

“HUME'S HAPPENINGS”

1st July 2020

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Greetings brethren ,

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

ABSOLUTE HIGHLIGHT OF OUR MONTH .

This month we had an exciting surprise that I have got to relate to you .

Two brethren (**John and Rosemarie Smith**) , a husband and wife farmers live almost as far south in Tasmania as you can go . It is a two and a half hours drive from my home in the north to our capital city (Hobart) in the south . Then it is another two and a half hour drive further south to where the Smiths live .

For many years John and Rosemarie have conducted a "two person" church service every Sunday in a little country church of Christ building near their farm (how's that for commitment !) . John receives one of my bound lesson booklets each month and these become his "Sermon" for their worship service .

Once a month several car loads of brethren from the Lindisfarne church in Hobart drive to John's farm after their Sunday morning meeting and conduct a Sunday afternoon worship service with the Smiths . For many years John has regularly phoned me and during our hour long talks he has many questions for me to answer .

This month the Tasmanian Government lifted Corona Virus restrictions re travel around Tasmania and introduced free coach (bus) fares anywhere in the state .

I received a phone call from John Smith and he asked if we would mind if he and Rosemarie took advantage of the free coach fares and visited us on a Saturday afternoon so they could worship at Eastside the next day , and return to their home on Monday morning (a five hour trip each way) .

Eastside brethren were in raptures at the news of the Smiths visit , because they have been much loved and respected brethren for forty years .

John and Rosemarie stayed in our "brethren's apartment" and Jackie and I convinced them they ought to stay longer than just Saturday and Sunday nights .

Monday morning the four of us left our home around 9am and we took the Smiths on an all day car trip in northern Tasmania , we had a great day together , arriving home around 5 pm .

They stayed with us four nights so they could have Tuesday night dinner with Eastside brethren and attend our "midweek" Bible class after dinner , then they took the 10am coach to Hobart on Wednesday morning .

The following Tuesday night , as the Eastside brethren were getting seated in our home , in readiness for our Bible class , our phone rang . It was **John Smith** , and he said as 7pm neared

he could picture us all in the Bible class and he just had to call and say that he and Rosemarie wished they were here with us . All the Eastside brethren shouted their greetings to the Smiths .

Such relationships with faithful brethren , based on a mutual love and respect for God and each other are so spiritually stimulating to Jackie and I .

TASMANIAN CORONA - VIRUS UPDATE .

We have been so fortunate that we are an island state , thus when our state government closed our "borders" (in reality , oceans all around us), it meant nobody from the mainland could arrive in Tasmania by aircraft or ship .

The few cases of people that tested positive in Tasmania were isolated and treated in isolated hospital wards . All restaurants , coffee shops , sporting events , cinemas , schools , churches , and hotel bars were closed , and social distancing was enforced in supermarkets , banks , and drug stores .

Last week the State Premier (U . S . "Governor") announced that Tasmania had gone 47 days without a positive test for Coronavirus . He lifted restrictions on a number of areas , including places of worship .

While things are good in Tasmania , the state of **Victoria** (our closest neighbor state , about 300 miles across Bass Strait) are experiencing many positive Corona cases . Their state premier has kept their borders closed and yesterday closed down several suburbs in the city of Melbourne .

Premiers in other Australian states have banned Airlines from flying to Victoria , and have banned Victorians from entering their states .

BACK AT THE SCHOOL .

After ten weeks of being isolated in our homes (Corona Virus) and conducting worship services on SKYPE , the school where we meet phoned me this week to say that we can resume our church meetings from this coming Sunday (**5th July**) .

It will be good to be "back to normal" again , and be able to evangelise and invite non - Christian contacts to our meetings .

MIDWEEK BIBLE CLASS .

With the lifting of restriction we have resumed our Tuesday night Bible class in our home , with Jackie providing a cooked dinner at 5 . 30 am for any brethren who wish to attend . We have a very large dinner table that expands two times and each Tuesday night we have a "full house" which is great . Our Bible class is from 7 pm to 8 pm .

CORRESPONDENCE COURSE APPLICANTS .

We have had eleven (11) people apply for our John Hurt's Correspondence Course that we advertise in our city's newspaper . We are praying that this will lead to personal Bible studies and conversions .

COMPUTER HYMNAL - BARRIE MORGAN .

This month Eastside purchased a paperless computer hymnal from "**One Stone**" Bookstore in **Bowling Green , Kentucky** .

Because I did not know how to use it , Barrie and Joanne Morgan from the Eastern Shore congregation in Hobart made the two and a half hour drive to Launceston early Sunday morning , worshipped with Eastside , had lunch in our home , and then

taught me how to operate the hymnal , before returning to Hobart late Sunday afternoon .

LESSONS TAUGHT BY ME AT EASTSIDE IN JUNE .

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 .

June 7 - *"The Patriarchal age"* .

14 - *"The Patriarchal age"* .

21 - *"The Patriarchal age"* .

28 - *"The Patriarchal age"* .

SUNDAY SERMONS .

June 7 - Steve Schiller preached , *"The present truth"* .

14 - *"Walking in love"* .

21 - Barrie Morgan preached , *"Distress and Succour"* .

28 - *"Judging others"* (Bible commands) .

MIDWEEK BIBLE CLASS .

June 2 - Viktor taught *"Micah 1 - 2"* .

9 - Viktor taught *"Micah 3 - 4"* .

16 - Viktor taught *"Micah 5 - 7"* .

23 - Viktor taught *"Naham 1 - 3"* .

30 - Viktor taught *"Habakkuk 1 - 2"* .

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 .