

# **“HUME’S HAPPENINGS”**

1<sup>st</sup> January 2018

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**North Beach church of Christ**

Greetings brethren ,

Thank you for your support , it is very much appreciated . Following is my report for **December 2017** .

This month Jackie and I were engaged in activities that are peculiar to this time of year and at no other time . Because they are "one off" items in December only , I will focus mainly on these in this report and get back to "normal" activities in my report for January 2017 .

The reason Jackie and I are involved in these things is to bring glory to God , and to bring the Eastside church to the minds of people in the community .

## **GOSPEL MEETING** .

We have begun the process of organising a Gospel Meeting at Eastside , to be conducted in the first half of 2018 . Last week I contacted prospective guest speakers from around Australia . I will keep you informed as our plan develops .

## **SCHOOL ASSEMBLY .**

On 19th December Jackie and I attended the end of year (for grades 1 - 5) and grade six graduation assembly at the school where we meet for church services .

This assembly is attended by state and Federal politicians , business leaders , prominent members of the community , and many parents and friends of the students .

Each year at this assembly , Jackie and I present an award each to a student , with the award winners and presenters listed in a nicely printed official program . Our awards in the program state , "*From the members of the Eastside church*" (not from the Eastside church) .

These awards are not paid for out of the church treasury , but from private contributions of the Eastside members .

Every year at the assembly , some politician or business leader will ask the Principle of the school , "*What is the Eastside church of Christ , where are they located*" etc , and the Principle will introduce Jackie and I to the person and we have opportunity to tell them all about the church .

This year I had a lengthy conversation about Eastside with the school's new maintenance man , and also with our Federal member of the Australian Government .

## **LITERACY MORNING TEA .**

During the year , Jackie and I drive to the school every Tuesday morning and for one hour we teach very young pupils to read . At the start of the year "our" children will be on around "level 1 - 3" , and by the end of this year they were around levels 20 - 25 .

The Principle of the school tells us that just as important as learning to read, the children need to build a relationship with us, because many of them come from broken homes and do not have a father or mother.

When I walk into the classroom, the kids get excited and start shouting, "*Barry's here, Barry's here*", and the teacher says, "*Calm down, I can see that Barry's here*". Often Jackie and I will be somewhere like the Supermarket, and one of our "readers" will call out, "*Barry*" or "*Jackie*" and introduce us to their parent (s).

On the 19th December the school organised an appreciation morning tea for those people who have volunteered to teach children to read. Every year other volunteers ask us about the Eastside church.

### **BENEVOLENCE BASKETS .**

On December 19th Jackie and I delivered the last two washing baskets of groceries (for 2016) to the Principle of the school, and he gave them to two needy families that he chose.

This year we distributed six (6) grocery baskets. This program has no connection with the Eastside church, but rather is an initiative of our individual members.

Each Tuesday evening when brethren come to our home for dinner before the 7pm - 8pm Bible Class, they bring items of groceries and place them in the washing baskets. When these two baskets are overflowing, Jackie covers them with colorful see-through paper, each with a card that says, "*From the members of the Eastside church*" (not from the Eastside church), and we deliver them to the Principle.

Jackie then buys two new baskets, places them in our lounge room where the brethren can see them, and the process starts again.

## HOUSE AT BEACH .

The daughter of one of Jackie's Hairdressing clients kindly offers us the use of her Beach House for three weeks each year. It is about 50 minutes from our home, and brethren from all over Tasmania and the mainland stay with us for varying periods of time.

Jackie and I are particularly excited this year because the 30 year old son of one of our members has "booked" a week's stay with us along with his three young children. He is a bachelor and is doing a great job of raising his children as a sole parent.

This man was once a faithful member of another Launceston church for a number of years, but through disillusionment with the preacher he fell away.

Since his mother placed membership with Eastside about a year ago, he has attended our worship services a number of times, thus we became friendly with him. This led to him accepting our invitation to stay with us for a week at the beach.

We are hoping that spending a week with him in this relaxed environment, and have him see us offering prayers and reading our Bibles each day, will lead to his restoration, and have an influence on his children.

## MY BEACH "OFFICE" .

Because I cannot afford to "lose" three weeks out of my work schedule, I transport my laptop, monitor, keyboard, and Printer / Scanner / Photocopier to the Beach House and I set up an "office" in a private room.

Every morning (even Sundays) I begin work in this "office" at 5am, and from Monday to Saturday I work until midday, then I join whoever

is staying with us in "holiday" activities . Sometimes I even get to "steal" another hour or two on the computer in the late afternoons / evenings . I have attached some photographs of my "office away from home" .

Because the location is so close to our home , it is no trouble to drive from the beach to Eastside's meetings .

## **LESSONS TAUGHT BY ME AT EASTSIDE IN DECEMBER .**

Most of my Bible class and sermon subjects take several weeks to cover due to the nature of the Eastside members who need constant repetition , detailed explanations , and mutual discussions among brethren re personal applications of Biblical principles in their lives .

Also , I encourage members to ask questions re anything they do not understand or even something that is a side issue to what we are actually studying at the time . Thus it is very rare for me to ever complete a lesson in one Bible class .

## **SUNDAY BIBLE CLASS .**

December 3 - *"Necessary elements of the Divine nature"* .

10 - *"Who is Jesus" ?*

17 - *"Who is Jesus" ?*

24 - *"Who is Jesus" ?*

31 - *"Who is Jesus" ?*

## **SUNDAY SERMONS .**

- December 3 - *"Pray without ceasing"* .
- 10 - *"Why prayers are not answered"* .
- 17 - *"Losing the saved"* .
- 24 - *"Will this be the year" ?*
- 31 - *"The challenge of self - imprisonment"* .

## **MIDWEEK BIBLE CLASS .**

- December 5 - *"The challenge of abundant living"* .
- 12 - *"The challenge of discernment"* .
- 19 - *"The challenge of discernment"* .
- 26 - *"The challenge of discernment"* .

Following is a repeat of the items that form the basis of my activities each month .

## **REGULAR MONTHLY ACTIVITIES .**

**Set up school** on Friday afternoons at 4pm for Eastside's Sunday meetings .  
( it takes Jackie and I about one hour to clear out the classroom and set up our "church auditorium" ) .

**"Friend day" lunch** at our house for brethren and visitors after Sunday worship on the second or third Sunday in the month .

**Midweek Bible Class** : Continues to be at my house .

**Study periods** : Preparing sermons and Bible classes for Eastside's meetings .

**Lesson booklets** : Ongoing typing , photocopying , stapling , and binding of new and replacement booklets for requests , and for display at our church meetings .

**Study packs** : Ongoing photocopying , stapling , and packaging of these as time permits .

**Letterboxing** : Jackie and I make every effort to continue this project on a weekly basis , but often a lack of time does not allow this to happen .

Thank you once again for your wonderful support , please visit us if you ever get the opportunity to do so ,

Yours in Christ ,

Barry Hume