

# Keiran's Kapers #1 --- March 2009

Hello from hot, cold, windy, still, wet, dry ..... four seasons in one day, Melbourne!

Welcome to my first very own newsletter. My plan is to make this regular enough to keep you informed with news and prayer points, and give you some insight into my life here in Melbourne.



I write this newsletter from the Bible College Library computer. My laptop power cable blew up a week ago & I'm awaiting a replacement hence using the library computer. I also have a packet of tissues next to me because I have the latest what I call B.C.V – 'Bible College Virus', i.e. Cold.

I've been here for 35 days now and it has been a very interesting past 5 weeks at that!

I have experienced the hottest day in any Australian city (47.5 degrees Celsius) on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> Feb; the worst fires in

Australian history (Black Saturday); a mini tornado; extreme wind conditions of up to 120km/hr; an earthquake of 4.6 on the Richter scale; good soaking rain throughout this week; and now a cool and pleasant evening after more rain today (12/03). I was told the weather down here was unpredictable ... but enough of the weather!

I've settled well into college life and my course. I have done many hours of homework and several assignments already, and am very happy with my overall marks so far (averaging around 88%).

Subjects include Missions, New Testament, Theology, Discipleship, World Religions, Old Testament and Helping People (Christian counselling), with my favorites being New Testament and Old Testament, along with some of the Theology classes. It has been great to delve deep into the Bible and learn more about God and his work throughout all history, and gather the evidence for why we believe what we believe as Christians. I do 20 hrs a week face-to-face in these classes and many more of homework time, plus duties around the college being a live-in student, as well as ministry outside of college.

As part of the course we are required to spend a couple of hrs a week in some form of outreach ministry, whether it be CRE (Scripture classes in Victoria), or helping out in a local youth group. As my component for this, I and another guy Brenton have taken up weekly visits to a Sudanese Club 45min drive away. A Sudanese man started it after seeing the Sudanese youth hanging around his shop. He opened up the back of the shop to them to play card games, dominoes and chess, in an attempt to keep them off the street and out of trouble. It is very similar to my memories in Zambia, where the men in the afternoon would gather outside a shop playing games of chess and checkers. We hooked up with a returned missionary from Sudan who ministers to Sudanese in the greater Melbourne area, and he pointed us in the direction of this club. So now on Wednesday afternoons Brenton and I drive down to Noble Park, and spend 2 hrs there playing dominoes and chess with the youth there (I guess the average age to be around 20).

Our hope is to form friendships with them that will enable us to help them in adapting to the Australian/Western world and minister to them in any way we can. It is very much a different atmosphere when we enter the shop and it feels as if we have been instantly transported to the middle of Africa, with the shop selling all sorts of African products, playing the telltale African music, and Brenton and I being the only 2 white men. We have made 3 visits so far and I feel we have been making progress in slowly becoming accepted. I imagine it's a very strange sight for them seeing 2 young white guys coming to them and playing dominoes (all-be-it not very well at either game compared to these guys!)

The students & staff here at the college are very friendly. I am one of quite a few doing the flight/engineering-combined course, and living on campus.



From Left to Right:  
Ryan (South Africa) Danny (Ireland) Myself & Brenton (Adelaide)

Those living on campus make a very international and diverse family with several Dutch couples, a Russian couple, an Irish guy, Swiss guy, South African guy plus families and singles from all over Australia. Overall, it's a great atmosphere: sometimes quite loud and rather amusing.

When I'm not in a class, doing assignments or homework I spend time playing table tennis, pool or foosball (table soccer), socializing in one of the guys bedrooms or spending time talking to my girlfriend Corinne on the phone.

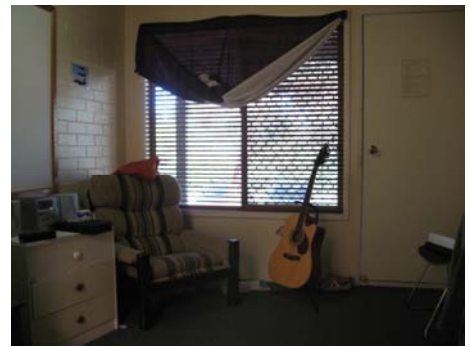
I've been attending Kilsyth Baptist Church about 20min drive away in the foothills of the Dandenong Ranges. I've been going along with two of my lecturers and Ryan, the South African classmate who is doing the same combined course as me. The congregation there have been very friendly and welcoming to us.

So to recap: my month thus far in Melbourne has been very busy with moments where I feel scarcely able to catch my breath, accompanied by the occasional pang of nostalgia and homesickness, but mostly it has been enjoyable and a new adventure, filled with new sights and new people and a real time of spiritual growth.

Thank you for your prayers during this past month!  
I look forward to catching up around town when I return to the Mts for Easter!

I will leave you with some prayer points and some photo's of my room.  
Over and Out.

**Keiran**



Praise Points:

- For friends made since arriving.
- For God's word and being able to study it in such a place as BCV.
- For safety of staff during fires danger.
- Have found a church can become part of.

Prayer Points:

- That our relationship with the Sudanese youth develops;
- That I (we) have openings to share our faith and lives with them.
- That they open up to us as they begin to trust us and enjoy our company.