

This trip to the Abercrombie area and to the area south of Mudgee was prepared to accommodate a friend who wanted to come but decided not to join us. It was definitely not designed in consultation with the weather gurus! Both these areas on the slopes of NSW are often wintry at the end of autumn and so it proved! But when God is relied on He always gets us through, and we did reach 25 of the primary schools that we had decided to visit. Again it was to offer the principals and teachers Christian materials to encourage them as they deal with the traumas of the children who have been affected by fires and floods and COVID-19 over the last two years. We have no intention of going where the Scripture teachers must go, although we have been verbally attacked by two who 'co-ordinate' in certain areas. Most principals we have met are appreciative of this ministry so we have continued this year.

We left on Monday, full of prayer and expectation, and drove to Hampton School where the principal was most gracious and accepted both sets of booklets. Then to Oberon where again the booklets were accepted, but when we arrived at Black Springs the school was shut, but I1, a local, accepted a prayer and a copy of Psalm 23. It was 2°C and the wind was howling and slushy sleet/snow was whirling around us as we drove on to Burruga, to find that the school has been closed for several years. But L, in a nearby house, accepted a prayer and a copy of Psalm 23. She said she needed that so we felt our visit was worthwhile. We drove to Rockley School where L not only accepted the booklets but also our Holy Spirit prayer. At Perthville School R accepted the booklets, and shared with us the prayer for the school and the community in general, which we do at every school if they are willing to say "amen". At Trunkley Creek we prayed for the Principal and also two ladies in the office but they said they could not use the booklets, as the Education Department would not allow them to receive other than 'approved' material. We had run short of time because of the driving conditions so when we arrived at Neville School the staff had left. Maybe they were concerned at the driving conditions too so got away as quickly as they could, so we arrived safely in Blayney for the night.

Next morning was just as cold, but we filled the petrol tank (and prayed for A, the young man there who also received a copy of our Jeremiah 29 leaflet), and drove to Millthorpe School, then to Wattle Flat, Sofala and Hill End schools where each person we talked with accepted our booklets and prayer. At Hargraves School we were met by the Principal, J, who graciously accepted our insight, the booklets and prayer. It is always special to us to meet these who are top educators. They generously share their own insights which help us be more relevant to this work. We went on to Kandos School and then drove to Glen Alice where we met N who is Principal and had quite a long time of fellowship because she is a born-again Christian working in a secular environment. We prayed together and then gave T, the receptionist, a copy of our Holy Spirit prayer as she has not yet succumbed to N's preaching because of her own negative experiences with the church. We left our booklets there too and went back to Kandos for the night. We had not stayed in Kandos Motel before and were very impressed with everything there.

On our third day it was again very cold and windy. A and C were staying at the motel and accepted prayer for their day, riding motorbikes. Then R at the fuel stop also accepted prayer and a copy of Jeremiah 29. Then we drove to Ilford School where we met J who is a Christian and was preparing breakfast for some students and running round to find something warmer to wear for one of them. But she gratefully received prayer and four copies of Psalm 23 to give away when she has opportunity. This school received our booklets as did Capertee, Cullen Bullen, and Portland. We drove the GPS route to Meadow Flat (the back way). It required great care as the temperature had dropped to zero and there was snow and ice everywhere. Actually it was quite beautiful but too dull and cloudy to take photos, and probably too dangerous to stop. We arrived at Meadow Flat School to find it closed. Getting to the gate meant walking across 5 cm of snow and slushy ice so we began the drive to Wallerawang via the Western Highway to find that there had been an accident where a truck had slid on the ice. But we only had to wait about 10 minutes and the queue of trucks ahead of us made tracks for us to drive on so we arrived safely in Wallerawang. J at the school was surprised that we were ignorant of what was apparently a very long delay as the Highway had been closed. God is so GOOD! Our booklets and our prayers were accepted here and at Coerwull, Lithgow and Zigzag schools, then at Bilpin, Kurrajong North and Kurrajong schools so we felt thankful to God for His mercies and His protection, and that we had reached 22 school communities with God's love and encouragement. As we pray we believe that these principals and teachers will find God's solution to the problems that have been wrought by these 2 years of trials, because really it is only He who can give us the answers as the media is still broadcasting negativity which produces fear.