



# THE MISSION

Everyman's Ministry to the 8th/9th Battalion  
the Royal Australian Regiment

**Ben and Claudia Ridley**



26/18 Magellan rd, Springwood, QLD 4127

**0421 913 259**

benjamin.ridley@hotmail.com

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**0450 139 554**

claudia.ridley@hotmail.com

[www.everymans.org.au](http://www.everymans.org.au)

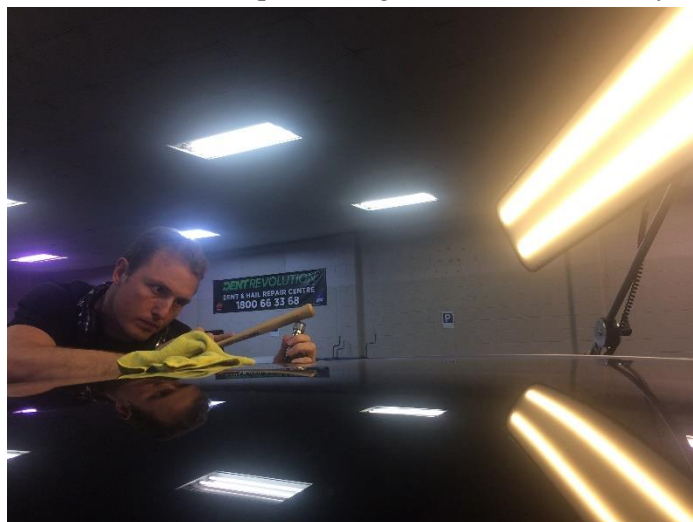
Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! Hasn't 2017 flown by so quickly! We are nearly at the end of the financial year I must firstly apologise for this being the first newsletter update for the year. Much has happened in the last 6 months and I will fill you in with all the details in this update. Many exciting things have taken place in our lives and the Lord has opened many new doors and we look forward to His leading in these new areas. I trust that you are well. Claudia and I do pray for all of our sponsors and prayer partners regularly.

## JOINING THE REVOLUTION

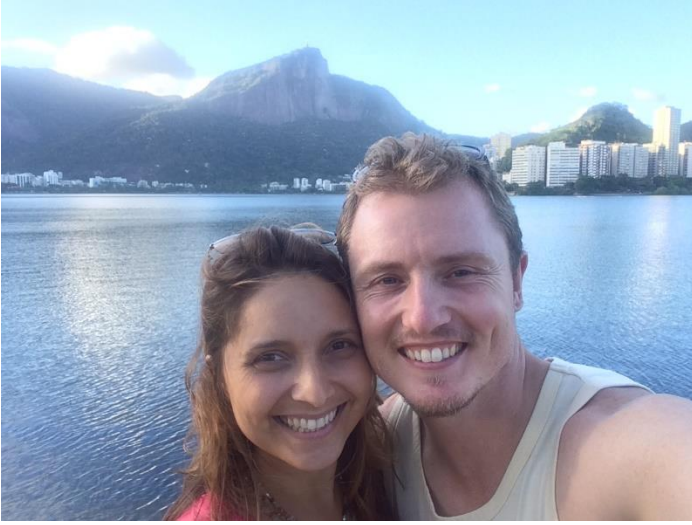
As I mentioned in the last newsletter of last year an opportunity came last year to start learning a trade with the Family business in Adelaide. The opportunity arose when a hail storm hit Adelaide which meant that the Family business which repairs dents out of cars went into overdrive. The business is called 'Dent Revolution'. My Dad originally owned the Dent removal business which he bought back in the mid-nineties and over time my two older brothers joined him and are now running the business. I actually worked for my Dad for a while but because I was young and adventurous at the time I wanted to join the regular Army (I was in the Reserves at the time) and so I left that job and joined the Army and was posted to Brisbane. Now after having left the Army 2.5 years ago I am back learning the fine art of Paintless Dent Repair or PDR for short. The plan is that once I have completed my training I will start my own business in Brisbane under the Dent Revolution name but I will be my own boss (except the Lord is my true boss!) and I will have the business on a part-time basis with my main focus still being on the Everyman's work, much like Paul who was a 'Tent Maker' and he would do this as a way of keeping the money ticking over. I think that if the Lord provides enough funding for someone to be full-time in their ministry (which is the case for some) then praise God but if not praise God too! I see the scriptural thing to do is to have a way of generating income and to not be a burden to anyone. I see the Lord's hand in this all because whilst I really appreciate and thank God for the generous donations from supporters it just isn't enough to cover all expenses. I think that 'living by faith' is trusting the Lord in all things and also recognising when He opens a door for opportunities such as this one.

