

# HAPPY NEW YEAR

Our dear prayer partners:

January 2021

At the beginning of another year, we thought to share with you some of our personal highlights from 2020. It certainly has been an anxious, uncertain year with the intrusion of Coronavirus affecting and disrupting life on a global scale. Our friends in many overseas countries have of course been affected and we do thank you again for your partnership in prayer and your care and concern.

We were both in Tasmania when borders closed and were thankful to access flights from Launceston to Sydney and to Brisbane at the end of March. We have not travelled interstate since then.

Here's a few personal highlights from 2020:

## JULIE

- **Six nights holiday in July with Faye** – we joined our cousins in a cabin at Narooma caravan park. It was mostly cold and wet but still enjoyed beach walks, high seas and spotting seals with the girls! Faye had plenty of games and hobbies to keep all occupied. A highlight was the Kiama blowhole enroute home – huge seas, amazing!
- **The Allawah Hands and Feet Program every Wednesday** continues to be a joy. It is indeed a privilege to share and chat with needy families each week.
- I enjoyed many walks with Faye in the COVID lockdown months around our lovely Bay meeting neighbours, making new friends and photographing sunsets.
- **Enjoyed on-line church** in my lounge room with coffee and scones!!
- **Gardening – my great love and have had more time to enjoy.** Mmmm, plenty of lettuce and tomatoes, cucumbers, herbs, spinach, kale but oh the strawberries – too sad!! A variety of flowers and a great show of sweet peas this year. I have a pet blue tongue who has put on weight with the daily feed – mmm banana, strawberries, tomatoes are favourites!!! The frogs survive quite well in a large bin with plenty of water but haven't seen the echidna for a while. Lots of birds and love hearing the kookaburras learning to laugh!! Mostly Jazzie our spoilt cat is behaving but is not too keen when her two handsome boyfriends visit – after all she has to protect her own turf!!

## NOELA

- Enjoying visits with **my sister Junee** from Port Douglas - in January with a few days break in Hervey Bay (where we spent our early years), September in time for the Toowoomba Flower festival and December for my birthday and spending **Christmas 2020 at Montville** hoping to escape the heat!
- **Required self-isolation** having arrived back in Brisbane from Tasmania after border closure really wasn't so difficult as it was a good excuse to take extra rest. A highlight was the unexpected provision of a **supply of frozen meals** delivered to my door from friends from Village Avenue Church (meals lasted beyond the "isolated" time limit!) and a **care package** from a former elder of my church and his wife and another friend brought in supplies.
- At the recommendation of my doctor, I was assessed for home help due to tears in my left shoulder and carpal tunnel in right hand. So now I have the routine of a **helper** to clean windows and floors
- Despite Covid restrictions I've been able to maintain regular **weekly visits** to two friends who are in Nursing facilities – sometimes leaving fruit at the door when facility in "lockdown".
- **Maintaining regular contact** via text messages, emails and phone with **co-workers** and some of their family members in DRC, PNG, Uganda, & Philippines as well as overseas friends not forgetting Gedeon in Sydney and his wife Jacque in Kenya with her health issues.

Once again we thank you for your continuing interest and prayers. May we all continue to experience the blessing of God's PEACE, JOY and HOPE throughout 2021

*Noela and Julie*

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