



THE MISSION

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

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Welcome to my newsletter update coming to you about midway through 2018. It has been an interesting and a bit challenging with the Everyman's ministry this year. 2018 has brought some promising signs and some challenges too. I have some very exciting news that you will read about in an article below. One important thing to happen has been 8/9 RAR's new RSM (Regimental Sergeant Major). The RSM is the most senior soldier in the Battalion and has a big pull around the place. My first encounter with him was very promising and once he found out that I was an ex-soldier of the Battalion he was very welcoming of me in a way that I have never been received by a senior member before. I thank God for that because having someone like him on my side who supports what we do is a huge blessing. It can be very difficult when senior members are apathetic to us, or even worse, against us. The challenging factor this year is the fact that 8/9 are going to be the 'online' Battalion which means that most of their exercises this year are out at sea on the Navy ships, this is all a part of them being ready to deploy at a moment's notice to any conflict that may arise around the globe. This also means that I am unable to follow the Battalion during their time at sea and I will most likely be doing more work with other units around the brigade whilst still trying to maintain a presence with 8/9.

Lest We Forget

Anzac Day is always the biggest day of the year for us at Everyman's and this year I had an unexpected opportunity come about to be a part of a dawn service at a bowls club in the town of Woongoolba. The previous day I had been at an Anzac Day service at one the Bethany Christian Care site's (where Claudia works) when I was approached by a man who informed me that they had no one to speak at their local service in the morning as



the Army had initially told them that they would supply a speaker but then at the last minute said they could no longer supply anyone. I told the gentleman that I would see if I could rearrange my morning and fill the void for a speaker. In the end I was able to go and give the main address at the service and as I always try to do I spoke about the sacrifice that the Anzac's and those who have fought for the freedom of our country and linked that to the ultimate sacrifice that Christ himself made on the cross that we might have freedom from sin and death. After the service and breakfast with the locals I had a few of them come and look at the truck before heading into the city in preparation for the march.



I had my house mate Pancho, who is a photographer, with me the whole day and is responsible for taking the great photos. Pancho is from Bulgaria and it was his first Anzac Day dawn service. After arriving in the city, I met up with my colleague in Everyman's and fellow servant of Christ Richard Gibson and we found our way to the starting point for the Army and Air Force troops that were



forming up to begin the march through the city streets. This year was much better than last year when we were turned away since no one had organised security passes, but, this year that was all changed and we were able to serve both current serving and veterans alike. The day was a success and many cups of coffee and water were given out. I got to see my 8/9 boys and watch them march passed. The Battalion always sticks out in every march they are in because of the Pipes and Drums (pictured), they blare out the Battalions song called 'Black Bear'. The song is unique in that several times throughout the song entire Battalion simultaneously shouts out 'Oi!'. This means that whenever 8/9 is



coming down the road everyone knows it! Added to that is the fact that in the city the noise echo's off the building and it is a formidable sound and always fun for me to join in with the Battalion. I hope that your Anzac Day was one of remembrance of how good we have it here in Australia but let us not take it for granted as even though it may be good now at the end of the day it is God who keeps a nation safe and if our society continues the way that it is going it may not have the protection the God has given us for all these years now. I did make a video of Anzac Day this year and I posted it on the Everyman's Facebook page if you would like to view the video you can see it here:



<https://www.facebook.com/Everymans.Welfare.Service/videos/1946556892062052/>

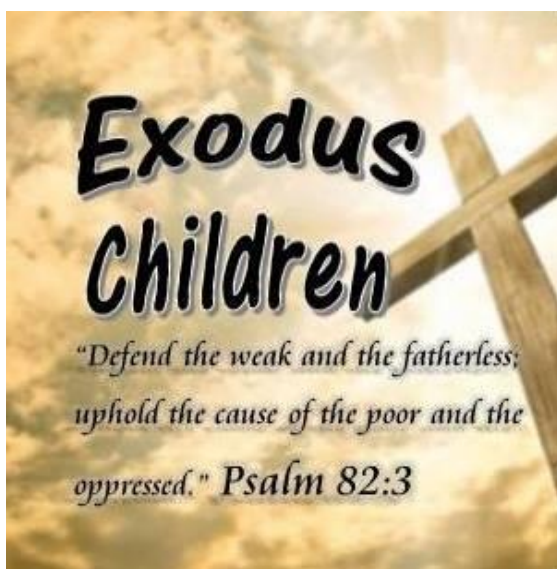
A LEAGUE OF THEIR OWN



Everyman's Veteran's League

It is with great excitement that I write this to you, a new chapter seems to be coming into fruition in what may be the biggest change for some time to Everyman's. As I have mentioned previously about my desire to reach out the the Veteran community more and already there has been some great things happening, however, now it seems that things are shifting up a gear. I had the idea to create a new branch of Everyman's Welfare Service which would be a group for Veterans. The name that has

