

FEBRUARY 2011

G'day Mate!

UPDATE

So I know that it's been a while since I've let anyone know how I'm doing and what is going on. Well first things first...I AM in AUSTRALIA! It's so beautiful here and I love every minute I'm down here. Classes are going great and I'm learning a lot about God.

Lectures

Last week our topic was the father heart of God. We learned about God's love for us, and his heart for us as His children. It was such an emotional week. On Friday, our lectures started early and ended late. Everyone in my DTS (Discipleship Training School) cried for about 6 hours straight. God was just really working on everyone's heart and it was an awesome day of us coming together and comforting each other.

So many of us were set free from burdens we had been carrying around with us for a long time; or wounds that still had not healed. Each of us had our own time to be ministered to, and it was just amazing to feel God's presence that day.

This past week, our topic was Inductive Bible Study. We talked about the importance of getting into God's word, and studying it, and trying to apply it to our everyday lives. I really liked an acronym our speaker gave us..."FBI: Faithful Bible Investigator". I've never been more excited to read the Bible. I used to just look at it as a chore, but our speaker really taught us about the Bible in a way that one day in class I thought to myself; "Why do I have the sudden urge to just read my Bible?" I had never really had that urge before, and it's still there. So I'm really excited about that, because I'm not the only one that happened to! Others in my class also felt the same way!

Not only have we been learning about God, but we've also been doing weekly evangelism. Every Thursday morning half of my school wakes up early to prepare and take breakfast to a local primary (elementary) school. We bring music to play in the morning, and just play with the kids. (We are not allowed to have any Christian songs playing, or verbally minister to the kids about Christ...but our actions speak much louder than words!)



The other half go to the Blacktown mall on Thursday night and hand out free coffee. We hand out free coffee and treats, and sing praise and worship songs.

On Thursday afternoons, we all participate in street evangelism. We call it a 'Scavenger Hunt'. Meaning, we pray and ask God if there is anywhere we are supposed to go, or to show us something about a person we are to pray for, before going out. (For example: someone might get the image of a red hat, and another person in the group might get the word bus stop. Then the small group goes out to a bus stop... or several bus stops... and looks for someone wearing a red hat. We don't just minister to that one person; we minister to other people God tells us to go minister to.)

On a recent evangelism trip, I had a very exciting God incident happen! Before going out my group (Rune, Lowana, and I) prayed and asked God to show us where we were to go, and/or who He wanted us to talk to. A girl named Lowana said she felt we were supposed to go to the train station. While we were at the train station I felt that we were supposed to go to the skate park right by the train station, but that we were supposed to wait a while. We stood on a platform for about 20 minutes, feeling very discouraged, and thinking maybe we hadn't heard God correctly. I was getting tired of just standing on the platform and just wanted to walk around a bit. I was looking out and saw a man with red shorts on, who sort of looked drunk, and figured he was going to the bar that was right on the corner.



I woke up one morning to find this guy staring at me. (We had gone on retreat...so it wasn't at my base. But it was still the most amazing thing!)

. YOUTH STREET .

On Saturdays, we host something called YOUTH STREET. Youth (ages 12-17) from the area come to our base and we play sports with them, teach them dances, take them skating, and just hang out with them. It's a fun way to keep them from getting into trouble, and to just minister to them as well.

I told God, "Ok. If we're supposed to be here on this platform, and supposed to talk to someone, then that guy in the red shorts will come onto this platform and stand near us." (I was so sure the man in the red shorts would not end up standing near us, and that we would be able to go to the skate park and talk to the youth there and invite them to Youth Street.)

However, when we started to leave the platform, I told Rune and Lowana to wait a minute. They watched me as I watched the man in the red shorts walk up the ramp to the train platforms. I thought "Well, He's probably going to platform 3 and 4." Then I watched as he walked down to platform 1 and 2. The platform we were on! I then thought "Well, He's probably going to stand on side 2 and we're on side 1." I then watched as the man in the red shorts came and stood near us. I just stared at him, and my eyes got really big. Lowana asked if I was alright. I told her what I had said to God, and how the man in the red shorts was standing near us. We both just looked at the man in disbelief.

