

“HUME'S HAPPENINGS”

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Greetings brethren ,

Thank you for your support , it is very much appreciated .
Following is my report for **March 2020** .

SPECIAL BAPTISM !

I will try to keep this as short as I can . About 29 years ago I baptised my "about 18" year old nephew (Brett Anderson) who faithfully attended every Eastside worship and Bible Class for about two years until "peer pressure" from his mates and worldly pressures caused him to fall away for about four years .

Then my dad , a faithful member at Eastside (who Brett loved deeply) died , Brett attended his funeral , after which Brett waited until Jackie and I were alone at dad's gravesite , approached us , and broke down and cried , saying , *"What do I have to do to get right with the Lord again , I want to go where Don is"* .

We hugged him and said , *"You know where your brethren meet , we will see you on Sunday"* . Brett has not missed a Bible Class or Worship Service in all the following years (except for ill health) . He hands out more of my Bound Lesson Booklets to members of the community than anyone else at Eastside .

After dad died, Brett met a wonderful young woman (Kylie), and I performed their wedding ceremony. Kylie's parents were Roman Catholics and because of her background we could never convince her to become a Christian, but she in no way whatsoever objected or hindered Brett from attending all our meetings or engaging in our congregational programs.

Brett and Kylie had two lovely girls, and when the eldest (Madeline) grew up some, Brett began bringing her to Jackie's "Sunday School" every Sunday for several years. Then the youngest daughter (Grace) grew to the age where she also wanted to go to Sunday school with her dad and elder sister.

Brett encouraged his wife Kylie to accompany them each Sunday because, *"Jackie will need you to help her with Grace"*. Brett's wife attended Sunday School (helping Jackie) for maybe two years, while I taught the adult Bible Class, then after Sunday School Kylie would take the girls home and Brett would stay for Worship.

Each Sunday before Sunday School and my Bible Class, I lead a children's songs session for fifteen minutes with both adults and children together, then we split into our respective classes.

One Sunday early this year, when the children rose to go to Sunday School, Kylie and her eldest daughter remained seated and told everybody, *"We have decided to sit in on Barry's class from now on instead of Sunday School"*. This continued until two weeks ago when Kylie rang me to say she needed to be baptised into Christ!

She will be a wonderful asset to the Eastside congregation. Brett said to me last week, *"Uncle Barry, since you baptised me, it has taken me 29 years to find a wonderful wife, and now she is a Christian also"*.

CORONA VIRUS .

The Coronavirus has hit Tasmania and is spreading , leading to the Government closing down all public gatherings (including churches) the only exception being funerals with 10 or less people and weddings with no more than 5 people .

Two weeks ago , our State Government closed down our borders (Tasmania is an island of 500 , 000 people) with only "returning home" Tasmanians allowed into the state and when these people arrive they must isolate for two weeks in Government run hotels before moving to their homes .

At the same time the Government decreed that all people must "self - isolate" in their homes , with only two people allowed in the home at any one time , unless there are more than two people who permanently live in that home .

Leaving our house is only allowed to visit a doctor , get medicines from a chemist (drug store) , purchase food , or purchase essential items to maintain the integrity of the house . On such excursions from their home , people must maintain a distance of 1.5 metres between each other .

EASTSIDE CHURCH .

At this point in time no Eastside members have contracted the virus , but there is great fear growing among members of the community . Because of the "only two people" law , conducting Bible Classes and Worship services in our meeting place is not possible , so for the past two Sundays brethren have conducted their own private devotionals in their homes .

NEW COMPUTER GOALS .

I am waiting for the arrival of a brand new Dell computer

and my computer "Guru" has offered to set it up for me with "**Skype**" and "**Zoom**" (?) and teach me how to connect to the computers of the Eastside members .

This is all new to me , and this new computer will have **Windows 10** instead of my current **Windows 7** , so I am going to take a while to learn how to use it .

Eventually I hope to be able to conduct "on - line" Bible Classes and sermons for brethren to connect to .

