

There have been so many disasters in the north of NSW, so we hoped to be able to express our love for those we met and to offer the children's booklets and the teen tracts as an encouragement to the primary schools. As it is now very difficult for teachers to mention the name of Jesus and His healing power for emotional and spiritual problems we hoped to inspire with a new strategy which we believe the Lord has put into our hearts. We were greatly encouraged by a friend's generous gift towards the cost of the books and his desire to participate with us in this trip by prayer.

Our first school was Old Bar, followed by Mitchells Island, Taree West, Taree, Chatham, Cundletown and Harrington. At all of these schools the booklets and our prayers were graciously received. We stayed that night at Coopernook where we met and prayed for K and B who are Buddhists and we gave them our prayer in Thai.

Next morning we drove to Lansdowne School. W, the Principal there, was so enthusiastic and recommended that we drive to Upper Lansdowne to give books and our strategy to S, the Principal there. While we spoke with her a parent ridiculed and mocked but she took no notice and accepted the booklets and prayer. We drove back to Coopernook School where again the Principal was both grateful and enthusiastic. From there we drove to Moorland where we were well received and then to Johns River School which has been closed since early in the year. We met L who gave us this info so we



Harrington School

prayed for him. At Herons Creek again the Principal, N, was enthusiastic and we went on to Wauchope, and the four Port Macquarie schools, Tacking Point, Hastings, Port Macquarie and Westport, and each school graciously accepted prayer and our booklets. We drove on to Kempsey and offered our booklets at the three schools there, South Kempsey, East Kempsey, and West Kempsey where the Deputy School Principal was particularly appreciative and encouraging. Since we only have from 8:30am to 3pm to call at these schools and we had already called on 14 on this day, we prayed and drove to Macksville School and just made it in time. B and C were gracious in accepting our booklets and prayer. We had late lunch and drove to Urunga for our night's stay. Even though we had worked hard to finish it was a lovely day because of the attitude of the people we met. We prayed with J and N at Urunga as we have stayed there before and they appreciate our expressing God's love for them.



Herons Creek School

Next morning we called at Urunga School, followed by Bellingen and Bonville Schools, all of which received our prayer and booklets. T, at Bonville, recommended that a school at Crossmaglen would like our booklets so we drove there and indeed we were received well. Then we drove to Coffs Harbour School, and again we were received well. We had the long drive to Grafton and the four primary schools there. At South Grafton we ran into our first refusal. The receptionist went to ask the Principal, who adamantly refused as the booklets had not been approved by the Education Department. But at Gillwinga, Westlawn and Grafton Schools they did not seem too worried about accepting both prayer and our booklets, much to our encouragement, as the booklets are not really intended for the children directly but through the teachers' digestion of the Biblical principles and characters in the booklets. But the day got harder as we tried to find the schools that had been resettled after being flooded. Broadwater School is at Evans Head at Evans River School, and at Evans River School, N, the receptionist, is still numb from losing her home, although the school is OK. We drove to Ballina and Southern Cross School, where Empire Vale School has been relocated, and met B, the Principal, who happened to be standing with a Chaplain from the Presbyterian Church, who made his view of our booklets very plain, thus putting her off receiving them, although she did let us pray, while he glowered at us with no "amen". Fortunately the Southern Cross School Deputy Principal was most gracious and accepted the prayer and the booklets. We then went to Ballina School where the booklets were refused because they are not authorised by the Education Department. Although when we actually meet the Principals they are most interested in our reason for offering the booklets, because the teaching staff are struggling to help the children with their emotional and spiritual needs, we are aware that there is serious prejudice against the name of Jesus in official circles. We stayed the night in Ballina.

Next day was the public holiday and it rained heavily, but we spent some of the day praying because there is still a lot of flooding in the north. We had a short walk and prayed with some young people while we were out. There were flood warnings on the TV but we persisted in prayer because our last day would be travelling in the area.

Friday was the last day of the school term and we drove first to Mullumbimby, then Crabbes Creek and Burringbar Schools. The rain was easing so we felt to sing in the Spirit to the clouds even though there were flood warnings. The ground was very wet but there was staff at these schools and they received our booklets and blessings, but at Stokers Siding School they had finished on the day before the public holiday but K, in a house nearby, took the booklets to pass on next term. Condong School was in an unused Murwillumbah school premises and received our booklets and prayer, then the two Murwillumbah schools each received our booklets and prayers too. We drove to Dungay School but they would not receive the booklets or prayer. The GPS directed us to a road that was totally impassable because of the flood from the Tweed River but we took another road and reached Tumbulgum School, only to find the same as Stokers Siding. T, a neighbour, agreed to drop the booklets in next term. He was surprised by the prayer. We were doing very well with our time so drove on to Bilambil, Carool and Terranora Schools with successful outcomes. Next was Tweed South School. Prayer was OK but no books as the receptionist did not want to take responsibility and the Principal was not there to ask. Tweed Heads School was our last call for the trip so it was good to finish on a positive note as they were pleased to have our booklets. By this time the sky was showing more blue and less cloud and we went to our motel and later met with some of our family for a birthday dinner.

Saturday was fine and sunny and we spent the day with family before returning to Sydney on Sunday and Monday in glorious sunny weather. We had travelled more than 2000km up and back and given the two sets of our booklets to 45 schools. We are confident that God will fill up what we have begun as He has promised.

