



THE MISSION

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

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Welcome to the first quarterly update for our mission work with the Australian Defence Force. As you will know I left the Army in November 2014 and joined the Everyman's Welfare Service in March this year. Everyman's is a not-for-profit organisation and is manned by volunteers. What we do is essentially missionary work in the Defence Force. My journey was an easy transition from Army life to Everyman's, it really began when I was still in the Army and I felt led by the Lord to evangelise the guys that I worked with in the Battalion. The purpose of this newsletter is to keep you updated on the work that the Lord has been doing and to give Him glory for it.

GOING BACK TO BASIC

My first real exposure to the Everyman's since joining in March was going down to Kapooka, NSW. Kapooka is known as the "Home of the Soldier". All recruits who join the Army in the soldier stream go through there to do their basic training. It was a great experience to go



back to the place that I went through when I joined the Army back in 2004. My time there was great, allowing me to share the Gospel with some of the recruits, to share my experiences in the Infantry, and also to be able to give advice about their future military careers. It was also a time to see some of my mates whom I worked with in the Army and have been posted there as recruit instructors, a posting that I would have likely to have had to fill if the Lord had not called me out of the Army.

THE GOOD FIGHT

My time as an Everyman's Rep for 8/9 RAR has been great. It has been very different from my role

last year in the Battalion with Mortar Platoon, but it has been very rewarding none the less. I have been able to do many 'brew runs' out to Green bank Training Area (as pictured) and around Enoggera Barracks to see the boys of Alpha company and Delta company who are preparing to deploy to both Iraq and Afghanistan respectively, I would have also been deployed with Alpha Company if I was still



in the Army, however, the Lord had a greater battle in mind for me to fight, the battle for souls! Praise His great name, He has armed us with our Spiritual Armour, the Sword of the Spirit, and put His Holy Spirit in us, everything we need for warfare!

Everyman's Annual Conference and 75th Birthday celebration

Everyman's have an annual conference and this year as has been the case in the last few years was held in the national head quarters in Bandiana, VIC. The conference was only a couple of days long but the drive down there was a day and a half each way. It was a chance for Claudia to accompany me down there and have a taste of Army life as we stayed on the base in the transit lines and we ate at the mess for our meals. It was also a time for both of us to meet my fellow Everyman's reps and to spend time praying and studying together.

conference was Post-modern society" informative in mentality of the It was also a time for Welfare Service to Birthday. We had a past and present rep's supporters in night was a great night was culminated the birthday cake.

newest member of the Eric Trezise (our eldest retired Chief Commissioner) had the privilege of cutting the cake. It was fantastic to have Claudia with me on the trip.



The theme of the "Evangelism in a and it was quite understanding the majority of Gen-Y. the Everyman's celebrate its 75th dinner with many as well as attendance. The success and the with the cutting of Myself being the Everyman's and

Open invitation to the Gospel

The Lord has been opening doors for me to share the gospel with a few guys from 8/9, mostly guys that I have known previously. Many of them can see that there is something wrong with the world that we live in and this is always a good opportunity to share about biblical prophecy and the fact that all these world events are leading up to the return of Jesus Christ. This has been an effective way of showing our desperate need of a saviour from sin. Through many conversations and reasoning I have been able to show that Jesus is the prophesied Messiah spoken of in the Old Testament scriptures. The use of DVD's such as "The Daniel Project" and "The Final Prophecies" (I really recommend you all get a copy of these movies) is also very helpful in pointing out these things. Some of these guys I have been able to give Bibles to and some have begun reading it and ask questions. Please pray that the Holy Spirit would convict them of their need for Him. Their names are: Adrian, Justin, Andrew, Jake, Karl, Luke, Josh, Gavin, Tommy and Chol. There have been others that I have been in earshot of me sharing the gospel and so pray that there would be seeds sown there too. I have also been sharing the gospel with an old friend who is in another unit down in Adelaide, I have sent him some DVD's and given him a Bible when we were down there earlier this year, his name is Andrew as well.

CARE PACKAGES FOR THE BOYS

I am currently working on a project to send care packages to the 8/9 RAR guys overseas. 8/9 was given back to back trips to both Iraq and Afghanistan, none of these trip were expected and in fact everyone was expecting there to be a period of quiet and with no trip on offer, however, suddenly everything changed with ISIS becoming a problem came up in Iraq and our Battalion was selected to provide the first and second rotations for the operation, as well as continuing to provide another two rotations for the Afghanistan campaign. A total of four trips means that almost everyone who is in 8/9 is going overseas on a trip, something that the boys are pretty happy about, especially since there are many new guys who have done only about a year in the army and are now deploying on operations. I received some funding from the Lions Club in Wagga Wagga to put together these packages and so I have sent the first lot already and I will send follow up packages when the next rotations deploy. I have got Tim-tams, flavoured nuts and some coffee lollies. I have also put in "The Daniel Project" and "The Final Prophecies", as well as a USB stick with some Testimonies and gospel presentations, so hopefully they will spark an interest in things of an eternal nature and lead to some seeds being sown in their hearts.



