



MARCH
2025

SIMKINS NEWSLETTER

DEAR FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Despite valiant efforts, we were not winning the war against the bugs in this house. Yes, we do clean (well some of us do!) but this is the tropics, and the daily parade of the ants and the nightly party of the cockroaches became too much, and we had to call in the big guns! The pest control man has restored the power hierarchy in the house, and the humans are back in charge - well sort of!

Unfortunately, some of us fell prey to a more invisible bug. **Joshua** spent the new year in Japan and returned with gifts (which we liked) and Japanese flu (which we didn't). He ended up languishing in Cairns for an extra week of 'holiday' before he was able to drive back to Mackay. Ruben was sick too, briefly, but **Daniel** was hit very hard with flu, which turned into pneumonia. At the time of writing he has been off work for 5 weeks. Please pray for his recovery, which has been slow.

Caleb managed to avoid the Simkins sickness of 2025 and we caught brief glimpses of him as he spent his holidays alternating between his old job making pizza, and working though six weeks of placement, which as usual involved cleaning up excrement from all creatures great and small. He worked on a sheep station of 45,000 sheep in New South Wales, followed by race horses, koalas, birds and finally fish. Please pray for him as he starts another intense year of study. I think the option of just being a gamer is rather appealing right now!



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But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength - Isaiah 40 v31

Bethany too has moments when she is questioning her choices. Does she really want to be a teacher, with the challenges of behaviour management, inclusive education, and the high demands of what is expected from teachers today? Pray for her, for stamina to finish her course and that will God will lead her to the right job afterwards.

Ruben has a little way to go before he leaves the education system behind, but finally started secondary school this year. He is extremely happy with the laptop issued by school, which he is obviously 'only using for homework'. Amazing how much homework there is! For him the change is quite easy as he is still in the same school, so changing from primary to secondary is really just a technicality. He is enjoying having some of the teachers who still remember his siblings.

Even though it is only the start of the year, I think we are all a little weary. Please pray for us, for healing and renewed energy. Please also pray for the wider MAF family, some of whom have are going through extremely difficult times. Chris Coffee, one of our pilots, was tragically killed in a road accident in Arnhem Land in January, and the teenage daughter of one of the families in Kenya died of meningitis in December.

What do we do in such times, when it is hard to worship let alone pray? I love the words from the Casting Crowns song, "Just Be Held".

*So when you're on your knees and answers seem so far away
You're not alone, stop holding on and just be held
Your world's not falling apart, its falling into place
I'm on the throne, stop holding on and just be held
Just be held, just be held*

Love to you all. Thank you for your continued prayer and support.

Daniel, Libby, Joshua, Bethany, Caleb and Ruben

