

# **“HUME’S HAPPENINGS”**

1<sup>st</sup> January 2017

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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 2016** .

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 .

## **SCHOOL ASSEMBLY .**

On 20th 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 Mayor of our city, and also with our recently elected 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 eight (8) 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.

## **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 in the late afternoons / evenings.

I have attached some photographs of my "office away from home".

### **ROCKHAMPTON BRETHREN .**

This month we had visiting brethren in our home from Rockhampton in far North Queensland. Gordon and Glenda Johnson stayed in our home, worshipped with us at Eastside, then stayed two nights with us at the Beach House.

### **"BRETHREN'S APARTMENT" IN USE .**

This month a young sister in Christ from Hobart phoned me with the request to live in our apartment for three weeks. She has completed her Paramedic training, and has been rostered to work in Launceston for three weeks with our Ambulance facility.

### **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 4 - *"How to establish authority from the Bible"* .
- 11 - *"How to establish authority from the Bible"* .
- 18 - *"General and specific authority"* .
- 25 - *"General and specific authority"* .

## SUNDAY SERMONS .

- December 4 - *"In spirit and in truth" ? ( Jn 4 : 24 ) .*
- 11 - *"We must worship in spirit and in truth" .*
- 18 - *"The land promises to Abraham all fulfilled" .*
- 25 - *"Loving our enemies" .*

## MIDWEEK BIBLE CLASS .

- December 7 - Viktor taught **Joshua 13 - 14 .**
- 14 - Viktor taught **Joshua 15 - 16 .**
- 21 - Viktor taught **Joshua 17 - 18 .**
- 28 - Viktor taught **Joshua 19 - 20 .**

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