Military Christian Fellowship

A man by the name of Luke got in touch with me via Facebook and asked me if I would like to be involved with a Christian Bible study group that meets on base at Gallipoli barracks. The group is called "Military Christian Fellowship". They are world-wide organisation and I was really glad to be able to go down and become a part of the group. We meet on Tuesday lunch times and although the group is only small we have been able to have some good times of study and fellowship. The only hard part with this kind of group is that people are always going away so it can be a bit inconsistent in numbers. I have also been attending the MCF meeting at RAAF base Amberley on Wednesdays too, they are a bit more consistent with numbers because the RAAF don't travel around or go out bush as much like the Army does.

A Divine Appointment

John (pictured below) and I had the privilege to attend a peacekeepers memorial the other day and I was asked to say the prayer that opened the service. I was glad to be able to participate and the service was nice. I met a man afterwards, Bob, who used to be in 8 RAR which is one half of 8/9 RAR (the battalions were linked together back in 1973 due to a downsizing of the Army). I also met Bob's son, Ben, who was also in the Army and had recently discharged and had been struggling with PTSD from his deployments. Ben had been telling me about a group that he is involved in called "Mates 4 Mates", they are a group for ex-defence members who suffer from injury and illness whilst serving in the military. After speaking with them both that day we went our separate ways and I has been sorry that I couldn't share the gospel with them but there wasn't an opportunity and I thought that was the end of that...the Lord had other ideas. Only a few days later I was on my way to visit some 8/9 guys training at Canungra when I had stopped for lunch and I heard a voice calling out my name, low and behold it was Ben, a coincidence, I think not! We started chatting and soon his friend Paul, who is also suffering from PTSD showed up and we began chatting together, it turns out Paul has been going to church and even studied at Bible college for a bit. They have invited me to come along to their meetings. I went on Monday and it was good to meet some more Veterans from all different conflicts and different ages.



These guys are looking for help with their mental issues and I really believe that the Lord had intended for us to meet, hopefully they can come to know the one who is the answer to all their problems, Jesus Christ!

Family News

Claudia has been working at the same childcare centre for a couple years now and she loves the job, she has remained there though we have moved house twice in the last two years and she travels quite a long way because it is an occasional day care, meaning that they are only open 6 hours a day, she likes this because it means the children don't become too restless from being away from their parents. The centre has recently announced that beginning next year they are planning to change to a full-time centre, Claudia is probably not going to stay there when this happens and has been looking at getting a job closer to where we are living at Eight Mile Plains.

She has put an application in with a Christian aged care facility down the road, so we are praying for the Lord to show us what the next step is for her.

The Lord blessed us with providing a house to live in as the care takers of our Church before I had even discharged from the Army, Christian Witness Ministries. Our Pastor, Jeff Pitman, has been in negotiations with the owners of the property about a new lease. They had been making some unreasonable demands and for a while there things looked a bit shaky as to whether we would remain for another term but after sorting things out they have come to an agreement and a new two year lease will be signed shortly.



We have a fairly busy schedule with Church activities throughout the week. Sunday is obviously Church, Monday is a prayer meeting at the church, Wednesday is a Bible study here at the church, Thursday we have been having a Bible study at our friends JP and Tanya's house but that has died off a bit. We have our main Bible study on Saturday night at our friends Clinton and Vicky's place and we love our time of fellowship, some nights we have over twenty people come and either JP, Clinton or myself usually share with the group. Claudia and I have been spending one night a week visiting my mate George's wife: Becky and their two kids'. George is in 8/9 and currently deployed to Afghanistan. George became a Christian last year after I witnessed to him and challenged him on his Seventh Day Adventist doctrines, he left that behind and has been coming to our church. Becky was not religious at all but has since come to faith too and so we have been discipling them since! Praise the Lord!

We have been going out and doing some evangelism on the streets recently and it has been exciting to be out there. We have had some really positive encounters with people and have been able to share the love of Christ with them and tell them of His wonderful sacrifice on the cross, there have been many who have been convicted and I believe many seeds sown in the process. We are also looking at setting up a stall at a large Halloween festival that is at Manley beach every year. There is also a chance that we will have a stall at the “Body, Mind and Soul” fair early next year too so we look forward to getting out there then and hopefully seeing souls won for Christ

We sincerely thank those who have decided to partner with us in prayer and financial support, May God bless you all richly and keep you in good health. You are all a blessing. You too play a very important part in reaching the Defence with the most important issue they will ever have to face – what will they do with Jesus? We desire to see the Kingdom of God expanded through the preaching of the gospel to the Defence Force. We really appreciate all that the Lord has done for us and we know that He will continue to supply all of our needs.



With all our love,

Ben and Claudia



EVERYMAN'S WELFARE SERVICE
Serving the Australian Defence Force