



Gum Flat School

URALLA – DEEPWATER – ARMIDALE

22-25 May 2023

We were aware and appreciative of the support of our friends, WK and A, as we set out on this trip. Just as we rely on the Holy Spirit to open the doors of the schools to the blessing we hope to bring, we rely on this human support because we know it makes all the difference. And God proved faithful as usual because every one of the 28 schools received our booklets.

So we set out for Walcha and Uralla schools on a trip which should have taken under five hours, but actually took nearly seven because of all the roadworks (which certainly were needed!). Nevertheless at both Walcha and Uralla Schools our prayers and our booklets were well received. We were also able to pray for S at the fuel stop and M, who is an unbeliever, at the motel in Uralla.

Next day we set out for Rocky River School then Bundarra, Tingha and Gilgai Schools. There are always different responses but each of these were very positive and encouraging so we went on, rather out of the flow, to Gum Flat School, where we did not have a good experience. The office was not manned so one casual teacher referred us to another who gave us an inquisition of why we had been able to walk in without an appointment and in the next 15 minutes ran around trying to find a book for us to sign in, without success, but getting more and more angry and confused. When we asked if we may go, (she had taken the books which we always refer to the

Principal,) she showed us the door and slammed it in our faces. We do hope that this school gets its security procedures in order! We drove on to Glen Innes, (praying for this woman we had just met,) and were well received at Glen Innes and Glen Innes West Schools. Then we drove on to Red Range School for another good reception. After this we drove to Wyaliba School, situated at the bottom of the mountain. It is only 13 Km but the road is so steep and windy that it felt like we would never get there. At this school our driving licence was essential as identification to introduce why we had come but the booklets and our prayers were well received. We prayed for the school bus driver waiting outside for her passengers and she told us she drives that mountain road four times a day five days a week!!! From there we drove (back up the mountain with the sun in our faces) to Deepwater where we stayed that night.

On our third day we visited Emmaville School but J was too busy to pray although she accepted the booklets, so we stopped to pray with W at the local shop and met a lady from Victoria who is a 'science' follower, but after our chat she did accept a

prayer. We drove to Tenterfield School, with good reception, and then Jennings School where K was too busy to pray. Then we drove by a very scenic road to Drake School which was worth the drive in every respect, but we were running short of time and arrived at Ben Lomond School as the school office was closing but they were gracious in receiving prayer with the booklets. We prayed that we would arrive at Guyra School before they closed and C, the Kindergarten teacher, was still there and we had a lovely chat and prayer when she received the

booklets. We drove to Armidale to the motel which J and S own. This place is immaculate as well as very reasonably priced. What was extraordinary was that though the morning temperature was minus there was no ice on the car as it was apparently sheltered.

We set off next morning for Black Mountain School where we had a chat with S. Her Master's degree fit very well with the desire of our hearts for the spiritual well-being of the children, yet she is not a believer at all. She received a prayer and the booklets with evident interest. We drove back to Armidale, to Ben Venue, Sandon, Drummond, Armidale City, and Newling Schools where each received prayer and booklets most appreciatively. We then went to Minimibah School, fully Aboriginal and independent from the NSW Education Dept. J, the Principal, accepted the booklets and a prayer and we drove to Martins Gully School where P, the principal there, accepted the prayer and booklets. On then to Kellys Plains School, where M, the Principal there, and his assistant, C, were most appreciative and accepted prayer and booklets. Outside we met S who is a wonderful Christian with three children of her own and three foster children so

we prayed together before getting back on the road to drive to Nundle, our last visit for this trip. J, the Principal there, invited us into his office to talk about our vision and we prayed and he felt encouraged, which was a wonderful ending to our four days. We drove home, stopping for lunch at 3pm, but satisfied with what God had helped us to achieve. We are encouraged to believe that He will bless these people in their work to achieve what they hope for the children they teach. Thank you Lord.



Drake School



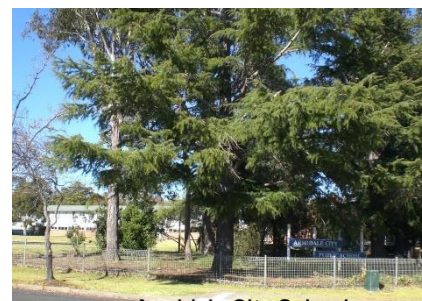
Black Mountain School



Tenterfield School



Guyra School



Armidale City School



Newling School



Martins Gully School