come to mind for the group is Everyman's Veterans League or 'EveryVet's for short. The league would exist with the aim of: 1. Connecting Christian Veterans together to have fellowship 2. To bring unsaved Veterans into the group with the intent to disciple them in the ways of the Lord 3. To help Veterans in a practical and spiritual sense 4. To stir one another up to love and good works (Hebrews 10:24). What will set this league apart from other Veteran organisations will be that it is biblically based and Christ centred as opposed to psychologically based and 'New Age' centred. It is also point number 4. that will really differential the group from other Veterans groups that currently exist, whilst most organisations are focused on the members going and doing fun activities this will focus more on giving a purpose to the lives of the veterans, this will be achieved by the 'love and good works' which will be undertaking building projects in the community and also over seas. I have had a meeting with a core group of Christian Veterans who are willing to get on board with the idea and already some things have begun to take form. One of the guys Petri, who is a builder, and his wife Katja, have been single handedly supporting two orphanages in extremely poor conditions in Uganda. It will be an aim of the league to raise money and send over veterans to help build basic infrastructure and also teach the local men to have basic building skills for future projects. There is also a church to be built and work to be done on the local hospital. Petri's sister: Sari also recently bought some land and she is going to allow us to use the land for camps which we are aiming to conduct for Veterans and also for youth. The camps will be a 'Boot Camp' style activities to challenge them. This is an exciting new chapter in my Everyman's service and I would ask that you keep this in your prayers as this needs to be completely led by the Holy Spirit. This has the potential to be a massive undertaking and I can see much fruit coming from it. Please contact me if you would like to be involved with this project as we I am looking for people with a variety of different skills to be able to contribute.





ON THE HOME FRONT



I have had the privilege of working on a major motion picture film! I was told that there was a new film being made about the Battle of Long Tan which took place in the Vietnam war. The Battle was involving Delta Company 6 RAR and it saw a company of about 100 men take on approximately 2000 Vietcong. Many lives were lost in the Battle and it is probably one of the most, if not the most, famous battles that Australia was involved with in Vietnam. A friend of mine told me they were looking for veterans to play as extras in the film, and I saw it as an opportunity to meet other veterans and also be a part of a once in a life time opportunity. Luckily for me the work with 8/9 was at a minimal and my work fixing dents was also quiet. I cannot release any photos of me in the film until the film is released next year sometime. I think it will be a well-made film and I hope it will give the Australian public a taste of what the battle was like.

Everyman's is having it's annual conference in late September and Claudia and I are planning a trip to Melbourne afterwards. We would love to catch up with as many of you as we can whilst we are down there. The dates we will be down there are 28th September until the 8th October. Please email me if you are in Melbourne so we can arrange a visit.

Claudia's Corner

Dear brethren and beloved of the Lord, what a honor it's to serve our gracious and holy King. As He continues to call us to new missions we just hope we will not fail His call, but by faith to have our ears open to His leading whatever it may be. I find myself sometimes afraid of the amount of responsibility He gives to us and it reminds me of Moses when he asked, "who am I?" (Exodus 3:12). However, on the other hand I fear that I will not trust in the One Who calls me and forget how great He is and make Him angry (Exodus 4:14). May we not forget the gracious words spoken by our Father in heaven and Saviour "Now then go, and I, even I will be with your mouth, and teach you what you should say" (Exodus 4:12) and "Go therefore... I will be with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:19-20), wouldn't that be enough I don't know what else can we ask for.

Once again thank you for you love and support. We have such busy schedules these days, but we do want to take the time and say thank you for every prayer that is made for us. We will continue to pour out our lives as a drink offering before the Lord until He comes or calls. May the Lord bless you and keep you in His love.

Much love,

Ben and Claudia



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