

MULTIPLY AUSTRALIA

MULTIPLY. THE WORD. DISCIPLES. CHURCHES.

Acts 6:7

Sep - Oct 2026: Graceway's Growth

Read how God has been working in Melbourne and how you can pray for what's ahead!

It was 1:30pm on a Thursday afternoon, and I was waiting for Pastor Frank to order his lunch before we began our meeting. We had organized a catch up to touch base about life and ministry, sign some paperwork for our new missions account at Graceway, and go over future plans. I pulled out my book, *The Joy of Fearing God,* and began reading. I have been asked to preach at youth camp in January, and I have chosen the topic of fearing God. As I was reading, I noticed the lady next to me looking over at me. She said, "That looks like an interesting read." We exchanged a few words, and when Pastor Frank returned, I set the book aside. As we were talking, I could see the lady trying to right down the name of the book. I moved the book where she could see it better, and we all began talking and found out that she and her daughter were believers who lived in a rural town. It was a blessing to chat with them, but listening to her, I was reminded how much of a need there is for pastors and churches in rural areas of Australia. Recently, a young couple asked me to do their wedding, and they shared with me their struggle to find a good church in their rural area as well. May God multiply churches in Australia.

As the year end has gone along, we have been teaching the church about church membership, the Baptist distinctives, and some of our core values as a church. I appreciate Dr. Stelzer, one of my seminary teachers, for taking time to refresh me on the text issue and give me some guidance about presenting why we use the King James Bible at Graceway. What a blessing it was to hear a couple weeks later that one of our newer ladies had bought a KJV. I know having a KJV Bible is not the highest mark of true spirituality, but it is nice to know people are listening and that God is working in their hearts.

Along those lines, we recently did a sermon series on serving and spiritual gifts. It has been a blessing to see people stepping up and being involved with the ministries. For example, just the last couple of weeks, a man began helping with set up for church and said he would like to continue being a help that way. Praise God for working in our church people!

I have continued volunteering at the aged care and for a local youth mentoring program. Ira has continued teaching the kids, playing piano, and working with the music although she has been held back by some health issues. We appreciate your prayers for her. There have been two couples requesting marriage counselling in preparation for marriage. We are working to redo our church website through a man we met at our outreach Bible study. He does that line of work and wanted to do it for us free of charge as a way to serve the Lord. And I have recently put my painting skills that my dad taught me to use helping a pastor friend do some work on his church building. I have been doing station outreach regularly with some of the men from Faith Baptist Church, and last time, we had a total of 5 going to 2 locations! At our last youth activity, four of the teens helped distribute gospel tracts.

I was added to the Independent Baptist Camps board and look forward to continuing to support the camping ministry here in Victoria. Ira and I went to Sydney in September for her cousin's wedding. The church was able to continue in our absence. While there, we got to connect with Gina and John, relatives of a lady from one of our supporting churches. We tried to form a connection and are praying for a witnessing opportunity. While in Sydney, I preached at Bible Baptist Church and New Life Baptist Church.

The highlight of this month had to be the baptisms of Eric, Manav, and Kai! Or maybe that we started our missions program! Well, both are great news. It was such a blessing to see the first faith promise slip come at $20 a week. I am praying we get some more because we presented three missionaries to the church, but I am confident that God will supply.

Thank you for your prayers, encouragement, and support. See next page for pictures!

Josh and Ira Zacharias

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