

News From The Homefront

Invasion of the Millipedes –

The amount of mosquitoes in Western Australia took getting used to in that we had to remember to put on mosquito repellent as a daily lotion. However, what was an even greater surprise was to be invaded by a horde of millipedes.

Here's a dictionary definition for a millipede: *“Any of various crawling herbivorous myriapods of the class Diplopoda, found worldwide and having a cylindrical segmented body with two pairs of legs attached to all segments except for the first four in the thoracic region.”* My definition is: “A creepy crawly black worm with a hard shiny shell.”

After a fall rainstorm, we noticed these unusual black worms coming inside our house. Frank went outside and saw hundreds of them on the sidewalk and on the outside walls. He sprayed what bug spray we had but it didn't seem to do much good and they were still coming in. The next day he went to the local hardware store and found out that they were called Portuguese Millipedes and were basically harmless but a nuisance. The person there said that they like to stay dry and at night they are attracted to light. Also he said there are basically two ways to control them and that is (1) by getting an outside light with a water trap, or (2) by spraying a type of worm poison along the perimeter of a house. We went with the second choice. Yet even after doing this and turning off all unnecessary lights, some were still getting inside. We think it was because of the sheer number of them. It made me wonder if we needed to go back to reading by candle light as we did in Papua New Guinea. The invasion has slowed down, but I don't know what the next big rainfall will hold forth. I've purchased some candles. ☺

Proof of Age Cards –

When we went to get new driver's licenses for the state of Western Australia, we took our current New South Wales licenses and our passports. The lady who worked there said that we needed a third form of identity. We asked what options we could use and she listed things that we don't qualify for not being citizens of Australia. She then said that we could get a “proof of age card” as a third form of identity. We asked how we get it and she said, “I can do it right now with your New South Wales driver's license and your passports.” Thus using the two forms of identity we brought with us, we had to pay for a third form of identity. The “system” does not always make common sense. Yet in the end we were thankful to get our new driver's licences. ☺

A friend in Christ,
Cyd James