

The McDonald Messenger

with Glen & Beth McDonald • March 2026



New Christians growing in their faith, locals starting to investigate Jesus for the first time and children excited about coming to our holiday kids programs each year are just some of the encouraging things that have been happening in Roxby Downs. We're excited to share all the latest news with you...

I'm sure you'll remember our friend Georgia, she came from a very anti-Christian background and came to faith in a real and powerful way. She and her children were baptised in January last year. Her story was featured in an article in *The Real Australian* too.

Georgia has been struggling. She works really hard to be there for her kids. She changed her work hours so she could be there in the afternoons. So she's up at 4.30 am and she drops her kids off at 6 o'clock in the morning. But what that means is early nights are an absolute must. Georgia was finding women's Bible study really tricky. She was hosting it each week so she could still be involved. But that meant her kids weren't getting to bed till 9 or 9.30 pm.

She said to us, "I really want to read the Bible, but it's just not working." This year Beth has thought outside the box, and just a few weeks ago a new women's Bible study time and location commenced – 5 pm on a Wednesday at the McDonalds.

Bible study will now include dinner for the women and the

kids, with Bible Study from 5.30 till 6.30 pm. This way everyone can get home and get their kids to bed all fed. Georgia isn't the only one to benefit from this new format.

There's another lady, Leesa who was really struggling with evenings and managing her workload, and she now comes straight from work. One newcomer is a doctor who finishes her patient list at 5 pm so she walks to our place straight from work. Finally there's Saniyya who started coming to church last year. She's really keen, but is also quite a sporty person. And her netball club's training is on a Wednesday. She was trying to figure out how it would work. She said, "I don't want to be benched, but I really want to come to Bible study," so this new time is perfect because she can come to Bible study, have her dinner at 5 pm then go to netball!

But back to Georgia. Georgia shared with Beth only recently that her sister is now interested in coming to church and is reading the Bible. Georgia's sister told her that one day she'd been upset with her

Banner Image: Roxby Downs

Circle Image: The McDonalds

Middle Image: Women's ministry is thriving in Roxby, we held a Gingerbread House night before Christmas.

Bottom Image: We were part of the Roxby Downs Christmas Pageant



Mission Bush Dinner

Continued from previous page...

partner and kids so she went outside and spoke to Jesus. She then went back inside and was able to deal with the kids. Georgia's sister talked to her vehemently anti-God Mum about it, and for once her attitude wasn't one of scoffing, but said she thought it was benefitting her. That is certainly a partial turnaround from her Mum. When Georgia first became a Christian, she was terrified to take her Bible to her Mum's house. She would only read the Bible on her phone because if she got a Bible out, her Mum would berate her. We can really see how God is working.

Please continue to pray for Georgia, her sister and her Mum. May the seeds that God has planted continue to grow.

Pray for our new Wednesday Women's Bible Study, may it be a blessing to the ladies.

We can see how that drip feeding has gone from intrigue, to coming to the kids programs, to 'we must come to the kids' programs', to coming to church!

Epic Kids Holiday Club

We've had a mission team come from Trinity Adelaide in the September/October school holidays for the past five years. They send up a team of youth with adult leaders (around 24 of them). The youth run a kids program with the support of

the adults who have devised and written the program.

Each year we have returning kids as well as new kids coming along each day. There are some really exciting things coming out of mission...

There's a family who first connected with us during COVID. During COVID, we decided that we didn't want to wear face masks and be inside church and try to sing. So we held our services in the church car park. And this family live across the road. The kids were asking, "Dad, what's all this about?" Then these kids started coming to the school holiday program and they have come every year since. Not only did they come but last year their mum chased Beth up, and asked, "When are you putting dates out for the kids' program? Because I've got my child's therapist trying to make appointments and I'm going to be in so much trouble if I make a therapy appointment during kids' program time." So she scheduled her kids' therapy appointment around mission. And they're a non-Christian family! On Christmas Eve last year, the whole family came to church for the first time ever! We can see how that drip feeding has gone from intrigue, to coming to the kids' programs, to 'we must come to the kids' programs', to coming



Epic Holiday Kids' Club

Continued from previous page...

to church! They're not regulars yet but praise God they came!

