

# Keiran's Kapers #2 --- August 2009

Hello and welcome to another edition of Keirans Kapers. (Day 186)

Apologies for being a month behind schedule with this newsletter, its amazing how fast time flies when you are busy! And boy has it been the busiest 4 months of my life!

Let's see what happened then in a nutshell... (just a sec while I read my calendar)

- 1 Well firstly I finished my first semester of Bible college/Mission training! Woot!
- 2 During that time I have completed 11 major assignments with around 100 hrs of sitting in front of a computer screen typing out essays.
- 3 I have had 70 homework assignments which is about 90 hrs of work.
- 4 And I have sat through about 320 hrs worth of lectures.
- 5 I started doing volunteer work experience building a Cessna 172 down at the Mission Aviation Centre with a 5 of my fellow students on Wednesday mornings.
- 6 Oh and did I happen to mention that I GOT ENGAGED????????????????

Yes there you have it ladies and gentleman that is the news, the rumors are true, that hearsay you have (not) been listening to is not just hearsay! I am tying the knot, getting 'hitched', taking the plunge...

Yes friends and family alike, I am getting married to the wonderful, lovely, charming, exquisite, fine, amiable, (and did I say down-right gorgeous?) Corinne Beck.



At this point of the newsletter I thought I might turn over to the soon to be Mrs Corinne Sampson and let her pen (type?) the tale of how I summoned up the courage to ask her hand.

*On Easter Monday, Keiran woke me up at 6am, to go to a "church breakfast" at Yellow Rock. The first words I said to him that morning were, "I hate you!" He dragged me out of bed and we got in the car, me complaining the whole way. It was cold, I was tired and I didn't want to go to a stupid breakfast, I just wanted to spend the whole day with Keiran – at a far more reasonable hour! When we got to Yellow Rock, which was the place we went for our first date, no one was there, so I grumbled a bit more about how he "must have got the date wrong". As the sun was*

*rising over the rock and we were "waiting for people to arrive", I started to think that it would be the perfect time for Keiran to propose, but I knew he wouldn't because he told me he didn't have the ring yet. Just as I was about to mention this, Keiran knelt to the ground and pulled out a ring and told me he wanted to be with me forever, care for me and love me, and asked if I would marry him.*

*(Clearly, the answer was yes.)*

**I will interrupt at this point just to mention that she made me get down on my knee and ask her again 5 minutes later so she could shout out "Heck Yes!"**

*The Proposal continued...*

*After that, we went back to Keiran's place and ate breakfast. Keiran made me my favorite food: pancakes, hash browns and fruit salad. It made a change from where we went next on our first date (clue: I ate a Happy Meal).*

Well there you have it folks. That is the romantic fairytale of Keiran & Corinne. Currently we are both busy planning for our wedding (December 12<sup>th</sup>) and new life together down here in Melbourne next year.

As well as the excitement and newness of preparing to get married, a new semester at college brings with it a new and fresh range of subjects and ministries.

- 1 New Testament (continuing) – With an indepth study into Acts and Ephesians.
- 2 Old Testament - (continuing) - A study into the themes of the Old Testament from 2 Kings.
- 3 Isaiah – An in-depth study of the book of Isaiah.
- 4 Formational Issues for Intercultural Ministry - Practical implications involved in mission.
- 5 Discipleship - (continuing) - Studying the practical implications of following Jesus.
- 6 Church History - An in-depth study of church history from Jerusalem to now.
- 7 Theology - (continuing)

For all those who have been asking after the Sudanese club ministry, well, that came to a close at the end of last semester. I found that over the semester it was a valuable time of experiencing just a few of the challenges involved with cross cultural ministry to culture radically different from our own. Before we started out our leader had explained that the benefit of this type of ministry is that of patience and perseverance. He explained not to expect to be able to give to much in this ministry, instead that we ourselves would be the greatest benefactors in learning the difficulties of being in a culture that we do not truly understand and cannot understand their language. I believe it has been of great value in showing me that I am still susceptible to culture shock (being an MK). I feel like it has been preparing me for the feeling of isolation that can be experienced on the mission field and to experience first hand the difficulties faced by missionaries around the world with relating to vastly different cultures. I have also learnt much about the Arab culture of northern Africa.

It has not all been work and no play. The other weekend on the spur of the moment we decided to drive up to Marysville and Lake Mountain (about a 1hr 15min drive) to the cross country skiing area for the afternoon.

After having lunch in (what's left of) Marysville we proceeded up Lake Mountain where we spent a couple of hrs having snowball fights, building a snow man and trying to find snow that wasn't rock hard in order to make a snow angel. It was a fun filled afternoon of relaxing and 'chilling' with 6 other students from college.



For this semesters ministry experience I will be running the children's activities for an Interserve Missions Weekend Away in late August.

The biggest mission however is in mid September during our college's missions week. I am part of a team led by the Principal Mike Raiter who are traveling up to Townsville, North Queensland. There we are spending just over a week with a local church doing outreach programs and training. Some of the group will be preaching at the local services, others are running childrens activities, outreach programs to local woman, Pub ministries, Men's breakfasts, us guys will be spending a day at the Army Base with army chaplaincy and there will be many more activities that are yet to be planned. So I am really looking forward to heading up there!

Next week I will also be manning the Mission Aviation/Engineering stall at this years Ka-toomba Reachout Missions conference (14th –16th August), so I will be back in the Blue Mountains for that.

To finish this newsletter, something challenging that I was studying this past week in my Discipleship class was in one of my readings regarding the cost of discipleship. It brings to mind a poem I found once scouring the web that is believed to have been written by a Zimbabwean Pastor who was martyred for his faith.

*I'm a part of the fellowship of the unashamed. The die has been cast. I have stepped over the line. The decision has been made. I'm a disciple of His and I won't look back, let up, slow down, back away, or be still.*

*My past is redeemed. My present makes sense. My future is secure. I'm done and finished with low living, sight walking, small planning, smooth knees, colorless dreams, tamed visions, mundane talking, cheap living, and dwarfed goals. I no longer need preeminence, prosperity, position, promotions, plaudits, or popularity. I don't have to be right, or first, or tops, or recognized, or praised, or rewarded.*

*I live by faith, lean on His presence, walk by patience, lift by prayer, and labor by Holy Spirit power. My face is set. My gait is fast. My goal is heaven. My road may be narrow, my way rough, my companions few, but my guide is reliable and my mission is clear.*

*I will not be bought, compromised, detoured, lured away, turned back, deluded or delayed. I will not flinch in the face of sacrifice or hesitate in the presence of the adversary. I will not negotiate at the table of the enemy, ponder at the pool of popularity, or meander in the maze of mediocrity. I won't give up, shut up, or let up until I have stayed up, stored up, prayed up, paid up, and preached up for the cause of Christ.*

*I am a disciple of Jesus. I must give until I drop, preach until all know, and work until He comes. And when He does come for His own, He'll have no problems recognizing me.*

*My colors will be clear!*

Till next time

**Keiran**

### **Prayer points:**

- Many assignments due over the next few months – pray that I plan ahead and set aside the time to delve into them.
- Prayer for safe travel as I drive to Sydney next week for the ReachOut Missions Conference.
- Prayer for Corinne as she completes this Semester of Uni and plans to move here to Melbourne, and the changes that lie ahead.
- Pray for Corinne and myself as we plan our wedding and as we prepare for marriage.

