



# The Koon's Australia

Dear Pastor and Friends,

March April 2017

This year has progressed very quickly already. I wish that I could say that all has gone smoothly for us, but we have had many trials and difficulties already. I am reminded of a verse that summed up the Apostle Paul's life. **2 Corinthians 4:8-9** ***"We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed..."***

That has been the story of our family and our church over the past 3 months. God has been faithful to us and we have endeavoured to follow Him with each problem that has arisen. As many of you know already, there were some false posts put on Facebook about us. It was hurtful to us. In spite of the anxieties that we've had to deal with, both Melanie and I determined to serve the Lord in whatever capacity we could for Him. The door opened for us to teach Religious Instruction in the public school system. Melanie teaches 4, 1<sup>st</sup> grade classes and I teach 6, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classes. Both of our classes are eager to learn. It is such a blessing to use puppets and crafts along with our Bible lessons each week to capture the student's attention. This last week, we presented the story of Easter, about Jesus dying on the cross. One of the teachers in my class stopped her work and listened to the story. It is most likely the first time she has heard the gospel message. It's a great privilege to share the gospel with many that we would not be able to reach any other way!

Our church is progressing well. We started a series about JOY from the book of Philippians. God knew that we needed these lessons. Each family represented have been experiencing satanic attacks and issues over the past 3 months. We recently had a Pastor and his wife visit us from the US, Pastor Brian and Deidre Schecksnyder. It was a great encouragement us. We were blessed!

Yes, we have been troubled and discouraged. We have been perplexed and cast down. Praise the Lord! We are not forsaken or destroyed! It is a great blessing to us to know that people are praying for us and for our church. Please continue to do so. Thank you again for your generous support each month. We could not do our job here, without your help. God bless you as you continue to minister for Him!

Servants,

*The Koon Family*

Timothy, Melanie, Callee and Caleb Koon

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