

The 2015 Paraburdoo Floods, MTS, placenta propulsia and more!

Kurra Kulli is situated about five kilometres outside of Paraburdoo. It's one of Paraburdoo's two mining camps for housing fly-in fly-out workers during their 8 to 21 day stay while on shift.

It's perplexed me for a while, you see - the mining camp is out of bounds for residents unless they are invited by someone from the camp. I have put any kind of ministry at Kurra Kulli in the 'too hard basket' since we got here, giving it little thought.

As I write this I am sitting in one of the small three by four metre cabins in Kurra Kulli village. Three other blokes, who were cut off from town by recent flooding, are also here. I was on my way home from our quarterly archdeaconry meeting (which is one of our biggest sources of encouragement and guidance here): the first 550 kilometres went by without a hitch, but there were some crazy floods in the last 50km stretch to Paraburdoo. After crossing one overflowing creek - just over a foot deep and 50kms from town, I thought I was doing well - until I got to the final creek and it's one to two metres deep across the road!

And so, here I am sitting in the village after a good meal and a shower. I'm almost home and hopefully the road will be open tomorrow. But, best of all, I met Stephen tonight, the manager of Kurra Kulli village and I thanked him profusely for his hospitality. It turns out he used to work with Imre, one of our night church members. Anyway, the long and short of it is that he is happy for me to visit Kurra Kulli - so it's out of the 'too hard basket!' Isn't God good? Now I just need Him to guide me in how to best use this opportunity - please pray for that.



After the first flood. The second flood made the car disappear!

Hello friends and family,

It's great to hear encouragements from so many of you at different times. Thanks for your prayers - I was particularly encouraged recently to hear from a prayer group from rural NSW who pray for us every day. That's got to be the best thing about BCA - the prayer support.

Here is our latest news, and as always, please pray and let us know how we can pray.

Placenta propulsia

As many of you are aware, Priya has been in Sydney since the 6th of January (it was cool to visit there briefly a couple of weeks ago). She had placenta previa, meaning she needed to be near a hospital until bub arrives (and she'd need to be out a month before anyway).

But you know what? She now has placenta propulsia (that's from the Latin *propulsa* for 'moved'). That's right! The placenta has moved up, so it moves her from the high risk category and she can at least try for a natural birth! We are looking forward to meeting our baby in the open air sometime in April, as well as catching up with our link churches that month. We are very thankful to God for this good news.

Redundancies are in the air

Rio Tinto recently announced big cuts to their budget for 2015. In Paraburdoo alone, they are cutting 30 million dollars this year. Some of our friends were made redundant last week. Please pray for God to provide for their needs (and for all workers made redundant), and that we will have opportunities to practically show love. Also pray that in the midst of this, people hear God's call to repent.

Blessed Tom Pricians

I have been loving fellowship with the Tom Price saints recently. A couple of new people have joined us and we have started a Bible study. It's been great on the times we have met so far. It feels like the group has been going for a lot longer than a month.

The congregation at TP is still tiny, but they love one another and love the Lord Jesus. They are a delight to minister too. Please thank God for them and pray for more Tom Pricians to be saved!

A little help from my friends

I have missed Priya, but I'm thankful for seven years prior experience of singleness in ministry to prepare me for her absence - I have not burnt a single piece of toast while she has been gone! Friends have come to help with ministry. Matt - a former youth group member of mine from Merrylands - was a great help to me for just over two weeks and a good friend as well. He helped with ministry and we were able to chat theology, life and ministry together too - that really lifted my game and encouraged him for his ministry back in Merrylands too.

In addition to this, I have been blessed with two locums to help out during my time



Bishop Gary ordained Kees Bootsma for ministry in the North West on 22nd March). Kees and Cindy will be filling in for us while we are in Sydney for the baby to be born. We are very thankful to God for them

away. They have been a great encouragement to me and Priya and reminded us that we are not alone in this work - thanks be to God!

Furthermore, we are looking forward to welcoming a mission team here in September from one of our link churches - very exciting stuff!

MTS

People have told me from time to time that I have gifts in training. I hope so because I have wanted to have a ministry apprenticeship for a long time, and for the first time ever that longing may be fulfilled next year. I have two young guys in mind and a possible solution for a place they can live.

MTS (Ministry training strategy) is a usually two year ministry apprenticeship prior to Bible College. Matt's time here encouraged me so much and it dawned on me that having an MTS apprentice here for 2016 is actually possible. Please pray for me as I investigate this.

Paraburdoo

Thank God for Kids' club. It has got off to a great start for the year with eight kids coming along and loving it. It's been a great way to introduce Jesus to the kids in town in a fun environment. It's also an excuse for me to be a big kid! Pray for more kids (and willing parents) to have at least a chance to hear about Jesus' grace and love for them.

Pray for the Sunday morning service. It can be good at times and pretty discouraging at others. Pray that knowing and loving each other by meeting together would be a growing conviction. Please also pray for wisdom about how to minister to the saints and as we possibly rethink service times. It would be miracle to have a mature Christian couple move town, which seems impossible given employment cuts, but then God can do the impossible.

A word from Priya about her Eastern States adventures

With just a few tears, I left Dave back in from piping hot Paraburdoo to head back to humid Sydney. I was in good hands with plenty of family support and plenty of prayer support too. The time here has been a good chance to catch up with some friends and especially spend time with my mum and nephew. It's also been an opportunity to rethink with some ministers here the content and design of some evangelistic pamphlets attempting to engage with the Hindu population in Sydney, which is something I was working on in my time here. It's helped me to get my head a little out of the baby preparation bubble and think about mission again. Pray it will be make significant progress before the baby comes.



Skype has been a good way for Scout and I to keep in touch with Priya

Thanking God for the few days away with Dave for our anniversary was a blessing. It rained every day except the day we arrived and left Laurieton, but the time to rest together and meet with some friends was refreshing. Plus, we like the rain!

I am 37 weeks this week, not too long now. Pray for God's help during labour, as we become new parents and for refreshment in our marriage as we will have spent about three months of the year apart by the time we all live together in Paraburdoo. Thankful for our daily calls that don't make it feel so bad.

Home

There are many meanings to the word 'home' - of course our ultimate home is with our heavenly Father, but Paraburdoo and Tom Price are beginning to feel more like home too, for which we are thankful.

Having said that, we do feel the cost of being away from family and friends back 'home' in Sydney. Please pray for God's comfort as we miss them and wisdom in how best to foster those relationships from a distance.

To God be the Glory!

Love,

Dave (and Priya)