

# **“HUME’S HAPPENINGS”**

1<sup>st</sup> November 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 **October 2018** .

## **PRAYER REQUEST FOR JOSH STOKES .**

I would like to begin this report with a plea for you to pray for this faithful young man here in Tasmania who has been diagnosed with a serious illness .

Josh is a member of the Eastern Shore congregation in Hobart , along with his dedicated parents . I have had Josh at the top of my prayers list at 5am every day for a long time now , and urge you to include him in your prayers also .

## **ULVERSTONE SERMON REQUEST .**

This month I received a phone call from a member of the Ulverstone church , who requested that next time I came to Ulverstone would I preach a sermon on , *“Is one church as good as another”* ?

I agreed to do so, and have attached my sermon to this report for you to consider.

## **PREACHED AT ULVERSTONE .**

On the 28th of this month Jackie and I made the 90 minute trip to Ulverstone, where I was asked to "do everything", because the man who usually leads the meetings was away on the mainland.

He had phoned me two weeks earlier to "warn me" and request that I preside over the worship service, conduct the Lord's Supper, lead the singing, conduct the contribution, lead all the prayers, and preach the sermon.

This congregation is comprised of elderly members who (apart from the above mentioned man) are unable to take part in roles re the worship service.

Though they are in the "twilight years" of their life, these members are as committed to Christ as any brethren I know. They always give Jackie and I a warm welcome, and implore us to come more often.

They always take extra copies of my bound sermon booklets to hand out to relatives, friends, and contacts.

## **BENEVOLENCE BASKETS .**

The time has come again for Jackie to display two large washing baskets in our home so that when brethren arrive each Tuesday evening for our Bible Class, they can deposit items of groceries.

When these baskets are overflowing, Jackie covers them with coloured

see through cellophane and attaches a card to each basket which reads, *"From the members of the Eastside church"*.

We then take them to the Principle of the school where we conduct our worship services and he chooses two needy families in his "school community" to give them to.

These "benevolence baskets" have no connection to the work of the Eastside church or its treasury, but is an initiative of the Eastside members as individual Christians.

### **SCHOOL ASSEMBLY.**

This month Jackie and I received our annual invitation to attend the school's end of year assembly, and present two awards to students from the Eastside members.

I take up a private collection from the Eastside members (separate and apart from the church treasury) and the Principle purchases two awards for Jackie and I to present at the assembly.

These awards are listed in the official program as being donated by *"members of the Eastside church"*, not from the Eastside church (as a corporate body).

This assembly is attended each year by the mayor of Launceston, state and federal politicians, business leaders, and parents and friends of students.

Every year someone will notice "our" awards in the program and ask the Principle, *"Who is this Eastside church" ?* and the Principle will introduce them to Jackie and I, and we get to inform them of our congregation and New Testament Christianity.

The benevolence baskets and the awards ceremony are just some of the ways we interact with non - Christians in an attempt to influence them for Christ .

## **U . S . VISITORS .**

Several months ago I received an email from **Don and Brenda Miller** , who we have never met or even heard of . They informed me that they were members of the church in the U . S . and were planning a trip to Australia and Tasmania .

They said that they had enquired of brethren in the U . S . who advised them to put the Eastside church on their list of items to include in their itinerary .

All our members are excited at their imminent arrival in Launceston on the 8th November and to have them worship with us on the 11th . Most of the Eastside members plan to be waiting in the airport terminal to greet them when they disembark from their aircraft .

Since Jackie and I have been Christians we have had over 100 U . S . brethren stay in our home , apart from hundreds of others from around the world and every state in Australia .

This is the reason we constructed the self - contained "brethren's apartment" on the ground floor of our home , so that we can provide free accommodation to visiting brethren .

## **HILLWOOD DINNER .**

This month I was honoured to be asked to be the "Master of Ceremonies" ( MC ) at the end of season awards dinner of the Hillwood Football Club .

This is the club where Jackie and I fulfill the role of "Club Chaplains" (without the title) and also assist in operating the food outlet every home game.

At this dinner the Football Club Board request every year that I offer thanks before we begin the meal, and Jackie and I get to sit at the official table with politicians and business leaders.

I happened to be sitting next to a leading state politician, and when the Club President introduced Jackie and I as the Football Club's "Chaplains", this politician engaged me in a long conversation about what our role was all about.

He is heavily engaged in projects that involve the less fortunate in the community, and he was genuinely interested in what our duties as "Chaplains" entailed.

This led to a discussion about the Eastside church and New Testament Christianity. It is amazing how God's providence "opens doors" for us to sow the seed of His word in hearts that we normally would not have access to.

## **LESSONS TAUGHT BY ME AT EASTSIDE IN OCTOBER.**

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 .

- October 7 - *"Christ's words of Truth"* .  
14 - *"Christ's words of Truth"*  
21 - *"The object of saving faith"* .  
28 - **I preached at Ulverstone .**

## SUNDAY SERMONS .

- October 7 - *"Dealing with low points in life"* .  
14 - *"Bad company corrupts good morals"* .  
21 - *"Practice hospitality"* .  
28 - **I preached at Ulverstone .**

## MIDWEEK BIBLE CLASS .

- October 2 - Viktor taught **Isaiah 10 - 11 - 12.**  
9 - Viktor taught **Isaiah 13 - 14 - 15.**  
16 - Viktor taught **Isaiah 16 - 17 - 18.**  
23 - Viktor taught **Isaiah 19 - 20 - 21 .**  
30 - Viktor taught **Isaiah 22 - 23 - 24 .**

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 .

**P . S .      "IS ONE CHURCH AS GOOD AS ANOTHER" ?**

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