

“HUME’S HAPPENINGS”

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Greetings brethren ,

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

This report is a week late because of my exciting almost daily interaction with neighbours across the street from our home . This news of our interaction over a number of years forms the majority of my report this month . Please especially read this item below and pray that our studies with these neighbours will result in conversions .

PREACHED AT LINDISFARNE .

This month Jackie and I drove two hours plus to Hobart (a city of about 250 , 000 people) for me to preach for the Lindisfarne church . We made the trip on Saturday afternoon and stayed overnight with brethren .

My sermon on , *"Our attitude to weak brethren"* , was very warmly received , with brethren wanting extra copies of my bound Lesson Booklet to send to brethren in other churches around Australia .

I have attached this lesson for your consideration .

EXCITING STUDIES WITH NEIGHBOURS .

Their arrival :

About four years ago, a family of a husband (Shane Corner), his wife (Irene), sixteen year old daughter, and a fourteen year old son arrived from Sydney in New South Wales, and moved into a house opposite our home.

In accord with our custom, Jackie and I knocked on their door, presented them with a cake Jackie had baked, and we welcomed them to our neighbourhood, and impressed on them that we were available 24/7 if they ever needed our assistance.

We all became the closest of friends, with Shane and Irene telling us that in Sydney they had been Jehovah's Witnesses for about twenty years, having both being raised as children in the JW church. When they began to seriously study the Bible for themselves they discovered many areas where their JW beliefs and doctrine conflicted with Bible teaching.

When they resigned from the Jehovah's Witnesses, every relative and friend they had in the entire world (all were Jehovah's Witnesses) refused to have anything to do with them, would not even speak to them if they met in public places. This had a profound effect on their sixteen year old daughter and fourteen year old son, to the extent they decided to sell their Sydney home, move to Tasmania and make a fresh start.

Shane is a painter and established his own "Corner Painting Service", which has become a well known business throughout northern Tasmania with a number of employees. Shane has procured contracts to continually paint the inside and outside of government schools and office buildings.

Shane asks questions :

Right from day one, whenever Shane saw me weeding in my front garden, he would come over and ask me questions about the Eastside church and New Testament Christianity.

Daughter suicides :

About a year after arriving in our street, Shane and Irene came home one day to find their daughter had committed suicide. Of course, this devastated the rest of the family, but especially the fifteen year old brother, who went completely "off the rails", and became involved in alcohol and drugs.

Son turns life around :

Four weeks ago Shane and Irene told Jackie and I what has been happening with their son (Fabien) over the past six months. In early January this year Fabien told his parents that he had decided to abstain from all alcohol and drugs, and he began to read his Bible every day.

As he read the scriptures he would literally bombard his parents with questions they could not answer, so they kept telling him to, *"Go over the road and ask Barry and Jackie"*.

Private studies begin :

Three weeks ago Fabien asked me if I would sit down with him and show him from the scriptures what the Bible taught re whether Christians should keep the Sabbath or not.

We set up a time for the study, but because I have a rule of limiting the time to one hour (to avoid mental overload) we only got half way through my Sabbath lesson. We agreed to complete this lesson the next week, and Fabien took the material we covered home to show his parents.

His mother was so impressed by the material that she asked me if she could also sit in on the study the following week, which she did. We finished the Sabbath study and talked some about Christ's church existing before the Roman Catholic church, and before all of today's denominations and sects.

I taught that Christ's church continued to exist, separate and apart from all human churches, and that the church I belong to is patterned after the church we read about in the New Testament.

Shane reveals interest :

Several days ago, Shane saw me outside and told me his wife and son had related to him my concept of an original church established by Christ, that was separate and distinct from today's human churches.

He said that he was very impressed by this concept and requested that I sit down sometime with him and discuss it in greater detail.

Mother and son attend Eastside !

On the 28th May I drove to Hobart to preach, and as we were driving home Sunday afternoon I received a text from my nephew Brett informing me that Fabien and his mother Irene attended worship at Eastside ! (even though they knew Jackie and I would not be there).

The next morning Irene wanted to tell me all about their visit to Eastside. She was very impressed, especially in my nephew Brett, who invited Fabien to join him on a mountain bike ride through wilderness trails the following Saturday. Brett lent Fabien his spare mountain bike, and drove to Fabien's home to pick him up.

Future studies :

After last week's private study, Fabien asked me if I would teach him what the Bible teaches about baptism, and also what does God require of a person after their baptism. How exciting it is to have a young seventeen year old man ask for studies on those two subjects !

Fabien's parents are astonished :

Irene told me yesterday that from last January when Fabien decided to quit alcohol and drugs and began to read his Bible every day, she

has noticed a remarkable gradual change in Fabien's demeanor, then she said that since beginning private Bible studies with Jackie and I, Fabien's daily life, his outlook and nature has gone to a whole new level. She hugged me and said, *"Thank you for getting my wonderful son back"*.

Irene said that she believes that it was God's providence that led them to buy the home they did when they arrived from Sydney. She said, *"What are the odds of us arriving here, having our daughter suicide, losing our son to alcohol and drugs, then when he decides to turn his life around and turn to God, we just happen to have neighbours like yourself and Jackie living across the road for Fabien to turn to. It must be that God is behind it all"*.

Fabien's future goals :

Right now Fabien is working full time in his father's (Shane) painting business as an apprentice (Government sponsored trainee), but yesterday his mother told us that he keeps talking about wanting to be a full time preacher like me. Oh No! After the disappointment we have had with Kane Keleher opting out of Florida College at the last minute, I do not want to go there or even think about it.

Keep us in your prayers :

Please keep us in your prayers as we continue to study with these lovely neighbours, and in whatever we say or do, pray that we always bring glory to our great God.

LESSONS TAUGHT BY ME AT EASTSIDE IN MAY.

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 .

- May 7 - *"Diligence"* .
14 - *"Diligence"* .
21 - *"Moral Excellence"* .
28 - I preached at [Lindisfarne](#) .

SUNDAY SERMONS .

- May 7 - *"Can you recommend your religion"* .
14 - *"Proper attitude to weak brethren"* .
21 - *"God or Pharoah"* .
28 - I preached at [Lindisfarne](#) .

MIDWEEK BIBLE CLASS .

- May 2 - Viktor taught *"2nd Samuel 1 - 4"* .
9 - Viktor taught *"2nd Samuel 5 - 8"* .
16 - Viktor taught *"2nd Samuel 9 - 12"* .
23 - Viktor taught *"2nd Samuel 13 - 16"* .
30 - Viktor taught *"2nd Samuel 17 - 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 .