We were going to go talk to him, but he ended up getting onto the train before we had a chance. We waited for another 30 minutes before we felt led to talk to someone. I talked to a man on his way to work. After the man I spoke to left, we felt we were done so we walked to the skate park where we were greeted by some of the kids that come to Youth Street! (If we had gone earlier...we wouldn't have seen them there!)

I've really been experiencing God here and know that I will not be returning as the same person that left! I'm enjoying watching as my classmates and I grow closer to God. I can't wait for the last 6 weeks of lectures and all I will be learning!

God Bless! ~Abney Rhodes

Prayer Requests

*The boys are having problems with bed bugs, and the girls are having problems with lice.

*That all the funds for our outreach to Ghana and the outback will come in, and we will all be able to go on outreach

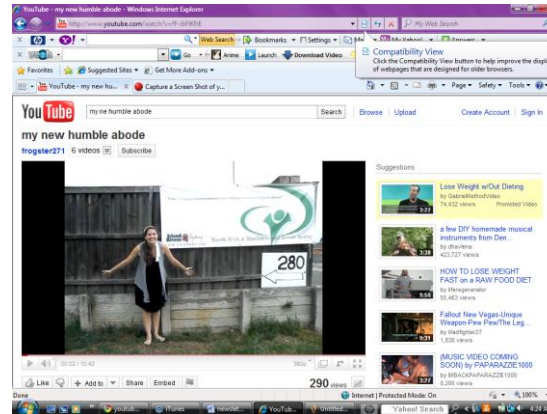
*The prices for outreach have gone up

*That we will continue to get along with each other

*Some of us are getting sick for long periods of time (longer than necessary, and doctor visits are expensive, not to mention the cost of medicine as well!)

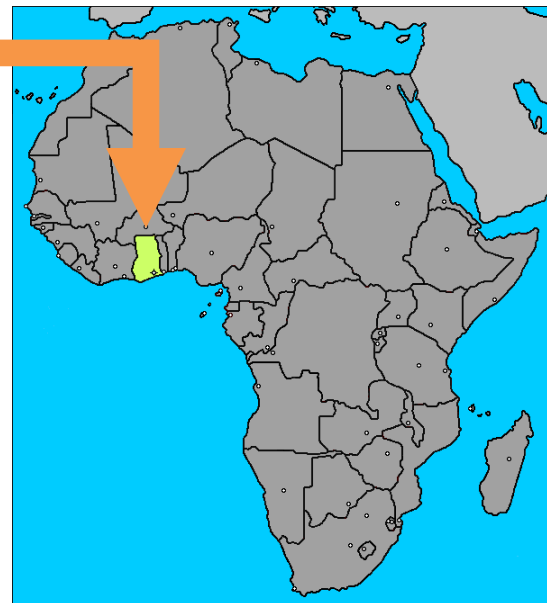
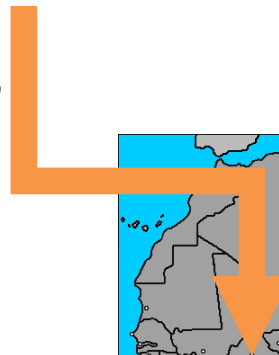
Check Out Where I Live!

Go to YouTube and search “my new humble abode”! I filmed a tour of the base to show everyone where I’m currently living!



Out Reach Locations

We were recently told that our outreach locations will be Ghana, Africa, and Brewarrina, Australia! We will be in Ghana for about 2 months and in Brewarrina for about 1 month. Please pray for us all, and that we will all be able to raise the funds to be able to go!



JUST A REMINDER TO PRAY FOR THE JANUARY DTS OF ISLAND BREEZE, SYDNEY!

Abney.....	South Carolina, USA
Anja.....	Germany
Eleanor.....	England
Ethan.....	Singapore/Australia
Heather.....	Oregon, USA
Jessica.....	California, USA
Jimmy.....	Penrith, Australia
Judah.....	Tonga/ Western Australia
Lowana.....	Fingal, Australia
Marianne.....	Ontario, Canada
Morgan.....	Arizona, USA
Olen.....	Colorado, USA
Rebecca.....	Oregon, USA
Rebekah.....	Fingal, Australia
Sarah.....	California, USA
Victoria.....	Austria

JUST A REMINDER TO PRAY FOR ABNEY RHODES!

"To Know God, and Make Him Known"

YWAM mission statement

