

# AUSTRALIAN JOURNEY OF

**Daniel, Libby, Joshua, Bethany, Caleb and Ruben Simkins**

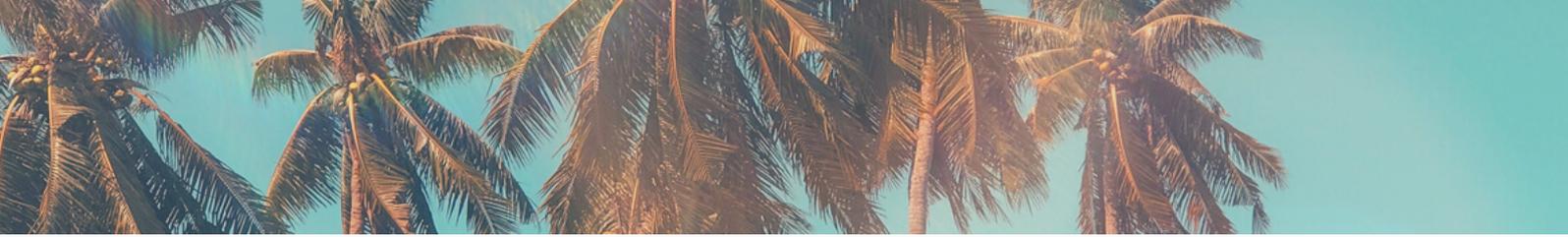
Dear Family and Friends,

Life seems to roll on as we quickly approach March. Despite the fact that one can sometimes optimistically feel the troubles of the previous year will be left behind and not follow you into the new one, generally, reality kicks in fairly quickly and the first day of January is fairly similar to the last day of December. You are still you; the things you struggled with before are all still there and have not magically disappeared. The beginning of this year has felt hard for us due to several challenges in terms of physical health, mental health, jobs and adjusting to another child leaving the nest.



**Caleb** was catapulted into adulthood in February. He turned 18 on a Thursday; almost took his driving test on the Friday (he wasn't allowed because they said there was something wrong with the brake light on the car!) and left for university on the Saturday. He has started veterinary medicine at the same university as Joshua and has the joys of doing his own laundry and living in student accommodation on campus. On the plus side he has his food provided, his sheets changed for him and free access to a gym. Being a social individual he will probably thrive in this environment but please pray for him as he adjusts to life away from home and a demanding course. Please pray for us as we learn to live in a Caleb-free house, which - although tidier and with more food in the fridge - is definitely quieter and missing his quick wit and ability to always see the funny side of things!

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Tel: 01303 850950 email: [staffsupport@maf-uk.org](mailto:staffsupport@maf-uk.org)



**Joshua** decided he wasn't busy enough and has added a part time job with an engineering firm to his fourth year at university. He is really enjoying living in a shared house off campus with four other Christian guys. Pray for him as he decides what he wants to do next year.

**Bethany** has started her second year of primary teaching at university. She is enjoying being able to drive to campus on the days she successfully negotiates with her mother that she has a greater need for the car.

**Ruben** seems to have adjusted to life with his brothers away, although he does miss play fighting with Caleb. He is using his time to learn the Rubik's Cube and make sure there is not a single Marvel movie or series he hasn't seen!

**Daniel & Libby** With Daniel's big software implementation project going live at the beginning of January, things have been fairly stressful for the past few weeks, which has had an impact on his health. However, it seems like things are starting to ease off a bit, and hopefully we will start to see the benefits soon. Libby continues to work at Ruben's school on a casual basis, and continues to pray for something more suitable!

One of my key phrases for this year is, 'Trust God'.

It's easy to trust God when things are going OK, but much more challenging when they are not! We sometimes fall into the trap of thinking, if life isn't going the way we want it to, that God hasn't got things under control and can't be trusted. In my journey to trust I am realising that even when life feels hard, God is still in control.

He may not necessarily take me out of my circumstances but I have to trust that God is with me in my circumstances. Further, I have to trust that He has set boundaries and limits on what I will have to endure; that what I am going through will ultimately be of benefit to me (and/or others), and that He still loves and cares for me, and hasn't just 'abandoned me to my fate'.

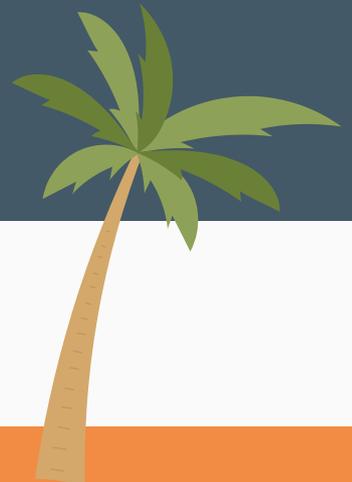
Like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego we need to learn to say, 'I don't know if God will deliver me from this, but I will trust Him whether He does or not'.

God can be trusted – but it might not look how we expected.

Lyrics from 'God Is In This Story'  
Song by Big Daddy Weave  
and Katy Nichole

*God is in this story, God is in the details  
Even in the broken parts  
He holds my heart, He never fails  
When I'm at my weakest  
I will trust in Jesus  
Always in the highs and lows  
The One who goes before me  
God is in this story*

*So if the storm you're walking through  
Feels like it's too much, and you  
Wonder if He even cares at all  
Hold on tight to what you know  
He promised He won't let you go*



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

*Daniel, Libby, Joshua, Bethany, Caleb and Ruben*