are well at the time of writing. The church in Wee Waa presses on, and a new family of 4 have joined us from Victoria. The region is headed, Lord willing, for a 2nd bumper grain harvest in the late spring. Stephen has been preaching through the first 8 psalms, and now 2nd & 3rd John as patterns for the local church and for an active membership. This month marks 11 years since we moved from the UK to western NSW, kept by grace.

What a challenge the past 18 months has been with large periods when congregating was not permitted, both in the UK and Australia, but we continue to work while it is day. A big problem among the Aboriginal churches is the embracing of conspiracy theories about COVID and the "end of days" much imported from the USA through social media sources, pray for Henry and David especially as they untie these knots and reveal hopeful clarity through preaching Christ.

God bless you all, we are thankful for you brothers and sisters!