



# THE MISSION

Everyman's Ministry to the 8th/9th Battalion  
the Royal Australian Regiment

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*I am glad to get this newsletter update to you as we are now about ¼ of the way through 2017. Once again the Lord had proven his faithfulness to us time and time again and I trust that you have known his guidance in your year thus far too. I have a few exciting things to report since last time and I hope you will enjoy reading about them as much as I have had recounting them!*

## ENTER THE BATTLE BIBLE!

One of my favourite things in the world is the Bible and one of my favourite Bibles is the Gideons pocket New Testament. I prefer the Gideons not just because of their convenient size (they are the only Bible that I have found that can actually fit into my pocket) but because I was personally given one by my Grandpa - Hew and my Nanna - Cynthia before going to Afghanistan. It was that Bible that I carried everywhere either in my pocket or in my body armour. Despite me taking care of it it ended up getting wet and sweated on and consequently that Bible is in a bit of a poor state. I was getting a supply of Gideon's NT's with a camouflage patterned covers and it was great because some soldiers would be take one just because of the camouflage cover so I was disappointed when I heard that Gideons were not producing anymore Camo Bibles. I

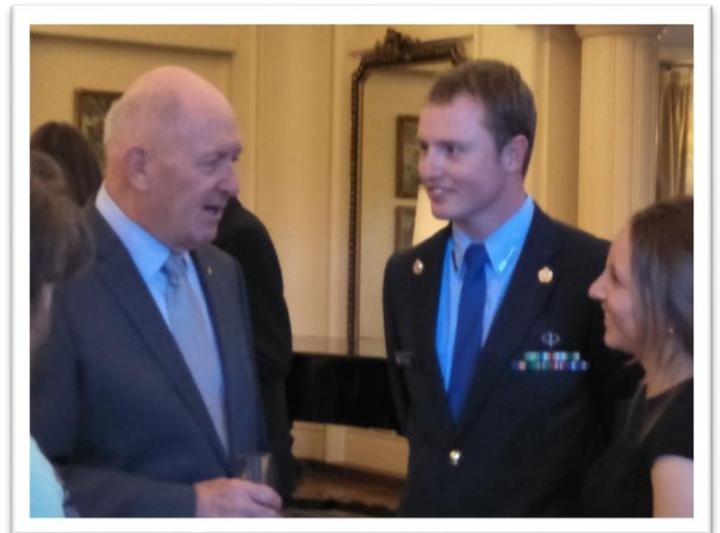


began to have ideas about making my own covers to put over the Bibles to solve that problem, but, the only problem was that I had no idea how to make such a thing, however, we serve an amazing God! You may remember last year I was asked by the Gideons to share my testimony at their national convention in Sydney. It was a pleasure and little did I know that the Lord had a plan for me to meet an Indian man there named Deepak. Deepak told me of an idea to make some camouflage covers, the same idea as I had! We discussed the idea and I sent him the camouflage patterns for the current Army and Air Force uniforms and he sent me the finished product which is a water proof canvas with a zip. In order to finance them I have had people who have given generously to the cause so that we can make them available for the troops without having to worry about asking for a donation from them. They cost \$5 per item (that is with all the shipping cost added) so the plan that I had was that if people wanted to contribute they could make a donation of \$10 and that would pay for their cover and one for a soldier too. Since having them made I have been able to give out many of them to soldiers and veterans. So far it has been a great success and the Bibles themselves will have much more ruggedness and durability about them.

# SIR PETER



It's not every day that you get the opportunity to meet the most powerful man in the country, the man with the power to sack the Prime Minister of Australia, the man who is the Queens representative to Australia – His excellency the Governor General (GG) Gen. Peter Cosgrove. The GG who is a retired Officer and ex-CDF came on board last year as the Patron of Everyman's after many years of being served by Everyman's that goes back to his days as a young Lt. in Vietnam. Everyman's had Rep's in Vietnam as well as many other conflicts that the ADF has been involved in dating back to WW2. Claudia and I were lucky enough to be invited to a ceremony at his residence at Government House in Canberra. The ceremony was announced after Everyman's was gifted with a significant donation from The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo for our support of their event in Melbourne last year. The donation went to the purchasing a new modern 'Brew Truck' and the GG was kind enough to do the unveiling at his house. The Lord was simply amazing because the GG asked me how I ended up becoming an Everyman which turned into the highlight of the event as I was able to share mine and Claudia's testimonies after my experiences in Afghanistan with 8/9 RAR on MTF 4. I



was able to explain that I encountered the Lord there which ultimately lead me on a journey to go from serving the nation as a soldier to serving the Lord and the men and women of the ADF as well as veterans in need in the community with Everyman's. I was also able to give to him a gift in a 'Battle Bible' – the Word of God. It was also an opportunity for most of the Everyman's team to get together and I enjoyed meeting for the first time Everyman Frank Tottingham and his wife, Shelley. (pictured top with the GG)

# EVERYMAN OF THE FUTURE?

In my last newsletter I told of the wonderful conversions of Bjorn and Ryan, since then, both of them have been walking with the Lord and we as well as other brothers and sisters in our fellowship have been discipling them in the ways of the Lord. Both Bjorn and Ryan have both expressed their desires to reach the lost of this world. Bjorn has had a wonderful story of talking with his estranged father who at the same time as Bjorn came to know the Lord completely separately and independently! Bjorn's Dad lives overseas and has had very limited contact with him but praise the Lord now they have something that unites them. We are waiting now for the time that they can be reunited physically and Bjorn's father has expressed interest in being baptised too!