STUDY MATERIALS

I am in the process of organising a scheme (for those members who wish to participate) whereby Jackie and I will deliver every Monday morning a Bound Lesson Booklet of the sermon I would have preached the day before (as in pre - virus scenario) to their doorstep (thus there will be no physical contact) .

These members can study the booklet and the scriptures in it , then toward the end of the week I will organise to phone each member and conduct a one hour discussion with them over the phone about that lesson or any other subject they have questions about . One member has already asked if I would lead in prayer over the phone during these sessions .

This program is going to be time consuming delivering the booklets and long phone calls , but it is one way of keeping contact with the members and engaging in some form of Bible studies with them .

I am planning to phone every Eastside member at regular intervals to "keep in touch" and answer any Bible questions they may have .

PREACHING TRIPS .

My every sixth week preaching trips to congregations around Tasmania are on hold until this crisis is over , but I am already preparing to mail Lesson Booklets of my sermons to members of these congregations , so they can study them in their own homes .

Again , this will be more time consuming packaging up and addressing booklets to brethren who don't wish to or cannot receive them online , but one has to do what one has to do .

HILLWOOD FOOTBALL CLUB .

All Australian Rules Leagues throughout Australia have been cancelled , so Jackie and I will have every second Saturday free from operating the food outlet at the Hillwood Football Club , at least until this Coronavirus situation is over .

We plan to dedicate this time to the Lord's work . Hopefully doors of opportunity will open for us to talk to non - Christians about the gospel , people who may be thinking about the uncertainty of this life more than they ever have before .

Having taken on the role of "Chaplains" (without the title) at this sporting club several years ago , I suspect that we will be receiving phone calls from board members , players , and supporters about members of the club who need someone to talk to .

BECKY'S RECOVERY .

Last month I reported that one of our members (Becky Schiller) had a hip operation . I can report that she is recovering well , the prayers of every Eastside member has been answered .

ADDITIONS AND ACCESS TO WEB PAGE .

I am continuing to add Bible Classes and sermons to my web page in order to give people a greater list of subjects to study . With the Coronavirus restrictions in place , I plan to use every second (of the time I would normally use for other aspects of the Lord's work) in preparing new lessons and adding them to the site .

To best access , view , and print my lessons , here is the nine (9) step plan to follow :

- 1 . Type <https://www.barrysbiblelessons.com> . into the url box .
- 2 . Click on ["Barry's bible lessons"](#) .
- 3 . Click on ["Sermons"](#) .
- 4 . Click on ["Subjects"](#) .
- 5 . Click on  (top right of screen) then on ["PHOTO"](#) .
- 6 . Double click on required [subject](#) .
- 7 . Click on required [sermon](#) .
- 8 . Click on ["Accessibility Mode"](#) (top toolbar) .
- 9 . Print sermon if required .

LESSONS TAUGHT BY ME AT EASTSIDE IN MARCH .

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 .

- March 1 - *"Were there two laws given on Sinai" ?*
- 8 - *"Were there two laws given on Sinai" ?*
- 15 - *"Were there two laws given on Sinai" ?*
- 22 - *"The Ten Commandments have been abolished" .*
- 29 - Hymns , prayers , Lord's Supper , **no class** (Virus) .

SUNDAY SERMONS .

- March 1 - *"Characteristics of a fool" .*
- 8 - *"Characteristics of a fool" .*
- 15 - *"What is a local church" ?*
- 22 - *"The foolishness of God" .*
- 29 - Hymns , prayers , Lord's Supper , **no sermon** (Virus) .

MIDWEEK BIBLE CLASS .

March 3 - Viktor taught **Jonah 1** .

10 - Viktor taught **Jonah 2** .

17 - Viktor taught **Jonah 3** .

24 - **Class cancelled** - Corona Virus .

31 - **Class cancelled** - Corona Virus .

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") .

(Cancelled - Corona Virus)

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

(Cancelled - Corona Virus)

Midweek Bible Class : Continues to be at my house .

(Cancelled - Corona Virus)

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 .

(Cancelled - Corona Virus)

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 .

P . S . "WISE MEN STILL SEEK HIM"

I have attached another one of my sermons
for you to see how and what I preach