### Acts 18:1-4

After these things he left Athens and went to Corinth. And he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, having recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. He came to them, and because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them and they were working, for by trade they were tent-makers. And he was reasoning in the synagogue every Sabbath and trying to persuade Jews and Greeks.



# Returning to RIO DE JANEIRO



Claudia and I took a 5 week trip over to Brazil earlier this year and it was a wonderful time seeing her family which neither of us had seen for 3 years. We found some very reasonably priced tickets and we knew that the opportunity was too good to turn down. We were planning to go back sooner but my deployment last year to Dubai made it not possible. The fact that it is so far away and expensive means that we have to make the most of being there and hence why we stayed for the length of time that we did. The Lord blessed our time and we were able to witness to many friends and family during that time as well as have some times of rest. Many great conversations were had with our immediate family in which none know the Lord and in the past conversations of a spiritual nature were very difficult, however, this time things seemed to flow more naturally

and Claudia's parents even made it to church for a visit. Her father accepted a New Testament which is incredible in itself (let's pray that he reads it!). This time we took a trip to Sao Paulo city as well as a few smaller towns around the place. We experienced some historical towns that have been around since the Portuguese colonised Brazil hundreds of years ago. We went swimming in some water falls in a national park with Andre – my brother in law. We also spent time with Rafael and Amanda, they are both Christians with two children, Amanda was helpful to Claudia when she first was convicted by the Lord after I had shared the gospel with her and she wanted to know more about Christianity. Amanda shared many things about a relationship with God and a variety of different subjects. On our trip to Sao Paulo we visited a church that I had heard about that had been built using the exact measurements of Solomon's Temple, however, it was made four times bigger! It was interesting to go and see but we both were a bit disturbed by the amount of money that must have been poured into this building (they did not actually say how much it cost to make). We wandered around and took a tour through the grounds of the complex in which they also had a replica and



full size tent of meeting that the Israelites used for around 400 years before the Temple was built.





# BJORN AGAIN

It is always a great joy to see someone come into God's kingdom and over the last 6 months or so I have been in contact with a guy whose name is Bjorn who used to work with me in 8/9 RAR some years ago. I didn't really know Bjorn that well when we were at the Battalion and to be honest neither of us really thought much of each other, this is because neither of us were walking with the Lord at the time. At the end of last year Bjorn got in touch with me and began to talk about things to do with the Lord. I was very surprised to receive a call from him but I knew straight away that he was going through difficult times, I won't share too much of the details but Bjorn went through a mental break down and was really brought to his knees in both a spiritual and mental sense. We know that this is the time when the Lord often can be found- once we have lost everything. Needless to say Bjorn and I began to catch up and I could see that he was in



need of the Lord and I was glad that he reached out to me so that we could connect and I could point him to Jesus. Bjorn and I spent months being in touch and his hunger and desire for the Lord was genuine and very strong. He decided that he wanted to get serious with God and that he wanted to be baptised, so, after coming and meeting with other brothers and sisters from the church we set a date with a total of four people to be baptised one Sunday after church. The fellowship met at the beach and we set up for a BBQ/Picnic. One by one all the new believers were baptised including Bjorn. It was a beautiful day and we thought that was it but the Lord put it

into the heart of another man – James to spontaneously be baptised too! We had had the honour of being able to share the gospel over dinner a couple of weeks before hand and James had been convicted and began to read the Bible along with his children. After hearing and reading he began to believe in the good news and he felt ready to follow Jesus too, so praise the Lord five new believers were added to the kingdom of God! But the Lord has not stopped with that – Bjorn brought a friend with him who was also in 8/9 RAR and he also has been through some rough times. After the Lord had moved in his life and seeing the changes that the Lord had done in Bjorn, Ryan also decided to surrender his life and follow Jesus so we had another baptism service in a couple of weeks after, that included another brother - Nick as well, isn't that amazing! I really see that the Lord is moving amongst the Defence and Veterans community, Jesus is the answer to any problem that anyone has even those who have been effected by the harsh realities of war!