Both Bjorn and Ryan both being veterans like myself have a desire to reach out to other veterans who are in need and to share the hope of this world – The Lord Jesus Christ! Both of them have expressed a desire to join with Everyman's and so I took both of them out on separate occasions on a brew run. Having previous experience in Defence

certainly gives a huge advantage to those of us who have it and it gives a certain amount of credibility when speaking to soldiers. It was good because both of them saw people who they had worked with in their times in Defence. The Lord has put in my heart for some time now to start doing more work amongst the veteran community as well as the work amongst the current serving troops and already there are doors being opened up



in that area. Although neither Bjorn nor Ryan are a part of Everyman's yet, we have had the opportunity to share the gospel with current soldiers as well as veterans and there have been some very promising signs already. Lord willing I am hoping to begin running camps that will be an outreach to the ADF and veterans in which we will invite anyone who wishes to come to get away from the hustle and bustle of life and encounter Christ through the gospel and our testimonies and hopefully see freedom come those who have been hurt by the system and are in the bondages of sin.



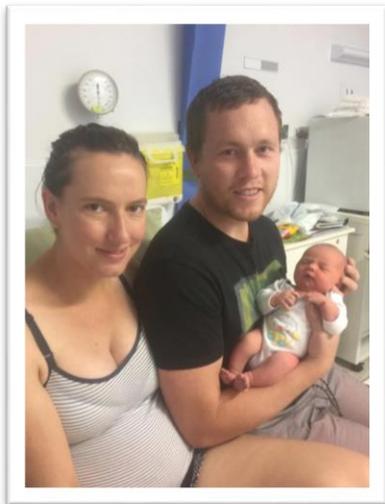
# A MUCH NEEDED FACE LIFT

With all the buzz about the latest 'Brew Truck' that Everyman's has acquired recently I had been desiring to take the old truck that I have been using for the last year and give her a new lick of paint. She had been rather neglected and looked tired. I knew that when the new truck came on board that I was going to be inheriting a newer model and that my truck would be passed on to someone else so I wanted to be able to pass on a truck that at least looked nice. In secret, I organised with my friend and brother in Christ - Darren to help get this project going. Darren was responsible for spraying another one of our trucks last year and he was keen to help us out again. Having Darren is a real blessing saving Everyman's literally thousands of dollars. After a few days of elbow grease between the two of us and a bit of help from Bjorn too the truck came up looking like a million bucks! The old girl might be a few years old but she still has life in her yet and now she looks the part. I'm looking forward to getting an upgrade of vehicle soon but I'll miss the old girl as she has served me faithfully.



## ON THE HOME FRONT

This year has been a year of milestone birthdays for our family, my two grandfathers both turned 90 within 2 weeks of each other, my dad turned 60, my sister-in-law turned 40 and Claudia turned 30! Lots of celebrations happening! I have spent more time in Adelaide this year than any other year since I left Adelaide in 2008 to join the regular Army. Claudia and I are preparing to move house as the town house we are living in now is too small for us and I need a garage to be able to work out of with the dent repair business but we are staying in the same area around Springwood. Springwood is very nice because we have so many brothers and sisters who live nearby and our fellowship meets only a few blocks away. We also like the area because we have a lot of bush lands close by that we can go for walks in. I have been involved now with leading the worship at church and playing the guitar, this has been a real blessing for me and I am glad to be able to serve the Lord whichever way I can. We have also has some exciting news that my brother Jason and his wife Kelsey just recently had a baby and her name is Penelope Elizabeth Ridley!



### *Claudia's Corner*

I am so honoured to work for the elderly at Bethany Christian Care and have the privileged to meet some brothers and sisters that have served our Lord all their lives. They have something incredibly beautiful about them even in the last stages of their lives and I won't forget all the times of prayer and fellowship that I had with some of them. I could talk about many of them, but I will speak about this beautiful sister that went to China where she met her husband and they both served the Lord for many years in that country. Every time I speak with her she always has something really simple and powerful to say or to give. Once I was pushing her wheelchair and she looked at a frame on the wall that had a Scripture verse and she said "Isn't it amazing: 'Believe in the Lord Jesus and you shall be saved'? Do you know why is so simple? It's because God is mighty". I will never forget those words. I thank God for her and for the many other servants of God that love our precious Saviour "they still bear fruit in old age". Praise God! Thank you for all your prayers and support. We are amazed for all His love and care for us. May His name be glorified all the days of our lives. "I will rejoice greatly in the Lord, my soul will exult in my God; for He has clothed me with garments of salvation, He has wrapped me with a robe of righteousness" (Isaiah 61:10). God bless you all.



I cannot stop being amazed at how faithful our Lord has been to us, He is opening doors to new ventures with Everyman's and I look forward to seeing what will come for the remainder of the year. I have had opportunities to reach out to Veterans and it seems like that area is only going to grow. I would ask that you keep this important work in your prayers as there are many who are taking their lives and they desperately need Jesus to come and cleanse them from their sin and battles of the mind.

***The LORD is near to the broken hearted, and saves those who are crushed in spirit. Psalm 34:18***

Much love,

Ben and Claudia



**EVERYMAN'S WELFARE SERVICE**  
**Serving the Australian Defence Force**