

Newsletter from Neil and June Prott

Now in the 7th year of this ministry of supporting and encouraging gospel ministry, including listening, resourcing, strategizing, trouble-shooting, brain-storming, networking. Our work is Bible-based - freelance (supported by friends) - trans-denominational, strictly confidential.

June 2004

Dear Friends,

Hullo again from the dizzy heights of the Blue Mountains. We hope you are well, as we are. Already this year I have travelled thousands of km's ministering to ministers and other Christian leaders. Trips have taken in CW, SW, and southern NSW, as well as Victoria and Brisbane. I have been warmly welcomed by old friends and new contacts. Once again, the timing has been very significant for several of those visited. It's never easy to decide where to go and at what time. However, the Lord constantly overrules to ensure that appointments are timely.

Journeys in recent months have taken us through grasshopper swarms. We had to stop and clear them out of the car's airscoops to prevent the engine overheating. "Willy-willies" were interesting to watch as they scoured the dry, ploughed paddocks. The swirling red dust was funnelling up to 30-40m high. It was a surprise when one crossed the road and hit the car as I was driving along. The air was red and grit pounded the windows. Dry dams, paddocks without stock, tall trees dying, no crops to be seen, creeks dried up, and river levels low. This has been the picture in 4/5ths of the State. Some farmers have been hand-feeding for many months. This often includes water-carting as well, and is a 7-day-a-week occupation. It requires great tenacity and perseverance. (These qualities are also needed in Christian leaders in rural areas). Recent rains have provided some relief and allowed crop-planting. However, it will be some months before there is any real change in the situation on the land.

Recently, the Anglican church in Manilla, NSW, organised a week-long mission and all the churches in the area participated. The reports have been very positive and there have been further gospel opportunities since. Such initiatives are sorely needed and it's exciting when people are prepared to have a go. Another ministry that has taken off around the State is the Sheds ministry to men. This has been genuine outreach as men have not had to go to a church campus to hear the gospel. Please pray for these ministries as they continue over the coming months. There is a great need to reach out to men in many parts of the State.

Perhaps your church could 'adopt' a church in the country. One rural minister told me that a city church had contacted him and sent a team to visit his church for a weekend. They met the people, brought a message of encouragement, and promised to pray for them in the following months. The impact has been very positive and is expected to continue indefinitely.

We deeply appreciate your interest, prayers, and support.

In Christ. Neil and June.

FLY ON THE WALL

- Sydney evangelist: "Take a mission in the country next year? That's a big 10/4!" (a big YES).
- "There was a time when our congregation was down to nine - - that's if they all turned up."
- "We had our first weekend away for teenagers last month. Fourteen turned up!"
- "Anything you could give us on fund-raising would be much appreciated."
- "We were thinking we should move on, but a young couple who had recently come to town told us they were in for the long haul. We decided to stay on. They have done a great work among the kids and several have made a commitment." - minister out west
- "Through the generosity of people in Sydney, we've managed to give a toy to every child in our area for the last two Christmasses.
"I noticed that the media stopped reporting the drought when the Iraq War started. We have lost support from city people since then. Of course, the drought has eased in some places, but out here things are drastic. I'll have to think of ways of raising more money."
- "I was thinking of chucking it in. But now I think I'll get some more training and keep going." - a young minister who's been through a tough time.
- "The new Bible reading plan has taken off. Everyone on the ministry team is using it as well as most of the people in the church. There is a different 'climate' around the place."
- "High School scripture seems to be getting tougher. The school is not behind us in what we're doing." - High School Scripture teacher out west
- "I was really apprehensive about visiting people on drought-stricken properties, but their response has been really positive and I'm going to keep doing it." - minister based in town
- "Got any stuff to help me prepare an address for the Anzac Service?"

N.B. If you would like to make a donation towards helping drought-stricken families and/or those who minister to them, we'd be happy to pass it on and, if you wish, put you in touch.

PRAYER POINTS

We covet your prayers and greatly value your support. Hardly a month goes by without unexpected blessings. We have so much to be thankful for.

From our letter above a number of prayer subjects are already evident. Here are some further points that will help you to pray for the Lord's people in rural areas.