# ANZAC DAY 2017



This year I had several opportunities to be a part of Anzac Day services. I was asked to hold services by 'Bethany Christian Care' which is the Aged Care company where Claudia works, they have three sites in total and I was able to visit them all. I was also asked by an old teacher of mine if I was available to come to my old high school and share about my experiences in the Army to which I gladly obliged as I was coming down to Adelaide for the training anyway. I had previously done an Anzac day service 2 years ago at the school. On Anzac Day itself I was in Brisbane and I did the dawn service taking my brew truck to Redlands in support of the RSL there. Afterwards I went to the city to support the march and met up with other Everyman and Sallyman Reps. The picture on the left is Ken Delamore who is a good brother in the Lord, he and his wife Jo serve in the Salvation Army and we often catch up and have fellowship together at the barracks. Anzac day is always a good day and this year was no different. I had a few good conversations about the Lord with some people from the public and being able to share about my experiences in the Army with my old school was a real pleasure and I always like

to add in a gospel message relating the sacrifice of those who laid down their lives for the country with the one who made the ultimate sacrifice for the souls of the entire world, our Lord Jesus Christ.



## **ON THE HOME FRONT**

When we haven't been out working with Everyman's, Dent Revolution or Bethany Aged Care Claudia and I have had the opportunity to see and catch up with many friends both in Brisbane and Adelaide. At the beginning of the year we had the privilege of meeting the long-time supporters and members of the Everyman's family Bruce and Josie Townsend. They live in Adelaide and Bruce has contacted me in the past and we were finally able to meet in person. Bruce and Josie told us many of their stories and we were glad to hear some of the history of the ministry. Another highlight of the year was celebrating Claudia's 30<sup>th</sup> birthday, we aren't ones for making a big deal of things but we had a lovely time on her birthday together and also on the following Sunday with friends from the fellowship. I brought a lovely cake from the local bakery (pictured on the last page) and we enjoyed that as a fellowship after the church meeting. Whilst in Adelaide we also had the opportunity to take our niece - Violet to the zoo for her belated birthday present. Instead of sending a present we had given her a certificate in which she could have a special day with us the next time Claudia and I were visiting town. She decided to go to the zoo as she had never been before. We saw all the usual animals and they also has a special display with life size replicas of some dinosaurs. We were amazed particularly at the massive T-Rex!



### *Claudia's Corner*

Dear brothers and sisters in the Lord, we are so thankful for your prayers and we also thank God for every support from you. Today I read this note that we have on our fridge and says: "Thine, O LORD, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in heaven and in the earth is Thine; Thine is the kingdom, O Lord, and Thou art exalted as head above all. – I Chronicles 29:11" and then immediately this thought came to me "We should never be discouraged, take it to the Lord in prayer" and I thanked our Lord for His truth. As I was writing this note I thought about two verses, God bless you all, with much love:

"you also helping together in prayers for us, that thanks may be given by many persons on our behalf for the gift granted to us through many."

- 2 Corinthians 1:11 -

"For all things are for your sakes, that grace, having spread through the many, may cause thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God"

- 2 Corinthians 4:15 -





The second half of this year is already shaping up to be a big 6 months. Defence is have their yearly major exercises coming up which I am intending to be with boots on the ground for. We also have the unveiling of our newest brew truck which I will be using to service 8/9 RAR with. The unveiling of the truck will be an event in Canberra with Everyman's patron – The Governor General Peter Cosgrove doing the unveiling in a ceremony on the Government House lawns in August. Stay tuned because it should be quite an event. The newest truck is being put together and made possible by a large donation by the Edinburgh Tattoo Association who gave it after our Everyman's Reps served all of the participants of the Tattoo for 2 weeks during the rehearsals when they recently brought the show to Melbourne. I also just heard that Coopers have also donated \$15,000 dollars which will go towards the new truck as well, Praise God!

I apologise once again for not being in touch with you all as much recently but we do often pray for you all and we sure do appreciate all of your prayers. The times that we are living in are pretty crazy times and the world is getting darker every day but this is the time when we as Christians must be living out our faith because the world needs to see the light that shines through us, that is the light of Christ!

*"Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven. Matthew 5:16"*



Much love,

Ben and Claudia



**EVERYMAN'S WELFARE SERVICE**  
**Serving the Australian Defence Force**