

Brother Jeff Lawrence and Family Missionaries to Australia

**Sent Under the Authority of
Faith Missionary Baptist Church
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Dear Christian Friends,

Greetings from the Lawrence family in Australia. We pray you all are prepared for your long North American Winter. The weather here has really warmed up and we are running the A/C in the house now. Every year it seems the hot weather comes on without notice, one day it is nice and comfortable, the next boiling hot.

Since our last letter we have had the privilege of baptizing Michelle Jackson into our church membership. We had a wonderful day that day with over 25 in attendance. Some were friends and family of Michelle's and I had the opportunity of preaching about the true church and Scriptural authoritative baptism to those who have never set under sound doctrinal preaching. We capped that day off with a cookout at David and Michelle's house and everyone had a great day of fellowship. We are thankful to the Lord for this new addition to our church.

We are counting down the days now to Bro. Frank James arrival here in Australia. Bro. James will be arriving here in Sydney on December the 3rd. As soon as he recovers from the long flight we will begin the paperwork on his visas so that he will be able to remain in the country. I don't foresee any problems with his visa, but you never know with the Department of Immigration. The only thing I can tell that will take time is that the government shuts down here during the holiday season and so it may be well

after the first of the year before we hear anything from the sponsorship.

By the time this letter goes out it will have been over three years since we were last home. We are feeling a little homesick and have been praying about a visit back to the States. As we are approaching the Summer season here it is close to time when school we be out for the summer. From a family point of view this is the most logical time to come home. In addition to school being out, it has become necessary that we move out of our house. The owners of the house are in real financial difficulty and feel the house would sell quicker if we were out, so I have negotiated an end to our lease on December 10. To add to these good reasons on why now is a perfect time to take a break, the American dollar and Australian dollar are once again heading toward equal ground. At present it is well over 90 cents, this causes us severe financial stress as our buying power weakens while prices here remain the same or rise. Seeing that Bro. James will arrive around the same time we have asked if he would be willing to help the church while we are away. This will allow him time to be close to the Immigration Department and be able to work out any complications with his visa. So with all these factors coming together at once we have taken it as Divine Providence that now is the time of the Lord's leading to come apart and rest a while.

At this present stage instead of renting another house we intend to have all our belongings put into storage. This will save us money and will help us pay off some bills that need to be finalized. Our plans are to fly to Tennessee and stay with my family while we are on furlough. My mother owns several rental properties and has given us her own house to live in and her and my dad are going to stay in one of their empty rental properties. She has also offered us her mini van to use while we are there, she was about to sell it anyway and decided to keep it for us and she buy a new one. As I age I am learning that Parents never stop being parents and I appreciate that more now than I ever have in my life.

We are not sure at this point how long we are going to stay. I would like to take time in the beginning to visit and reconnect with family. Neither my parents or my wife's parents have had much time with their grandchildren seeing we have been away from home for almost 8 years, so our first priority will be to catch up with family. If we stay past winter we will then begin to visit churches and hopefully have time to attend a few Bible Conferences. Logistically speaking this is a huge endeavor with a family our size so we do covet your prayers, first for Patti and my sanity and then of course for the finances to be able to make such a long and expensive trip. Lord willing we will be leaving on December 10 and we look forward to seeing as many as we can while home.

We wish to thank all of you who have been supporting us in both prayers and finances and we are eager to see you all face to face once again.

By His Grace Alone,

Bro. Jeff, Patti, Savannah, Sydney, Garrett, Ethan, Connor and Chloe