



# **The Aussie Connection**



**A Newsletter - From the Russell Family  
Calvary Chapel Melbourne, Australia**

**Dec, 2011**

## **Greetings and Merry Christmas,**

I pray that you are having an amazing day and that your Christmas will be blessed as you celebrate our wonderful Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We will be spending a quiet Christmas with the boys enjoying and thanking the Lord for all the many blessings He has given us this year.



I'm sure you're just as amazed as I am, of how quickly this year has gone by. Where did 2011 go? We are looking forward to all that the Lord has for us here in Melbourne in the New Year.

I wanted to give you a quick update on some of the events that we have been involved in this past month. First and foremost, I want to thank all of you for praying for the En-Vision Conference that was held in Sydney. The conference was amazing and everything went smoothly. We had close to 140 people in attendance and 22 from our congregation present, which was exciting! Our guys assisted and served in a variety of ways. This not only made a difference in the unity of our team, but also helped everything run smoothly. The Conference was very timely for many who were going through a tough season... timely messages, worship, and fellowship was all part of the Lords plan.

After the conference, Pastor Bill Welsh and his son Jeremy came down to Melbourne to lead in worship and teach our Sunday services. It was such a blessing not only for the congregation, but also for our family.



The following weekend, we had Shannon and Jesse Quintana (Pastor Bills daughter and worship leader at Refuge) lead us in worship. We also had Mike and Suzie Rodriguez (good friends from our home Church Refuge) stay with us. Thank you Lord for blessing us with so many wonderful brothers and sisters in Christ...what a refreshing and special time of fellowship it was.

It's always great to connect with those from your home church and for them to see first hand the work that is the Lord is doing. As we have said time and time again, the fruit from the ministry here in Melbourne is greatly due to the team that is praying, supporting and partnering with us to spread the gospel. Thank you for holding the other end of the rope. We couldn't be where we are today, without your support.

We are looking forward to finishing the year strong with our Christmas Eve service and fellowship. It's been so cool to see the excitement in our team. As

they have seen the health within the congregation progress and have watched the church grow, it's putting a passion in their hearts and anticipation as they watch the Lord work.

We will be making a variety of ministry changes in the New Year, please pray for guidance, direction and strength as we walk in obedience to the Lord.

### Visiting Plans

On Jan 18<sup>th</sup>, Niki and the Boys (Josh and Christian) will be heading to the states for a visit. Then on Feb 6<sup>th</sup> I will be arriving. Then for the first time since moving to Melbourne, we will be coming back here as a family on Feb 23<sup>rd</sup>. We hope to connect with as many as possible whilst we are there. I'll be sharing a little bit at the weekend services at Refuge on Feb 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. I hope to catch up with you guys then if not before then.

### Prayer Points:

- Pray Vision for the church for next year. We are praying about several new ministry, studies, and possible church plant. We need clear direction and focus in what the Lord wants
- We could always use prayer for wisdom, direction, discernment, protection, provision, and strength (health) for the ministry, family, and marriage.
- Pray for a closer walk with the Lord, and to stay sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit.
- Pray for revival and a great harvest in our church, community, and country.
- Pray for the struggling and hurting (physically, emotionally, and financially) people in the church.
- Pray for our visit to the States next month. That it would be a time of refreshing, encouragement, rest, and refocusing for another year.
- Pray for the Aussie Connection team of prayer warriors and supporters. That the Lord would lavish His blessing on each one in a special way.



We are so thankful for your prayers, your faithful support, and your partnership. You are making a difference in the lives of so many. Keep pressing on in the great work.

Until next time.....

*Pastor Andrew Russell*

Andrew, Niki, Joshua, & Christian

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