

Southern Cross Ministries



First Quarter 2025

Newman Family Mission

G'Day from Down Under. We are well and Becky is now two months post shoulder surgery. Her surgeon called her a star and the physical therapists say she is well ahead of schedule. She is back to driving, cooking, working with the youth, and most normal activities. Thank you for your prayers on her behalf. She is told she should expect improvement for more than a year.

Eastern Downs Church of Christ

We are back to a normal schedule now that the summer school vacations are over. Our Sunday home church groups have started a study of Galatians. Sunday evening Bible study is on the topic of grace. Primary school youth groups are being led by Becky and two other ladies and one of our men is teaching the high school group. *Pictured at the right is part of the home group at Phil's house and below is Colin and Eric.*



Every first Sunday of the month we have a combined group and have a meal following. In February this was a "sausage sizzle." Eric is our main sausage chef and others bring side dishes or deserts. It is always a great time of fellowship.

We had three birthdays in the church recently, but Colin literally takes the cake at age 90. He is a kind and faithful brother in Christ who lost his dear wife a few months ago.

The house church model works well, is reproducible, and flexible. Our members like this method of meeting as people draw close and there is much more interaction than can happen in a large group. We are not saying this is the only way to meet or even the best way for most, but for this congregation, in this country, it is good and can be handled by the current men within the church.

We have a seventy year old attendee in the hospital who fell through skylight on her roof. Robyn suffered a broken ankle and two broken arms. She has been in the hospital for several weeks, but must come out of the hospital soon or begin to pay a daily fee. She has an adopted thirteen year old son who suffers from cerebral palsy, autism, and ADHD. Please pray for Robyn.

Major Changes Planned

Over the past two years, we have been praying about how best to continue our missionary work and transition the Australian church to being independent of the need for permanent on field missionary help. Our goal has always been to plant churches and train leaders and so that the local church can be led by local leaders. Our people know and love the Word and are maturing in their faith.

We want to continue to work full-time in missions for the next several years as long as the Lord provides us health and resources to do so. God has gifted us with both the desire and ability to work overseas and it remains a calling on our lives.



We have reached our mid sixties and are in good health. We know that will not have another thirty-three years ahead of us in full time overseas ministry, but we still have a good amount of energy and are not ready to retire yet. We are however facing a number of competing needs and desires.

First, Jim's mom is unable to live alone due to a lack of strength and mobility as well as worsening macular degeneration. She has been staying with Jim's sister, who is also taking care of her mother-in law who likewise can no longer live alone. Jim needs to have more time near his mom to help when he is able. We see this as both something we want to do as well as something we should do. No one in our family has suggested that we return to the USA, but these needs are constantly on our mind. We believe that caring for our families is a spiritual concern.

Major Changes Planned (Cont')

Second, the church in Grenada has requested us to come to the island more often to help train men for leadership. It was thirty-nine years ago that we moved there to work as a young couple in our mid 20s with a seven month old son. We left the full-time work in Grenada in 1997, over 27 years ago and as you can imagine a whole new generation has arisen.



Third, we love the Eastern Downs Church of Christ and want to see this congregation grow in number, knowledge of God's Word, and love for one another and the lost. They are doing well, but we believe they still need some help; not all of the time, but some help will benefit and protect their progress.

What we want to accomplish spans oceans, continents, and nations. For these reasons, after much prayer we have come to a decision that we think is the best way to balance all these competing responsibilities and desires.

This will mean we will move our ministry hub to the USA; specifically Ohio near Jim's mother. This will allow us to assist our family in caring for mom while remaining involved with the Eastern Downs Church of Christ as well as the church in Grenada. Let me explain how we propose to make this work.

1. After relocating to the USA, for a minimum of three years we would like to make two annual four to six week trips to Australia. During these times, we will assess how the church is going and help them with any problems they might be facing. We will visit church members and Jim will preach and teach. Becky will work with the ladies and kids. This will have us in Australia approximately 20% of the year.
2. When we are not in Australia, Jim will lead regular classes by Zoom or some other online method as well as join the church in times of prayer. Jim will preach on some Sundays through recorded or live streams.
3. Jim will continue writing curriculum for the church. These studies are also used in other places in Australia and are designed specifically for house churches or small group studies. They are Biblically sound, easy to follow, and designed to be instructional and practical.
4. We want to remain easily assessable to the members of the Australian church. We will have a VoIP number from Australia that will allow anyone in the church to call or text us at no cost. We will also be able to be reached by email, Signal, or Facebook Messenger any time. In this respect, the world has never been smaller.

5. We hope to adopt a similar plan for the church in Grenada and make at least two trips there each year. We expect the teaching to follow a series of lessons like we have used in our Southern Cross Bible Institute classes. We plan to combine in person lessons with online classes. This can be adapted to the culture and academic skills of the students. Hopefully we will see more men begin to preach the gospel and perhaps even branch out to other parts of the island. We would like to spend 15% - 20% of the year in Grenada.

6. During our time in the states, we will be busy writing lessons, teaching online classes, and keeping in contact with the churches in Australia and Grenada. We will be able to share with our supporting churches in person more frequently and Jim will be available for revivals, seminars, supply preaching, missions rallies, etc. We will be nearby to my mom so that we can support her and help with her care.

This will require a full-time effort, but we believe it is the best plan to achieve the objectives we have listed above. The timeframe for our move is uncertain. We would like to be able to move in June, but there is much to do in packing, shipping, and selling our house this may be optimistic. We will provide regular updates on our progress and plans as the move approaches.

Pray for Us

To say that this decision is hard is a tremendous understatement. We love the people in the Eastern Downs Church of Christ and are not eager to leave them. Our son Andrew will remain in Brisbane, so we leave him behind with no other family in Australia. This is extremely hard for us.

We hope that you will see this as a great opportunity to expand our mission efforts to strengthen churches and train workers in two nations while allowing us time to help with family needs. We pray that you will continue to support us in this ministry as you have for so many years.

Thank you for loving us and we ask that you pray for us as we enter this new phase of ministry. It is our prayer that some of our most productive days for Christ and his kingdom may still lie ahead.

In Christ,

Jim and Becky Newman