

“HUME’S HAPPENINGS”

1st September 2020

Barry Hume
P . O . Box 177
Launceston 7250
Tasmania , Australia

North Beach church of Christ

Greetings brethren ,

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

CORONA VIRUS UPDATE .

As I type this , we have **zero** cases of people being infected with Corona in our island state of **Tasmania** , and I have not heard of any members of the church anywhere in Australia being infected .

Our state government immediately closed our borders when Corona first hit Australia , and placed restrictions upon our everyday activities . For twelve weeks I conducted worship services through ZOOM , but we have been able to return to our regular meeting place for the last twelve weeks .

The state of **Victoria** is in serious trouble with hundreds of new infections each day and multiple daily deaths . Victorians must wear masks everywhere and are not allowed to leave their homes during the day except to buy groceries etc , and must remain in their homes from 8pm until 7am each day .

Their state Premier (Governor) has declared a state of emergency , with nobody being allowed to leave the state , and nobody allowed to enter Victoria from other states .

We are so fortunate that our state is surrounded by oceans and seas , thus the only way into Tasmania is by aircraft or ships , and these have been closed down . The aeroplanes and ships are only visiting Tasmania to bring food , medicines , mail , and other necessary supplies into our state . Every person involved in this delivery of supplies is Corona - tested upon arrival and again before departing Tasmania .

Apart from social distancing , and several restrictions re large numbers congregating together , we are almost back to a pre - corona lifestyle .

Now back to Jackie and my work for the Lord for August .

This next point is related to a momentous decision I am about to make , please tolerate me as I "vent my spleen" and have a whinge about something that infuriates me .

ZOOM - MARRIAGE CELEBRANT'S SEMINAR .

Because Marriage Celebrant's are Regulated by the Australian Government , this month I had to participate in an annual ZOOM seminar for Tasmanian celebrants .

I have to pay **\$ 125 . 00** to be part of this session which lasts for six hours each session , and the content of these seminars has nothing to do with the God decreed sanctity of marriage , or the necessity to ensure the married couple stay together for life .

Failure to "attend" these seminars results in the government revoking your Licence to perform wedding ceremonies . On top of all this is an annual Marriage Celebrant Registration fee of **\$ 240 . 00 !**

In Australia, performing wedding ceremonies has become a multi-million dollar business for Registered Celebrants, with a huge Marriage Celebrant's Department within the Australian Government.

Celebrants at "my" annual seminar tell me they conduct three weddings every Saturday, and they will not conduct a ceremony for under \$900.00 each wedding (I perform my ceremonies for free, as a service to brethren).

The most frustrating thing of all is that the Australian Government does not categorise the New Testament church of Christ as being a recognised religious body.

Every few years the Government publishes a list of recognised denominations and religious bodies whose members do not have to pay the annual Celebrant's Registration Fee, they do not have to attend the annual seminars, or pay the seminar fee.

The list of recognised denominations and religious bodies is incredible re some of the, "*light years from the Bible*" churches and sects that are included, but the original church of Christ is not included. The Marriage Celebrant Section of the Australian Government lists us in the "Non - recognised Religious Bodies" category.

MY DECISION ?

I obtained my Marriage Celebrant's Licence about twenty years ago in order for brethren in Tasmania to have a brother in Christ available to conduct a Bible based wedding ceremony for them. A large number of brethren have availed themselves of my services.

Given the nature of Marriage Celebrancy in Australia (what I have reported above is only the tip of the "ice - berg") I have decided to write a letter to the Australian Government and resign my Celebrant's Licence.

In Australia, the government has formulated a non - religious set of words and criteria that must be spoken by Registered Celebrants when conducting a wedding ceremony in order for the Government to recognise the marriage as being legal .

When I resign my Licence I will no longer be a Registered Marriage Celebrant, so if Tasmanian brethren approach me to conduct their wedding ceremony, I will conduct a Bible based wedding ceremony and then to make the marriage "legal", I will organise for a Registered Celebrant (I have made some lifetime friends with them) to conduct the "legal, non - religious" aspects of the ceremony .

That is my whinge, now to focus on the work Jackie and I engaged in for the month of August .

NEWSPAPER ADVERTS - CORRESPONDENCE COURSE .

I now have had twenty (20) people from all over northern Tasmania apply to complete our John Hurt's Correspondence Course . I have been busy marking their questions answered and sending them the next booklet .

DVD NEWSPAPER ADVERTS .

As a follow up to the Correspondence Course adverts, we have ordered a series of similar adverts but this time offering free DVD's . I will let you know what response we receive .

BOOKLETS REQUESTS AND COMMENTS .

I continue to receive requests for additions to my free monthly mailing list of Bound Lesson Booklets . I have attached the latest comments for you to read .

HILLWOOD DINNERS .

Our Australian Rules Football season has been cancelled (Corona virus) but the hot meals at the Clubrooms continue each Friday night (see last month's report) .

This month Jackie cooked 30 plus meals on two Fridays , and Viktor Koskovic from Eastside attended as a means of establishing relationships with members of the Hillwood community .

GUEST SPEAKER .

This month David and Jenny Underwood from the Eastern Shore congregation in Hobart worshipped with us , with David preaching the sermon .

HYMN SINGING NIGHT .

Viktor Koskovic has been teaching our Tuesday night Bible Class and between him finishing his class on the Old Testament and beginning the New Testament , we had a hymn singing night .

For one hour brethren nominate their "favorite" hymns to sing , and we find it very stimulating to sing together .

BENEVOLENCE BASKETS .

In past reports I have mentioned Jackie placing two large washing baskets on display in our lounge room , and each Tuesday night before our Bible class , members give Jackie items of groceries to put in the baskets .

When the baskets are overflowing with groceries , Jackie covers them with coloured cellophane paper and places a card on each stating , *"From the members of the Eastside church of Christ"* .

This benevolence program has no connection with the work of the Eastside church or its treasury, but is a completely separate commitment by the Eastside members as individual Christians.

Our next delivery of two baskets of groceries to the Principle will be around mid December of this year. We go through this process twice a year.

LESSONS TAUGHT BY ME AT EASTSIDE IN AUGUST.

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.

August 2 - *"Mosaic period of time"*.
9 - *"Mosaic period of time"*.
16 - *"Mosaic period of time"*.
23 - *"Mosaic period of time"*.
30 - *"Mosaic period of time"*.

SUNDAY SERMONS .

- August 2 - Steven Schiller preached .
- 9 - *"We are children of God"* .
- 16 - **David Underwood** preached (Eastern Shore member) .
- 23 - *"Benefits of being a child of God"* .
- 30 - *"The patience of Job"* .

MIDWEEK BIBLE CLASS .

- August 4 - HYMN SINGING NIGHT .
- 11 - Viktor taught **Matthew chapters 1 - 2** .
- 18 - Viktor taught **Matthew chapters 3 - 4** .
- 25 - Viktor taught **Matthew chapters 4 - 5** .

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 gymnasium 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 .