- 1.** Give thanks to the Lord for His great salvation and the fact that we are one in Christ with all those who love Him and look for His appearing.
- 2.** Praise the Lord for His sustaining grace evident in the lives of so many Christians in the bush who have been working long and hard to maintain their properties in the face of drought.
- 3.** Thank the Lord for the many who meet in small groups with little outside encouragement. Ask the Lord to give them understanding of the Bible by His Spirit.
- 4.** Please pray for churches which have no pastor for four years at a time in between incumbents. The people have difficulty keeping up their enthusiasm.
- 5.** Praise the Lord for the faith and generosity of those who pray and give money to keep us ministering in this way.

6. Ask the Lord to give special wisdom to denominational officials who need to confront the increasing difficulties of maintaining a Christian witness in the bush.
7. Pray that the Lord will bless the faithful preaching of His Word so that older church members who have no assurance of salvation might come to know and love the Lord and be certain about their future.
8. Call on the Lord for those who serve Him as pastors. Ask Him to give them wisdom, health, and strength to persevere.
9. More workers are needed. Pray that He will give them a deep love for Him and for others, and thrust them into the harvest.
10. Pray that churches in the Sydney region will catch the vision of linking up with churches in country areas for prayer, occasional visits, and possible ministry.
11. Ask God to overrule in relationships with one another, that will we say only what edifies our brothers and sisters, and refrain from criticism and sarcasm.
12. Rejoice in the prospect of His coming with power and great glory (Mt 24) and pray for strength to serve Him faithfully as we wait.
13. Pray for families under duress, and the pastors and other Christians who support them.
14. Give thanks for recent rains and ask the Lord in His mercy to send sufficient for a harvest in Spring.
15. For Ken my travelling partner and his wife Jeanette, for June and myself, please pray for health and for safety on the roads - many are in a bad state of repair. We greatly appreciate your prayers for us.

Please consider supporting us in our ministry . . .

You can use any one (or more) of the following easy methods

- send **cheques** to Neil and June Prott, 18 Parr Pde, FAULCONBRIDGE, NSW 2776 ** but payable to "MTS Ltd"
- pay by **direct debit** from your bank account to MTS Ltd. Please ask Sharon for Autopay form or any other details you may need.
- use your **credit card** (Master or Visa) and send these details to Sharon by letter or by fax
Card No. _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

Expiry date: _ _ / _ _ Signature:

The MTS accountant (Miss) **Sharon Soh** may be reached at:

MTS Ltd Phone: 02 9663 1854
PO Box 331 Fax: 02 9313 7045
KINGSFORD Email: ssoh@mts.com.au
NSW 2032

*[Sharon is normally in the office
on Monday, Tuesday, and Friday]*

The accounting side of the ministry is handled by MTS Ltd. who kindly provide their service at no cost to us.

** *This allows N & J to acknowledge gifts sooner than is possible otherwise.*

PLEASE NOTE: In accordance with normal accounting practice, receipts for cheques are not issued automatically. However, such receipts will be gladly issued on request.

WE'VE PASSED THE 4,000 BARRIER !

Gradually, internet technology is improving in the bush. Education for isolated children is going through a revolution with the introduction of satellite connections to the Internet. At <http://www.acl.asn.au/Neil.html> [or www.acl.asn.au] you will find my links file with more than 4,000 web links. A wide range of subjects are listed alphabetically to allow you to quickly find what you want. Although compiled to help Christians in rural areas of Australia, they are now being used by people around the world. The material includes Bible studies, sermons, outlines, Christian doctrine, theological issues, defence of the faith, a huge range of topics for Christians, church history, children's talks and lessons, craft and sheets, youth ministry resources, hymns, songs, music, and much more. The links are broadly grouped and available in pdf format. We suggest you download the pdf files into your computer for perusal at your leisure.

You will need the Acrobat reader program to read it. That program is available free of charge from <http://www.adobe.com/prodindex/acrobat/readstep.html>

When you have found the references of interest to you, you can access them on the Internet without searching or delay. If you experience difficulties, please write or email telling me your type of computer and wordprocessing program. I will send the file by email or on disk.

Does Jesus want you to be a tent-maker?

Many churches in country towns and cities need ministry by committed Christians who are self-supporting. Many job vacancies exist. For example, physiotherapists, plumbers, nurses, electricians, doctors, diesel mechanics, engineers, builders, agronomists, veterinarians, horticulturalists, school teachers (all grades, permanent, part-time, or casual), motor mechanics, social workers. Such work brings many gospel opportunities through contacts with people.
