

October — November 2017

## THE NSW INTERCESSOR

### A Mysterious Gift

I looked at the gift. It looked SO different from the others under the tree. It was so carefully wrapped and even had a ribbon tied in a bow. In rich red paper it was beautiful! THIS gift was larger than the others too. Something was missing... It didn't have a name on it. I couldn't ask whose it was; it seemed too special. I just looked in wonder. Just having it under the tree added something special to Christmas.

That Christmas, along with other holidays, was not special. In our home the "special" had been lost in holiday events. This Christmas in particular was framed in angry discussions of job loss and financial stress. I overheard a lot. The GIFT was so mysterious; it was a blaze of red colour in my black and white world. It captured my mind.

I could hardly contain myself as the time came to open presents! I am the youngest of four. Presents were handed out in order, oldest to youngest. Each time another gift was handed out the anticipation built. It did not go to my sister. . .My oldest brother did not get it. . .My middle brother was given the box next to it. . .Next, my mom's hand reached for THE gift . . .

... my world went into slow motion when she handed THE mysterious, beautifully wrapped gift to me!

For just a moment I didn't move. Maybe it was a mistake... then I saw the hidden tag; it said, "To Mike from Santa." It

# Prayer Points

October—November 2017

## Prayer Points for October

1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Neil is preparing for the fourth term of ministry both in the schools and in his local area. Pray for continued contact with local churches and the possibilities of ministry opportunities as a result.

3<sup>rd</sup> Praise God for the faithfulness of our supporters who continue to pray and give generously towards the work. Many of them are now old and need our prayers for their own health and well - being.

4<sup>th</sup> Pray for the Victorian staff today, including Merv Jenson, Lyall Morris and Alison Gaskell.

6<sup>th</sup> Pray that God will raise up additional evangelists to minister both in NSW and Queensland so that the work in these states will grow and be fruitful.

7<sup>th</sup> Scripture teaching at Wangi Wangi Public School at 12:15pm.

8<sup>th</sup> Neil will be preaching at Campsie Congregational Church this morning at 9.00am. Pray for the spiritual growth of the young congregation.

9<sup>th</sup> Scripture teaching at Wangi Wangi Public School this afternoon.

10<sup>th</sup> Pray for the continued promotion of the work both in Sydney and the Central Coast.

11<sup>th</sup> Scripture teaching at Wyee Public School today 12<sup>th</sup> Neil will be conducting 2 Scripture groups this morning at Dora Creek Public School. In the afternoon he will be speaking to the after school club at the same school.

13<sup>th</sup> Scripture teaching at Avondale Primary School (12.00) and Morisset Primary School today at 1.15pm.

15<sup>th</sup> Neil will be preaching at Campsie FCF today. Continue to pray for this church as they seek to make an impact on their local community.

16<sup>th</sup> Scripture teaching at Wangi Wangi Public School.

18<sup>th</sup> Scripture teaching at Wyee Public School.

19<sup>th</sup> Scripture teaching at Dora Creek Public School and an afterschool club in the afternoon. Specifically pray for some of the older boys who are attending the club, that they will be able to listen to the Christian teaching and change their demanding behaviour.

20<sup>th</sup> Scripture teaching at Avondale and Morisset Primary

School today.

20<sup>th</sup> Scripture teaching at Avondale and Morisset Public Schools this afternoon.

22<sup>nd</sup> Pray for the staff in Western Australia including Rob Adams and Geoff Westlake. Geoff would value our prayers as he prepares to write and implement a training course for young people to mature them in their faith.

23<sup>rd</sup> Scripture teaching at Wangi Wangi Public School.

25<sup>rd</sup> Scripture teaching at Wyee Public School.

26<sup>th</sup> Scripture teaching at Dora Creek Public school and an afternoon club at the school.

27<sup>th</sup> Scripture teaching at Avondale and Morisset Public Schools this afternoon.

30<sup>th</sup> Scripture teaching at Wangi Wangi Public School.

## Prayer Points for November

1<sup>st</sup> Scripture teaching at Wyee this afternoon.

2<sup>nd</sup> Scripture teaching at Dora Creek Public School and an afternoon club at the same school.

3<sup>rd</sup> Scripture teaching at Avondale and Morisset Public Schools today.

5<sup>th</sup> Neil will be preaching at Campsie Congregational Church this morning. Pray for his young congregation that God will continue to bless them as they seek to live for Him.

6<sup>th</sup> Scripture teaching at Wangi Wangi Public School.

9<sup>th</sup> Scripture teaching at Dora Creek Public School this morning and Kids Club at the school in the afternoon.

10<sup>th</sup> Scripture teaching at Avondale and Morisset Public Schools today.

9<sup>th</sup> Pray for Neil as he continues to network with other Christian organizations and promotes the work of OACM throughout the state. He is a member of the NSW Children's Network and can provide training in all aspects of children's ministry throughout the state.

10<sup>th</sup> Pray for young people who will catch the vision of our ministry and stand alongside Neil and support the work both in prayer and giving.

11<sup>th</sup> Scripture teaching at Wangi Wangi Public School.

