



The Beacon

The Newsletter of LttN Ministries Inc.

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Dr Gavin & Glenda Williams

After being at home in Australia for the past 6 months, Gavin and Glenda are at last beginning to plan for their next field visit early in 2015. Preparations are underway.



On the Road Again

After months of waiting, we have just received the welcome news that Gavin and Glenda are free to travel internationally once again at the start of 2015.

Since Gavin's experience with *Deep Vein Thrombosis* (DVT) and *Pulmonary Embolism* (PE) in India in June, the medical people have been seeking to find the reason why this condition manifested itself at this time in his life. The cardiologist was very frank in telling us that the most likely cause was cancer.

Despite months of medical consultations, scans and tests, there has been no indication of any such problem. Doctors are now attributing the DVT and PE to accumulated tiredness rising from the heavy work load of recent months, the severe cough and cold Gavin had at the time of departure for India and the extremely cramped conditions on the flight from Singapore to India.

Despite this, Gavin will remain on anticoagulation medication probably for the rest of his life. That is a small price to pay in view of the alternatives.

The next challenge is to convince the Travel Insurance people that he is an acceptable risk and for them to issue the necessary cover. Hopefully letters from the medical specialists will help with that process.



As plans stand at present, Gavin and Glenda will return to Uganda in February 2015 in time for the next round of SALT Schools. There may be a brief visit to another country as part of this trip. These matters are still being resolved at the time of writing.

But the past months have not been wasted. Apart from taking time to learn the lessons from this whole experience, both Gavin and Glenda have actively pursued their ministry. We have travelled extensively in Australia and ministered to churches and individuals. There has also been time for a few weeks of holiday.

One of the new areas of exploration is the possibility of gaining formal accreditation for the schools being conducted here in Australia. Already we have had several meetings with people from a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) as we seek to understand the complex requirements for this outcome.

God wastes nothing. Sometimes He is working in us to perfect His purposes and bring us to deeper levels of maturity. Sometimes He is operating through us to accomplish things in the wider work of His Kingdom. The key is learning to walk with God at His pace and stay tuned to His purposes and plans. The journey continues...

Christmas Greetings

On behalf of all at LttN Ministries, we would like to wish all our friends and supporters a very happy Christmas and New Year season.

As believers, the celebration of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ is at the forefront of our thinking. The joy of being with family and friends adds to the enjoyment of the season.

We want to express our sincere appreciation to all for your love, support and prayers through this past year. Thank you for standing with us so faithfully.



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Dear Friends,

The past few months have not been the easiest in my life. That may well be the understatement of the year. I have had to deal with the medical explorations and possibilities of what they may well find. I have had to face aspects of my own mortality. I have had to confront the fact that I may no longer be able to work with the intensity I may once have enjoyed.

You will not be surprised to learn that there have been both emotional and spiritual dimensions to these recent months. At one point I had to admit to myself and Glenda that I was confronting a measure of depression. That was by no means an easy thing admit to myself or the one I love.

Through it all the Lord has ministered graciously to me and sent just the right people at just the right time with just the right words of encouragement to help me through. It has been an amazing journey.

Early in November, Glenda and I set out for three weeks complete break from the regular aspects of ministry. We spent an enjoyable week at Merimbula on the far south coast of New South Wales. Sadly there were very few fish around.

Then we headed out to the Riverina District to be part of the annual wheat harvest. Gavin spent time driving tractors and trucks while Glenda enjoyed being a 'farmer's wife' for a short time.

While the physical labour was demanding at times, it was great to give my ever active mind a complete break from the stuff of ministry. We are deeply appreciative to our farmer friends for being willing to allow these 'city slickers' to invade their world for a time. It was wonderful.

Now we are back at Budgewoi. As Christmas approaches we are looking forward to time with our family as well as some further opportunities to enjoy a more restful season. The prospect of returning to Africa in February fills us with great excitement.

*Thanks for sharing this journey with us.
Dr Gavin*

Pastor Nicola writes from Uganda

It was really sad for us to hear that Dr. Gavin and Glenda would be unable to make their usual trip to Uganda in October this year. Their great Kingdom work in the SALT Schools is equipping many pastors and leaders.

For some time they have been mentoring and empowering a team of Graduates to assume leadership responsibility for the schools. No one imagined that this training would be put to the test so soon.

