



ROBERT TURNBULL

AUSTRALIAN BIBLICAL STORYTELLER

NEWSLETTER #2, 2008

CHRISTMAS EDITION

I'm sorry that I didn't manage to put together a 'Spring Edition' of this newsletter (hopefully I'll be more organised for next year). For the beginning of this 'Christmas Edition' - I have some very exciting news.

HANNAH GRACE TURNBULL

Our beautiful daughter was born on December 12 this year. We are overwhelmingly thankful to God for her and that she is healthy and going strong. She was named after Hannah from 1 Samuel - whose story both Simone and I have had the privilege to tell (naturally Simone is far better at it than me!) 'Hannah' means 'Grace' - which is also her middle name. We want her to know the abundance of God's generosity to us in Jesus - from whose fullness "we have all received grace upon grace" (John 1:16).

Please pray for us as parents, that we will genuinely reflect God's character to her and that we would faithfully lead her in the knowledge of God's truth. Please pray that she would grow in wisdom and in strength, and that she would know God as her true Father.

ACCORDING TO LUKE

By Easter next year, I'm planning on learning an abridged version of Luke's Gospel to tour. It will be my most ambitious storytelling project yet. I'm confident that it will be a fantastic way for many people to come face to face with the historical Jesus. Luke's Gospel was my first introduction to Jesus - I'm sure that many people will find Him just as compelling as I did.

Please pray for my work in preparation. That involves far more than just learning the stories. I will be needing God's help to create an appropriate cut-down version of the script, to liaise with potential host churches, create advertising material as well as much more. Please also ask God that even now He would be working in the lives of those that will come and hear the storytelling.

I'm greatly excited by this and I know it has the potential to do great good. May God open the door for the Gospel to be told in this way.

QUICK PRAYER

Thank God for the birth of Hannah and the Christmas and Elisha storytellings. Ask God for help with next year's storytelling from Luke's Gospel.



THE ADVENTURES OF ELISHA

I directed my first show throughout the second half of the year about the story of Elisha from 2 Kings. It was fantastic that so many people in Melbourne and Sydney have been able to hear this story from a part of the Bible which is commonly unknown (yet is filled with such drama). One of my aims in storytelling (especially in telling Old Testament stories) is to help people to see how the Bible fits together. Even though Elisha's story isn't one of the great landmarks of the Bible, I'm confident that those who saw it will not just have seen that the Bible is interesting and exciting, but that they will have reference points to understand the Bible as a whole.

Please pray for all who saw the show - especially those new to Christianity - that they would be drawn into a life appreciating, experiencing and enjoying the Scriptures.



Photo: Geoffrey Thomlinson

Please thank God for the storytellers: Jessica Berry, Daniel Farrugia, Maree Salvador and myself.

CHRISTMAS

Since late November I've been telling the Christmas story from Isaiah 9, Matthew 1-2 and Luke 1-2. I've really enjoyed learning Luke's Christmas story for the first time, as well as learning Matthew's genealogy (which is surprisingly fun to tell). I've had lots of opportunities to share these stories at Christmas services at schools and churches, at carols nights and even as a busker in the Sydney CBD. It's a great gift from God that, in his providence, our society takes time out each year to remember the story of Jesus' birth. Please pray that those that have heard these original stories will be drawn back to the Bible to learn more about what Luke and Matthew say about Jesus.

Jessica Berry (far left in above 'Elisha' picture) is also telling the Christmas story this season. She's a wonderful young storyteller. Please pray for her, that she will continue to develop this gift of hers and that she will have many opportunities to share it with others.

I also spent a bit of time creating Christmas cards which contain an Audio CD with recordings of the storytellings on them. Please pray for the people who receive these cards over the next few weeks, that they will be intrigued by what they hear.



My Scottish Angel impersonation is improving!



Robert Turnbull - Biblical Storyteller
P.O. Box 5309, Pinewood 3149
0422 544 511
rob@theBackyardBard.com
<http://www.theBackyardBard.com/rob/>

THE Backyard Bard

stories worth telling