12<sup>th</sup> Praise God for the spread of the work of OAC into many countries around the world. Pray for Rob George and his wife who is the current International President as he travels to many countries around the world

encouraging those in this exciting ministry.

13<sup>th</sup> Scripture teaching at Wangi Wangi Primary.

14<sup>th</sup> Continue to pray for Josh Williamson and family as they continue to establish the ministry in Queensland. Pray also for Wes as he continues to minister in the state as a voluntary worker.

16<sup>th</sup> Scripture teaching at Dora Creek Public School this morning and speaking at a Kids Club program in the afternoon.

17<sup>th</sup> Scripture teaching at Avondale and Morisset Public Schools today.

18<sup>th</sup> Open Air ministry in Gosford and the Entrance.

19<sup>th</sup> Pray for Steve Stokes and Rob George, our staff in South Australia. Pray for Rob George in his role as International and National Director of OAC.

20<sup>th</sup> Scripture teaching in Wangi Wangi Public School.

22<sup>nd</sup> Neil will be attending the scripture management meeting tonight and is teaching scripture at Wyee.

23<sup>rd</sup> Scripture teaching at Dora Creek Public School this morning and the kids club in the afternoon.

23<sup>rd</sup> Scripture teaching to 3 classes at Dora Creek Public School this morning.

24<sup>th</sup> Scripture teaching at Avondale and Morisset Public Schools today.

26<sup>th</sup> Neil is preaching at Campsie FCF this morning. He also runs an encounter group with the young people in his church to apply the scripture in practical ways.

27<sup>th</sup> Pray for Dawn Freeman and the staff at the National Office as they coordinate the work in Victoria.

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### Prayer Focus.

Continue to pray for the following:

1. God will raise up more evangelists for NSW.
2. Promotion of the work throughout the state.
3. Opportunities for further ministry in both schools and churches throughout the state of NSW.
4. Growth of the work of OACM particularly in both NSW and Queensland.

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was real. It was for me. My fingers began to unwrap the box; I was still in disbelief.

As the paper fell away, I could hardly believe my eyes; a brand new pair of black ice skates. New for ME! Being the youngest boy with two older brothers almost nothing was new coming to me. Now right in front of me were brand new shiny ice skates. I remember nothing else of that day beyond skating up and down the ice-covered country roads. I was the only one thankful for the recent ice storm!

That gift lifted me out of a fog. I'm not sure what I would label the fog. Maybe it was the expectation that somehow Christmas should be special. Maybe it was TV or maybe comments I heard at school but somehow I thought Christmas should be a special time. The mysterious gift made that Christmas the most memorable of my childhood.

I now know there is another mysterious gift that makes Christmas special. Often it is missed in the busyness, emotion or misplaced focus of the season. This gift has removed the fog of despair that had a grip on my life.

This mysterious gift came in the form of a baby born in a stable. When I consider that Jesus left the perfection of heaven, it is almost incomprehensible. He came to walk the planet He created. Each day, His heart was broken by the people he came to serve. He

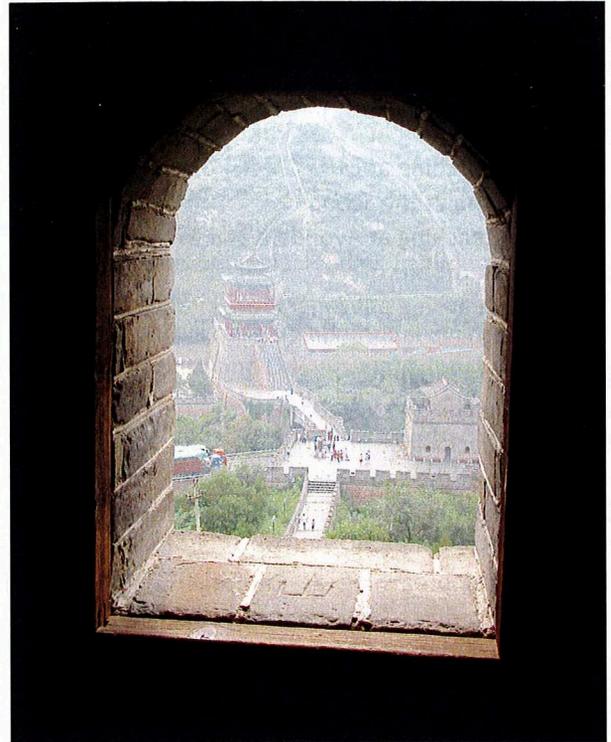
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**OAC** ministries  
Outreach And Church Ministries

*Good News in Good Ways*

did this for nine year old boys. All this is wonderful, mysterious and beautiful. What a gift. Since I do know THIS gift giver, I can say "Thank you" for a life changing gift. (Author unknown)



### **Neil Writes....**

I'm presently having a rest from a busy third term of scripture teaching and preparing for the next.

Our trip to China was wonderful: meeting a large number of people and sharing the gospel message. My congregation members who partly live in China took good care of the family while we were there and we enjoyed many opportunities of seeing the important historical sites in and learning a little of the culture of the people.

As a family we are really grateful for your prayers and concern as we continue to minister here in NSW.

*-Neil*