The principles, ethos and values of SALT School have been so deeply ingrained into our lives over the past few years that it was easy to stay in the flow as if Gavin and Glenda were with us. Gavin's work of upgrading the teaching notes placed great tools in our hands to maintain the standards of the school.

The first week 60 students returned for their forth semester. This group is highly motivated and a pleasure to teach. They studied *Christian Leadership, The Life and Times of Jesus, Spiritual Maturity and Mentoring Potential Leaders*.

The second week 30 students returned for their final semester and graduation.

From day one there was a buzz of excitement in the air. The week included lectures, assessments, celebrations & all the preparations for the Friday graduation.

Graduating from SALT is no small thing. All students are required to meet a set of high standards in academic study, personal spiritual development and ministry skills. All students completed their *Diploma in Christian Leadership* — 17 with First Class Honours.

Many SALT students have previously been denied the opportunity to complete their education. Many have only primary level education. So you can imagine how excited they are to become a Diploma holder. It does amazing things for their sense of self worth and ministry standing in their communities.

On graduation

day all students bring two guests to the ceremony and celebration

lunch. On Friday morning the church was full with family and friends eagerly awaiting to see their candidate process into the church complete with graduation gown and cap.

This year's guest of honour was the Regional Overseer for the Pentecostal Churches of Uganda. He gave an inspiring speech encouraging all to press into all the promises and plans of God. He was impressed by the quality of curriculum and the high levels of integrity of the SALT programme.

For almost ten years we have had the honour and privilege of walking in partnership with Dr. Gavin and Glenda to see God's Kingdom established in Uganda.

God gave Silas and I a vision to see 'life giving' churches established in every town and village throughout Western

Uganda. To date we have 130 churches under our covering. Many pastors and leaders give their best to the work of God. But the majority have never had any training.

Light to the Nations Ministries had the vision to establish a training school to fill this need. With almost 300 SALT School graduates serving in the churches, we have seen God bringing tremendous growth and transformation in individual lives, churches and communities.

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to Dr. Gavin and Glenda and all the partners of *Light to the Nations Ministries*. Be assured that every seed sown and every sacrifice made is producing a wonderful harvest in the Kingdom of God here in Uganda! From the bottom of our hearts – THANK YOU!



Lessons from the Harvest

For some years it has been on our hearts to join friends and supporters in West Wyalong during their harvest season. This is a grain producing region in the middle of Australia's Riverina District.

As we are usually in Africa at this time, this is the first time it has been possible.

Before we went, God showed Gavin that he had spiritual lessons to learn from this very practical involvement. The parallels between the physical harvest and the spiritual harvest are significant.

Gavin's major role was to drive the chaser bin, a tractor drawn bin into which the harvester downloads the threshed grain. The challenge is to position the chaser bin in just the right place at just the right speed so that the harvester can transfer the grain while continuing to harvest the crop.

Once full, the contents of the chaser bin are transferred to the mother bin ready to be loaded into trucks for transfer to the market silos.

The first lesson that comes to mind is **Teamwork**. Each member of the team has an assigned role and the smooth function of the harvest depends on each one fulfilling their task.



So it is in the spiritual harvest. No one person or group has a monopoly on the methodology or material that God can use to harvest the souls of men and women. Each one brings our gifts and resources to the Lord and allow Him to place us in His part of the harvest field in His way and in His time. Our key is availability.

A second reality in the harvest is facing **Set Backs**. At times things go wrong. Complex pieces of machinery malfunction. Human error causes unexpected holdups. Just when everything seems to be progressing well, a set back brings the harvest to a halt.

So in the spiritual harvest. Despite hours of prayer and planning, things do go wrong. Workers fail to fulfil their role. Vital equipment malfunctions. But nothing takes God by surprise. And from every setback He teaches us vital lessons for the onward journey and strengthens us.

Another lesson is that **Yields Vary**. Even from field to field, the yield of grain can vary significantly.

So in the spiritual harvest. Sometimes the response is overwhelming. Sometimes it is so small that we are discouraged. But when we remember that every soul is precious to God, we press on until the harvest is complete.

There are many more lessons to be learned from any and every journey in life.

