

We have just returned from a wonderful four months in Australia, topped off with two weeks visiting friends in Japan. It was a good time of relaxing, enjoying the sunshine, cycling and swimming, while we fellowshiped with old friends in Canberra, Brisbane and New Zealand. I had the privilege of teaching once again at Capernwray Bible School ([www.torchbearers.com.au](http://www.torchbearers.com.au)) to about 35 students, many from Canada. Like me, they must find Australia a fascinating country to visit. Twenty two years ago my youngest daughter Lynette went to this same Bible School, where she met her husband Philip. It is always a joy to visit there and renew fellowship with their dean, Neil Bernard.

I had little pulpit ministry in OZ, as my daughter has moved to Brisbane since our last visit four years ago, and we have not the contacts there, that we once had when they lived in Canberra. It has never been my practise to advertise my ministry or to seek to speak everywhere I am. In fact, I often tell how we have not made one telephone call, nor written one letter, asking either for financial support or ministry opportunities since leaving my church for missions service, and subsequent itinerant ministry, in 1990. It is always the Lord who opens doors for my ministry and He has always been faithful in providing both the opportunities and supplying the necessary finances.

I did speak four times at Wynnum-Manly Alliance Church near Brisbane. We also took out ten days to visit Canberra and, while there, I spoke again at the Woden Alliance Church. There was opportunity for some other ministry as I attended a home Bible Study each week and visited an elderly former pastor for weekly fellowship. Frank Williams was the founding pastor of Victoria Point Baptist Church and had some Welsh connections, so we had some good times reminiscing about our times in Wales, the Welsh Revival of 1904/5 and the present (encouraging) state of the church there. On our last Wednesday afternoon together, we sang some of the old Welsh hymns that we both love so much.

Our travel agent had made a mistake when supplying us with the tickets to go, as he had arranged visas for only three months while our tickets were for five! This necessitated our leaving Oz for a short visit to New Zealand and good friends from Anastasis days, John & Marion Brignall. Otherwise we could have extended our three-month visas at the same cost as our airfare to NZ. The travel agents have since refunded us the costs incurred by their error – so it has worked out that we had a free trip to NZ!

Several years ago, four ladies from Japan came to 'home-stay' at our home in Victoria for one month. They have pleaded with us since then to visit them in Japan, so we did this at no extra expense, by making it a stop-over on our return trip from OZ. They were wonderful hosts and we shall not soon forget the amazing times they gave us there.

The summer is coming to beautiful Victoria and I am gearing up for the Revival Conference in June, at which I shall again be moderator. You can follow it live as it is being webcast June 8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>. Meanwhile, I am again being privileged to mentor some young men, hopefully to ignite something within them that was lit in me so many years ago.

The Lord continues to be so good to Anne and myself – His mercies are every morning and His love overflows us. In the midst of the current world distress with wars, earthquakes and storms, financial woes, our foundation is unshaken. I long for revival because a) I need it daily; b) my church needs it; c) my nation needs it and, most importantly, d) HE IS WORTHY of the praises and service of so many more men and women than are now worshipping Him.

Gareth