

## *News From The Homefront*

### Australia:

People often ask me what Australia is like. If you were in a city, you would almost think you were in a USA city except for some of the signs and then hearing people's accents. Yet each country has its own special heritage and culture too. One thing I appreciate about Australians is that the average person has an honesty and openness about them. They state life as it is without beating around the bush, so to speak. They are very straightforward. And as I have read biography after biography of those who settled this country along with its indigenous population, I would say that they are a hardy and strong people. Of course this country, as all countries, is changing, but I appreciate the basic Australian culture. It was a blessing to finally arrive in Perth after the long travel and to overhear a man tell his friend, "Good on you Mate." One big difference though between the USA and Australia is that Australia was not founded by a people seeking religious freedom. Thus our hearts are burdened that the Gospel would continue to go forward, and for the people of Australia to know the true and living God.

### Anzac Celebration in Western Australia:

Last week we kept hearing on the news about an Anzac celebration occurring south of us here in Western Australia. It was confusing to me as Anzac Day is in April. I looked up what this current celebration was about and found out that the largest fleet of ships to leave the nation during WW-1 left Albany, Western Australia on November 1, 1914 or one-hundred years ago. They then went to Egypt to train and there were officially formed into the "Australian and New Zealand Army Corps" (Anzac). They landed in Gallipoli in April and suffered tremendous casualties. That is why Anzac Day is commemorated in April. Frank and I both enjoy history, and it would be interesting for visit the war museum there.

### Little Things:

It's easy to get bogged down with the issues of life and to feel overwhelmed and discouraged. One thing I noticed being around our grandchildren recently was how a little thing could be exciting, such as going to a park or getting an ice cream cone or even taking a walk. They relished in the little events that occur each day. I got tickled that they even thought that the small couch that makes a pull-out bed in our travel trailer was a comfortable and neat place to sleep. After being around them and noticing their enthusiasm for the little things in life, I too started noticing the little things. Twice I had a stranger pay something for me. Then just when I was starting to feel overwhelmed on getting everything done in order to leave the country, my oldest granddaughter came home early from hunting and showed up at the trailer. She knows how I like things clean and helped me get the trailer all ready to go for the winter and then helped me start packing. There are too many things to mention. However one last thing was that on the 15 hour flight from Los Angeles to Sydney, I was given an aisle seat in the middle row of four seats. A young lady came and sat down on the other aisle seat that was three seats away from me. I was waiting to see who would sit in the middle two seats. No one came, and when the stewardesses started locking the doors and preparing for the flight to leave, I realized that this was not just a little thing but a big thing. The young lady and I had two seats between us and thus more room for the long flight. I overheard her say she was attending OSU and asked her if she meant Ohio State University. She said yes and we talked for a while and I told her that my son and daughter-in-law graduated from there. It ended up being a small world since we were among the huge population of the Los Angeles Airport. In the end, all of the little things in life are always there. I'm just thankful that my granddaughters reminded me to notice more fully and that they are actually God's blessings to us each day!

A friend in Christ, Cyd James