

HAPPY CHRISTMAS



Dear Family, friends and supporters,

Another year is coming towards the end. After nine years in Australia, it is still hard to get used to the southern hemisphere combination of the lead up to the summer holidays juxtaposed with Christmas carols and decorations.

The year has been a bit of a slog for lots of reasons, one of which is we feel like we have a little bit of change fatigue. From the big to the little, it feels like everything is changing too much too fast. On a societal level - in Australia at least - changes are happening at an accelerated rate (and not positive ones) and the impact of the 'Covid years' on life has been significant and will continue to reverberate. On a personal level there have been a lot of staff changes in MAF, particularly in the finance team. Also our good friends left Australia to return home this year, we have just moved churches, and our wonderful neighbours moved out of the area.



Even closer to home Caleb has now finished school and is likely to leave home next year. He is waiting for his results to see what he will do next year. Please pray for him that it will be clear what the next step is.

Fortunately everyone else is fairly settled. Joshua has finished his third year of engineering, with one year to go. He is moving into a house off campus with a group of guys for his final year, which he is really looking forward to.

Bethany has finished her first year of primary teaching at uni. She is really enjoying it and completed her first placement at a local primary school. She also has a new part time job in a shoe shop.

A WEARY WORLD REJOICES

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Matthew 11 v 28-30



Ruben still has a few years to go at school - he's worked out he will graduate in 2030! It seems a long way away, but time seems to pass pretty quickly. Please pray for him as he adjusts to being more of an only child.

Libby is currently working casually at Ruben's school, as well as working on a design project for MAF. She hopes to find something more permanent that complements her skills. On the MAF front, Daniel continues to lead the project to implement a new accounting system globally. It's a good fit for his skill set, but fairly stressful due to the complexity of configuring a system that works for all our different locations and activities; working with a team in multiple time zones, and looming deadlines. It will be a big relief once the system has 'gone live'.

So how do we handle all this change? In Mark Jesus tells his disciples to 'suffer the little children to come unto me', and then says, "The Kingdom of God belongs to those who are like these little children".

We dragged our children round the world quite a bit when they were younger, and it didn't seem to faze them much at all - as long as they were with us, they were OK. Maybe there's an element of Jesus' exhortation about 'being like little children' that we need to grasp here. If our security is sufficiently centred on God, like a little child's is on their parents, then it doesn't matter what change goes on around us, it won't destabilise us. It's only when we keep our eyes on all the change that we start to get dizzy!

It is said that sailors on ships used to tie themselves to the mast to prevent themselves from being washed overboard. If you're suffering from change fatigue like us, let's lash ourselves to the mast that is our Father, who does not change, and keep our eyes on Him. Well, that's the theory. Now we just have to work out what it means in practice

Love to you all. Thank you for your continued praying and support.

Daniel, Libby, Joshua, Bethany, Caleb and Ruben