There's another family who would turn up early to Kids' Club each day, their Mum would apologise and say, "my kids have been up since 5.30 am asking me to leave to get here". She came along to church following on from the mission for about five weeks. And her youngest child didn't want to come because the mission team weren't there. She told us that she said to him, "That's okay, this doesn't need to be your thing, but this is really important for Mummy."

Please pray for these two non-Christian families who have connected with our church through the mission. May they come to a saving faith in the Lord Jesus.

The theme of the last holiday mission was *Follow the Clues*. We had the coffee machine on each morning and we offered parents coffee. It was a deliberate choice not to ask the mission team to do this as we are the ones who will have ongoing conversations and look to build relationships.

On the last day of mission we finished at lunchtime with a sausage sizzle, and parents and siblings were invited to come along. The kids got up and showed their parents what they

had learned over the week and then Glen did a five-minute gospel presentation based on what the kids had learned. So it was structured so the parents heard that message as well.

One thing that we did a bit differently last year, which seemed to work really well, was each evening, we invited people from our church community to share with the mission team about what it's like to be a Christian in a remote place. Viliame and Sanyya were two of those who shared.

Viliame is applying for a humanitarian visa following the coup in Fiji. He worked in the government and had to leave for his safety. He has four children and a wife back in Fiji, and he can't return. Viliame is working in the mine to try and earn enough money to support himself and his family. He shared with the team some of the ways that he's had to really lean on God and trust through that hardship.

Sanyya told the kids how she had grown up in a Christian family, but had drifted away and made some bad life choices. We were worried that this might have been a bit much. Dave the minister from Trinity who had come up with the team thought it was really

Continued over...

Church member grows in his faith during a time of testing

Glen has been in particular really encouraged by church member Viliame from Fiji.

Glen regularly meets with Viliame and watched his faith grow through the tricky processes with visas, working and sending money back to his family in Fiji.

We have watched him grow in faith and lean on God.

At one point when his visa was in limbo, he wasn't even allowed to work. He had no job. He was stuck in Australia far away from his family, but he was able to say, "God has it in hand", even at a point that it all looked pretty wobbly.

To see Viliame grow in his faith during that time of testing has been amazing and a real ministry encouragement for us.

Please pray for Viliame, may he continue to grow in his faith during this time of testing. Please also pray that he would be reunited with his family very soon.



Church Service during mission



Grace & Lili baking cookies for the kids' program

Continued from previous page...

good for the kids to hear that we don't all have a linear path from being good church kids to being an adult Christian. And also good for them to see that their friends who had fallen away can come back and be welcomed.

It went so well that we are going to do it again this year!

Give God thanks for our partnership with Trinity Adelaide and our Epic Kids Holiday program. May it continue to bear fruit.

Please pray for Saniyya and Viliame; may God continue to work in and through them.

Please pray for the youth who came and ran the mission; may they grow in their faith.

More encouragements

Another encouragement has been watching some of the newer Christians stepping up into leadership, not huge leadership roles, but willing to serve on rosters.

Another real encouragement has been the women's Bible study. God's brought together women from different

generations. Saniyya and Georgia are only in their twenties, Jane, the new doctor in town, has adult kids, and Beth is in her forties along with Leesa. There's also another young mum coming to church we are hoping will join, who is also in her twenties.

Lili's been accepted into what they call tech college. She spends around four weeks of term in Port Augusta studying individual support which sees her do nursing type things. Lili will do a placement in an aged care facility and it's all part of her SACE (South Australian Certificate of Education), which is our equivalent to the HSC.



Family

Zac is now in Sydney at CRU Galston for his gap year and has settled in really well. He has landed at the church that Beth grew up in – Norwest Anglican.

And Jaxon graduated from Year 6 and has started high school!

Please pray for all of our kids, may they continue to thrive and love the Lord.

Love from,

Glen, Beth, Zac, Lili, Jaxon, Jesse & Asher

Pray for

**our work in
Roxby Downs**

Find out more

**about
Bush Church Aid**

Give

**to partner with us in
going the distance to
share Jesus with the bush**



Reaching Australia for Christ since 1919