

Peter & Penelope Volkofsky SRE—Sept 2020

The Covid break provided time to catch up on lesson prep, OPD and family time. Thank you so much for your prayers, questions and financial support.

Scripture restarted in term three: Jesus the Unexpected King (Mark's Gospel) via the Think Faith curriculum (Bush Scripture).

19 classes/fortnight; 6 high schools: Coonamble 50; Baradine 45; Dubbo 120; Narromine 45; Coonabarabran 20.

Castlereagh Board has some extra support, but is still financially vulnerable. Pray also for someone to help with primary scripture.

Pray that Peter would cooperate closely with God in the cultivation of love, trust and open-hearted conversation during class times.

Recently we have had some grandchildren staying over: it's been so beautiful hearing them talking about their father (one of our sons) in awe, as if he's a great gift.

Moments of Light and Grace...

Peter has been working through a list of questions. One day, he's interrupted by a teacher who's glad to hear an answer to a question he's always wondered about.

At another school, there's a note on the door—it seems that the class has been cancelled. Peter walks to the office. The school principal stops to talk and wants to know why Peter is leaving early. While they talk, she notices a teacher from the class and wants to know what's happened—he apologises for being late and says the next class is actually still on—kids just arriving late.

At a remote school, Peter's under the pump. The bell goes and there's two students talking to him at the same time. 'Can I talk with you?' a girl asks. 'Me too?' a boy asks. 'No,' the girls says. 'I was in first, you will have to wait.' It turns out that the girl wants to know more about Peter's life as a Vet Surgeon and the boy talks about his motor bike riding. It's such a sweet day.

A staff member waits to catch Peter at the end of the class. She explains that the school is really keen for a chaplain but there have been no applicants.

At another school, a member of the executive says to Peter, 'We are making some changes to the timetable. What do you think? And, by the way, if it's not working we will go back to the way it was before.' A few weeks later she asks the question again: 'How's it going?' My answer so far, is, 'Some weeks it's great, other weeks, not so great.'

In most classes now, the quietest moment is when Peter prays for God's blessing

On his arrival at this school, Peter is cornered by a gathering of students from last year's class. They have a bunch of questions: 'Do you know my name?' 'Yes...' 'What about my sister?' 'Yes...' 'And her friend?' 'Yes...' We are really all cousins... and this one, the new one, her name is...' I'm so glad I say their names in my prayers.

A former Dubbo board member messages about a young man who has come to the Lord. Can I meet him? That day turns out to be tough. Most of the class follow a boy out the door, so I carefully put on my football voice and call them back. Shocked, they all came back inside. It was so good—later that night—to have dinner at the 'Bowlo' and catch up with a young man, new in his faith.

Peter loves hearing students reading from Mark, e.g. 'He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit,' (Mark 1:8)... teaching about Jesus offering the gift of his Spirit... that we are all temples where God loves to come and make his home.

