

Term one 2009

dubbo & districts
special religious education Inc



Hello everyone. It has been an exciting to return to the classroom this term. From the first lesson to now, the lessons have been a time of teacher and students enjoying each other's company. I have been teaching 20 classes a week and this number has just changed to 21. They are spaced over four days and include many of the students that I have taught last year and or previous years. Since I am at four schools I see students who leave one school and start at another and still have me. This includes students from the Dubbo Christian School where I have been teaching casually for the last six years. This has allowed me to continue to connect with students in order to connect them with the good news of Jesus.

As stated in the last update, we thought that this year we would be moving to a five day teaching load. However, after the financial figures were considered at the end of 2008 the Inc. has decided it wisest to employ me for 4 days per week as it did last year. It was a disappointment at the start of the year that I could not teach more. However it simply means we still have room to grow this ministry and its potential to reach more of the Dubbo student populous. Thank you for continuing to pray and financially support us in this gospel endeavor. Please see the attached graph and blurb prepared by our bookkeeper for more information(page four).

I have enrolled in a PTC (Preliminary Theological Course) from Moore College. It is called "Introduction to the Bible." It will be useful to have more grounding in the scriptures to pass on to my students.

Lesson headings for terms one and two.

Term one

God and us
God sent his Son, Jesus
Jesus, Son of God, baptised by John
Jesus heals the official's son
Power over blindness
Power over nature
Authority to forgive and heal
Jesus' crucifixion

Term two

Jesus' resurrection
Thomas
Pentecost
The early Church
Abraham
Abraham and Isaac
Isaac, Jacob and his children
Joseph, sold as a slave
Joseph in prison
Joseph becomes governor
Joseph's family comes to Egypt

Here are the first paragraphs of the "Lesson back ground" for the first lesson in the teacher's manual that I use for you to better know what I am doing this year.

This semester's lessons focus on God's plan of salvation. After providing an overview of this plan, they turn to its centre - the person of Jesus Christ, Son of God. The second lesson introduces Jesus, the third looks at who he really is, and the next four examine his power and authority. The following three deal with Jesus' death and resurrection and with Thomas' response. Then two lessons consider the gift and work of the Holy Spirit.

At lesson 13 the plan of salvation is shown to commence with the call of Abraham. God's covenant promises of Genesis 12:1-3 are traced through the following six lessons, by which time Abraham's descendants have settled in Egypt. Next semester's lessons carry the story of God's redemption forward through the call of Moses, the Exodus and re-entry into the promised land. This is followed by a series on "Living God's way", before returning to the theme of "God keeps his promises" in a series that leads up to the birth of Jesus.

Term one highlights

- Colouring in Mr potato head's eyes with a washable black texta and making actual mud (not with my spit) and putting it on to mister potato head's eyes and washing it all off. The kids were surprised when his eyes became clear and he could "see." This helped us think about when Jesus made a blind man see. The Pharisees showed that they were blind by not recognising that Jesus was from God. We renamed them the "Phari-blinds" because they could not "Phari – see." I urged the students not to be blind as well.
- The following lesson saw us acting out the parts of Jesus forgiving the paralytic's sins before healing him. A student was carried by others on a towel to try to get to the person playing the part of Jesus. However this was impossible because the rest of the class were in the way being the crowd. When we finally arrived at the part where Jesus looked at the paralytic and friends and saw their faith, I asked the children what they thought Jesus was about to say. All my classes were expecting Jesus to say "Get up and walk" or heal him some way straight away. They were surprised to find that Jesus said "My friend, your sins are forgiven" and proved he could by healing him. We then talked for a while about how we all need our sins forgiven by Jesus. The children got to throw a ball across the room into a box that had "perfection" written on the front. Just as many of us missed the box of perfection, all of us have failed to live up to God's standard of perfection and need to put our trust in Jesus like the paralytic.
- The last week of term one was about Jesus' crucifixion. The point was made that Jesus willingly gave himself for us. He did not use his power and authority over everything to stop the soldiers from arresting him in the garden. It was God's plan to punish Jesus instead of us so we should willing trust him!
- We received two very large donations. One from a business that supports missionaries. The other was from the estate of a parent of one of our supporters a month or two ago. It was a cheque attached to a note and card. The note said, "Dear Sir, last year at the end of June my mother (aged 87) taught her Yr 1 and Yr 3 scripture classes at Harcourt Primary where she'd taught Scripture for 45 years and a few days later learnt she had in very advanced stages a rare form of liver cancer. God called her home less than 3 weeks later. From her estate I would like the enclosed Cheque to be used for Jonathan's work." What an immense encouragement! I hope that I will still be teaching scripture when I am in my eighties as well!!! Maybe not 21 classes though!

