

Because Eastern Australia had a little rain since we began circulating the "prayer in time of drought" we decided to focus on trying to involve more people outside the church in this cause, in the hope that when the rain comes they will feel that God has answered their prayers and will be more aware of His love for them and His longing that they would want to "connect" again. We did however find it hard-going to bring His love and grace into this because people are very angry with the politicians' lack of interest in finding long-term strategies and there is such negativity. Nevertheless we were able to give out the 100 leaflets we had printed, but in doing this we uncovered some very interesting things.

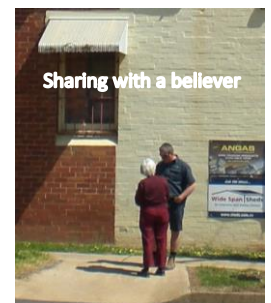
At our first fuel stop in Lithgow J was very willing to ask the Holy Spirit into her life – so far, so good! However at Borenore we met G who thought the prayer leaflet was a good idea, but she had left any affiliation with the church back in her childhood. She did permit us to pray for her though and this proved to be the general pattern for the whole trip, with some exceptions, so we prayed into the lives of more than 70 people but only 3 really wanted to connect to God through Jesus.

In Manildra we prayed for 7 by going house to house for the time we were there. Each was willing to take the prayer and put it on the fridge, to say "amen" each time they were near. One however was very glad we had called because she had a particular need in her life. At Mandagery we met T at his gate, but otherwise we letter-boxed the properties we passed by. There is a little green on the earth but the dams are nearly dry and creeks are bone dry.



We arrived in Parkes for the night and next morning went into the street. L and R at the motel also agreed to take the prayer so we took the opportunity to pray God's blessing into their lives. Out in the street there was a very good attitude to our "idea", but only one of sixteen we spoke to and prayed for had any current church affiliation. Two Muslim ladies did not mind taking the prayer because they love Jesus too. In this town one man said he worshipped Gaia as he was now Wiccan (used to be Church of England!). 10 people were glad to participate also; another said it was never going to rain so we discouraged her from taking part in our faith exercise. We were very encouraged by a lady who took one of our books, 'Walking with Jesus', and three of our children's books.

At Forbes we prayed for 12 people. M at the Christian bookshop was very interested in the leaflet idea and took six to give away during the day. A and J are strong Christians from the Baptist church but out on a farm so they were interested too. The combined churches had a prayer meeting but no one had thought to invite people who do not normally attend church, although we were finding more and more that there are many people who care about their community and wanted to be part of something "bigger" than their own limited faith. Even unbelievers are "hoping" for a miracle in what they are saying is "the worst drought ever". We went on to West Wyalong but had quite a small response, only 6 people. However one of these had a deep need about which we were privileged to pray with her. Tallimba is a very small town nearby where we met and shared our prayer with G who is "devout" Seventh Day Adventist. Then we met and prayed for K and gave her children each one of our booklets. She asked for prayer for a need, as she and her husband are the local police. On these roads we take the opportunity to letter-box a prayer too, to as many as we can. We arrived in Grenfell under an enormous full moon.



At our motel C was happy to participate in our prayer and on the street next morning 11 people were also willing to join our "petition to God". S had become very discouraged with her church so we shared our prayer together to invite the Holy Spirit afresh and she said she felt God's closeness again. From there we went to Gooloogong where we met and prayed for 4 who agreed to take our drought prayer. One however said she had given up on the church and was into

Druidism. The Anglican church building in this town is up for sale although we were told that there are still people who attend the Presbyterian and Catholic churches. We are meeting so many people who say the church is totally irrelevant to their lives. It does seem to us though that they still hope there is a God who cares. We still had some leaflets so we did more letter-boxing on the way to Eugowra where it was difficult to even find anyone. We prayed for G, S and J and they took the drought leaflet. We drove to Cudal for late lunch and as school was coming out we took our children's books and offered them to parents collecting their children. If they were willing to accept a Christian book we asked them to participate in our "petition", so we prayed for 5 people here. It was still a 4-hour drive home and we had used up all our leaflets. We can only rely now on our faithful and good Heavenly Father for fruit that remains and for answered prayer.