Foundations School of Ministry

For some years pastors in Australia have been asking us to make the SALT School materials available to their people here in Australia. Following the very successful *Grace Summer Bible School* we conducted for our home church last December and January we are preparing to launch what will be known as *Foundations School of Ministry (FSM)*.

The aim of FSM is: *To release into the Church, men and women who have been thoroughly disciplined and established in the Word of God and who will mature into godly leaders upon whom their pastors can depend as faithful workers in the local church and the wider kingdom of God.*

In addition we are working with a Registered Training Organisation to see if it is possible to gain recognition for Certificate III and IV under the Australian Government's Vocational Education & Training regime. This opens many exciting doors.

One particularly encouraging feature of these developments is that the RTO with whom we are

working are seriously considering using some of our teaching materials as the foundation for some of their own training packages.

Although it is still early days, two churches in NSW are looking at starting 'in church' equipping schools based on our model and materials early in 2015. We hope that these two ventures will become a pilot scheme upon which other churches might base similar equipping schools in the future.

If these current ventures come to fruition, LtN will be able to make available a comprehensive equipping model for churches in Australia and other more westernised countries.

We have already begun making changes to some of our materials so that they are more suited to the needs of people here in Australia. Some new subjects will need to be developed. We anticipate giving considerable time to this and other projects during the coming year.

Please pray with us in these ventures.

What's Coming Up

From mid January we will commence the 2015 ministry schedule.

Gavin will attend a course in Canberra in mid January as part of the requirements for VET accreditation for our training packages.

In early February we will head to Africa with possible appointments in South Africa, Uganda and

Zambia. Details are still being finalised at the time of publication.

Helping churches prepare for the start of Foundations School of Ministry will also be important.

Arranging our deputation schedule for 2015 is also part of this season. We seek to visit supporters and churches to tell what God is doing.

The Bottom Line

At the end of October, Mrs Nga Kwan took over as the LttN Ministries Inc Treasurer. Nga and her husband Ricky are long time supporters of the ministry and it is great to have their expertise on the team.

December and January are challenging times for any who depend on the generosity of friends and supporters. During this period we will need to pay for airfares as we prepare to head out to Africa in February. Regular expenses continue.

We express our deep appreciation to all who give sacrificially to make this ministry possible. You are sowing precious seed.

Family News

As another year draws to a close, life continues for the Williams family. We have all come through the year in good shape. Like all families, we have faced our share of challenges. But God is faithful.

Libby has commenced her residency in Emergency Medicine at Coffs Harbour Hospital. **Andrew** has settled into his new role as an Airport Rescue and Fire firefighter and enjoys his job. **Belinda's** role in Human Resources has been made permanent after several years on short term contracts. **Vivienne** waits with anticipation to hear if her role as a teacher's aid will be funded for next year. Other members of the family continue in their regular roles.

For two of our grandsons, **Eli** and **Jacob** the prospect of starting school next year is cause for great excitement. School uniforms have been purchased and introductory



Eli



Jacob

days at their respective schools have been enjoyed. They can hardly wait for this new season in their lives. We wait with anticipation to see how each one will develop.

This Christmas season will see the family gather at Budgewoi for our celebration. Working things around 3 shift workers is somewhat of a challenge but they have managed to get some common days off prior to Christmas Day so that we can be together. Our little house will be buzzing with 8 adults and five grandchildren. But it is always a wonderful time.

Thanks for your prayers for our family.

For Prayer and Praise

Praise God for Gavin's recovery from the DVT events earlier this year. He is eager to get back into the field work.

Praise God for the faithfulness of God's people in Uganda as they have continued with the SALT Schools in our absence.

Praise God His continued faithfulness in providing for this ministry.

Please pray with us as we plan the ministry program for 2015. Pray that God will guide us to the things that are on His heart.

Please pray for our health and well being as we face long flights on our upcoming travels. We must confess to a certain nervousness after the events of earlier this year.

Please pray for our time in Uganda in February and March as we work alongside our colleagues to further strengthen their leadership of our ministry in that land.

Please pray for the continuing developments around our ministry here in Australia and for those churches who are preparing to implement our training packages.

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Bank: Baptist Financial Services Ltd
BSB: 704 922
Account Name: LttN Ministries Inc -
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Account Number: 100009139
Reference: [Your Name]

Our Mission:

To Model, Teach and Mentor life and ministry founded in intimacy with God and a dynamic personal spiritual journey