Please pray for the children who hear now and are excited to know Jesus. That they may continue to trust him and be saved!

Pray that Jesus and him crucified would be all that I know to all that I speak to.

We are moving to our new house 23rd of June as we had an opportunity to buy a bigger place.

We have had an addition to our family in the form of a baby boy! Logan Peter Paul Luckensmeyer was born on 15th of April. 7lb 14oz and 52cm long. He is tall dark and handsome.



Thank you for your continued prayer and support.
Yours in His service,

Jonathan, Colleen, Tate, Isaiah, and Logan Luckensmeyer

How to contact us

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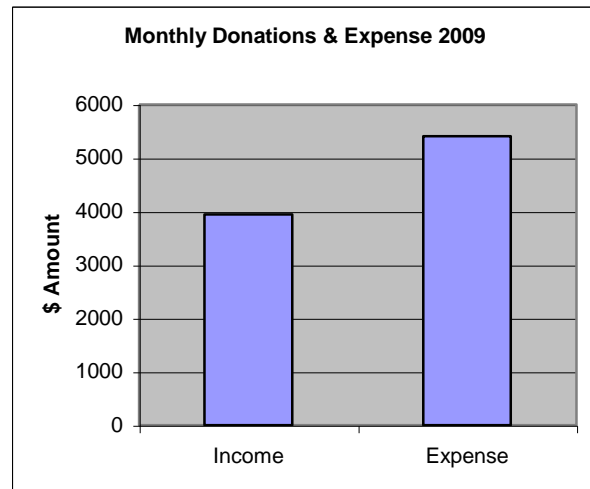
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Dubbo & District Special Religious Ed Inc

Profit & Loss [Last Year Analysis]

		Last Year
4-0000	Income	
4-1000	Donations - General	\$22,064.98
4-1500	Donations - One off	\$23,740.69
4-4000	Subscriptions	\$12.00
4-5000	Interest Received	\$185.63
	Total Income	<u>\$46,003.30</u>
6-0000	Expenses	
6-1000	Administration	
6-1150	Licences & Subscriptions	\$44.00
6-1200	Bank Fees	\$8.80
6-1300	Audit & Accounting	\$550.00
6-1320	Bookkeeping	\$0.00
6-1600	Insurance - Public Liability	\$1,598.36
6-1601	Insurance - Directors & Office	\$1,986.60
6-1840	Activity Expenses	\$305.47
6-1850	Office Supplies	\$253.25
6-1910	Postage	\$200.00
6-1920	Printing & Stationary	\$372.80
	Total Administration	<u>\$5,319.28</u>
6-2000	Employment Expenses	
6-2030	Wages & Salaries - Casual	\$45,743.00
6-2040	Workers' Compensation	\$319.86
6-2050	Superannuation	\$4,116.87
	Total Employment Expenses	<u>\$50,179.73</u>
	Total Expenses	<u>\$55,499.01</u>
	Net Surplus / (Deficit)	<u>-\$9,495.71</u>



For the year ended 31st December 2008 Dubbo & Districts made a loss of -\$9,495 while continuing to employ Jonathan 4 days per week for the full year. These figures are shown above in the DDSRE Audit Profit & Loss Report. Due to the incredible generosity of donors in the past few years the Committee was able to sustain this loss due to its reserves of cash from having a surplus in prior years. Similar to 2008, in 2009 the committee has decided to initially employ Jonathan only for 4 days per week and to assess each quarter how the finances are going. This is due to the forecast of another loss in 2009 based on 4 days per week employment which would at the end of this current year, leave the organisation with no reserves left and not enough income to restart the next financial year on 1st January 2010. An estimate of our monthly giving and expenses in 2009 is shown in the chart above.

At the current time of writing this newsletter we have received several large one off donations that have made it possible to continue employment for 4 days per week for the rest of the year praise God! and the committee is waiting until the next meeting to reassess the impact 5 days employment would have on our finances which at the current stage isn't viable.