



Tuesday, 1 January 2008

Dear OIKOS Friends,

As I was reading the Word and praying last night at midnight and again this morning, I had so many of you in mind – faces, situations, places, needs, hopes and joys. I am also acutely aware that OIKOS is entering a very important ‘season’ in the year ahead. This places enormous challenges before us. So much of what I was reading seemed to speak into the situation in which I see OIKOS and myself at this time, and because we journey together I want to share some of these thoughts with you. I would be grateful for to hear your impressions and responses.

**Eccl. 3:1-13.** I was reminded that not only should we discern the season but also embrace and operate within it.

**Psalms 62.** I am reminded that I need to be –

Very focused

Very disciplined

Very strong

Very determined,

and stay very close to God who is our Rock and our Fortress, and then I will not be shaken. Trust in Him – not in cleverness, good ideas, hard work or plans, but HIM. (I am saying ‘I’ because I can’t speak for anyone else, but I do believe it is a word for the Team and for OIKOS as we move into the year ahead.)

**Luke 12:35** “Be dressed ready for service and keep you lamps burning”. Stay on fire and alive in God, listening and obedient – and ready to be, do and go according to His bidding.

Amen and Amen!

OIKOS newsletter will look quite different this year. In colour and a fresh look thanks to Simon and Melanie Day and Bruce Kerr. Of course we realise content is what it is about, and that to a great extent will rely on articles and news of events, photos and children’s work being sent to us by the home churches and our readers. The first edition will be out early in the year. I want to publish the hopes of home churches for 2008 and we will also include a couple of articles you won’t want to miss. Please send us your contribution as quickly as possible. I am ever grateful to Graham Preston for his drawings and to Joy Heaton who proof reads.

A major focus this year will be the visit of Wolfgang Simson to Melbourne during the first week in September. You will be hearing more details very soon. OIKOS is the anchor for this event but working alongside several ministries that identify with the way God is moving in His church in our land today. We have an excellent Team working towards this event.

I am very grateful I will be working with the same OIKOS Team members in 2008. We are all excited about the direction God is taking us and we work well together. The continuing development of Regional Teams around the country is an exciting and necessary development. I hope to spend more time working with the Teams and discovering those God is calling to this ministry.

Kendrick and I had all the family together at our home for Christmas. Rachel and our grandson Jackson live in Brisbane and were able to stay with us – in fact Jack is with us for the school holidays. Stephen is based in Perth now because of his work, but he is backwards and forwards a lot because there is an office in the suburb where we live here in Melbourne! Emily is preparing to take up a posting overseas teaching English. So our family will be in three totally different directions this year. Big adjustment for Dad and Mum!

Thank you to those of you who sent Christmas cards and messages. I put together a Christmas card but because I didn't have Adobe Acrobat on my updated computer for a couple of weeks, I was only able to send out the Publisher version via email, and many of you couldn't open it. I am sorry about that, and that is the main reason I am writing this letter for New Year!

May you be aware of God's strong grip on your life regardless of what 2008 holds for you. I hope it will be a year when you advance in and for God's Kingdom's cause in whatever place God has you in His scheme of things.

I love you all,

Bessie