



1st Quarter 2022

Dear Friends and Co-laborers,

As our world changes, we are reminded by Scripture that Jesus never changes. He is *“the same yesterday, and today, and forever.”* Daniel also reminds us that God *“removeth kings and setteth up kings.”* When we look at the world today, which is everyone’s mission field, we know that we need to pray for Ukraine, Myanmar, Canada, New Zealand and Australia. All these countries are making world headlines, and missionaries are being affected in many ways.

While a lot of the world is moving on with life as COVID continues on, Australia and more specifically our state, Western Australia, is experiencing some of the tightest restrictions we have had yet. The new restrictions include locking the unvaxxed out of everything except essential services and smaller gatherings. Even things like the zoo and some medical services have been locking the unvaxxed out. Our city also made international headlines when a police officer stopped a Catholic service to check for people wearing masks and checking papers of those who were exempt. These things will most likely affect the churches in coming weeks with limits on how many can attend and who can attend, and for us, if our building will be allowed to be used or not. We have recently had visitors and returning visitors, so please pray as we navigate these restrictions and divisions as we look to honor God.

One change that we have had in the new year is that the Lord has also opened the door for me to teach some classes in a Christian school. It is a Christian school, and while that means that the teachers are Christian, about 95% of the students are not Christian and many are there because they have been kicked out of the public schools. It is an amazing opportunity to share the Gospel on a regular basis. Please pray that God will open the hearts of the students to the Gospel.

Finally, please pray for housing for our family. A change is coming as we have received word that our lease will not be renewed in May because the owner will be housing family friends in the house. The housing here has been going out of control over the last year and homelessness is quickly rising. Our rent raised \$160 a month in December, and most of what we are seeing for lease is at least \$400-\$800 for a month more than what we are paying now, with each house having several applicants. The price of everything else is rising as well with gas going this week to about \$8 per gallon. None of this takes God by surprise, and we know He provides what we need in His time. Thank you for all your continued prayers and support!

To the Praise of His Glory,

Gary Lester

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Glorifying God Above, in the Land Down Under