

Monaro High School Year 7 SRE Update
Term 4, 2010

Classes have been up and running since the beginning of Term 3 and are going very well, with students paying attention, asking questions, and engaging with the message.

Almost every week there are new students, usually ones who have opted in to Scripture class because of word of mouth from other students who are enjoying the lessons. (Recently one of the classes was very full and after class had started, a student walked in late. He said he was the only student from his class not in Scripture so the teacher just decided to send him anyway.)

Clint Staj has been enjoying teaching the classes, and believes that the students are understanding more about God each week. Clint took a survey the first day and was surprised to find how little most of the students knew about God. (When asked to name as many of the world's religions as possible, one class could only come up with Anglican and Budapest (yes, the capital of Hungary, although they meant Buddhism), so Clint knew he had his work cut out for Him.)

Some of the students only knew of the words "God" and "Jesus" as swear words in movies. In three of Clint's classes, not one student knew what Easter was about, or that it had anything to do with God.

Most of the students have never been to a church in their life or read a Bible. Recently after a lesson one student asked Clint for a Bible since Clint had said it was God's Word and that God speaks to humans through it. Clint immediately went and bought the student one. (The student has since said that he is regularly reading it.)

One day when Clint had finished teaching a lesson, he asked if there were any questions but no one raised their hand. (This surprised Clint since all the other classes had had several questions after the same lesson.) After a while Clint asked why there were no questions. One of the more popular students finally answered and said that before these classes started, atheism had been the only thing they knew of. He said that Clint was the only Christian they knew, the only person telling them that there's a God and that you can have a relationship with him. The student said that they needed time to think about this "following Jesus stuff" because it was all so new.

Although Clint is committed to teaching these classes for as long as God tells him to, Clint has been experiencing extreme spiritual opposition, such as sleeplessness the night before classes, various illnesses the day of classes that end as soon as the last class for the day is over, and even a serious bout with Dengue Fever that landed him in hospital for a week (he stopped breathing once and had to be treated by Dr. Learoyd) and then at home to rest for a week.

Although most of the MHS staff are friendly, there are many who are opposed to Scripture classes and are quite rude to Clint. On his first day, one teacher threatened Clint with violence 3 times!

Please pray for Clint, the students, their parents, and the MHS staff.

11th November 2010