

News From The Homefront

Unexpected Things:

From our previous mission letters, we've written how renting a home in Australia is a different process than in the USA. Even after you're settled, you start getting notices about house inspections that will be carried out. There was an unexpected one a few weeks after we moved in. When the man came, it was late afternoon and the mosquitoes were swarming. He walked outside and when he opened the door to come back in, he was covered with mosquitoes. It was another unexpected thing to find out that we live in an area teeming with mosquitoes. The man was curious about us with our American accents and asked why we were living here. Frank was able to talk to him about the mission work. He asked a lot of questions and was excited hearing about a new Baptist mission. (He is the one that Frank wrote about who wanted more literature to read and study.) So what at first seemed to be difficult in the flesh dealing with an unexpected inspection and unexpected mosquitoes was in reality a blessing!

Sharks:

It's amazing how many sharks are spotted around Australia. There may be the same amount of sightings in the USA and other countries, but we seem to hear more about sharks over here. Recently a helicopter spotted 4-5 meter shark just a few feet from the shore. About that time, a friend in Melbourne wrote an email and in an off-hand way told me to always look for shark fins before even dipping my feet in the ocean. 😊

Fish and Chips:

We've never lived in a place before that has so much water around. There are estuaries, canals, rivers, and then the ocean. That's why there is the mosquito problem, but it also results in a whole bunch of fish and chip shops. (Fried fish and French fries.) A couple of these shops sell not only fish and chips but also live fish bait. Yum. It makes me wonder what type of fish you might eat at those particular places.

Vehicle Submerged in Ocean:

One time on a walk, we happened to pass a boat launching place and noticed that a vehicle was halfway submerged in the ocean. There were other vehicles there too and one of them had a winch so we knew that it was going to be pulled out. However I also noticed that there were people sitting on sand dunes watching the whole thing as if it was their evening entertainment. Since the problem was being taken care of, we walked by like it was perfectly normal to have a submerged vehicle in the ocean. It was funny later, but I was always taught it is rude to stare. 😊

A friend in Christ,
Cyd James