



Emily (& two other staff) on a prayer walk with Christian internationals from Indonesia, China, & Germany.

Walking Toward Jesus

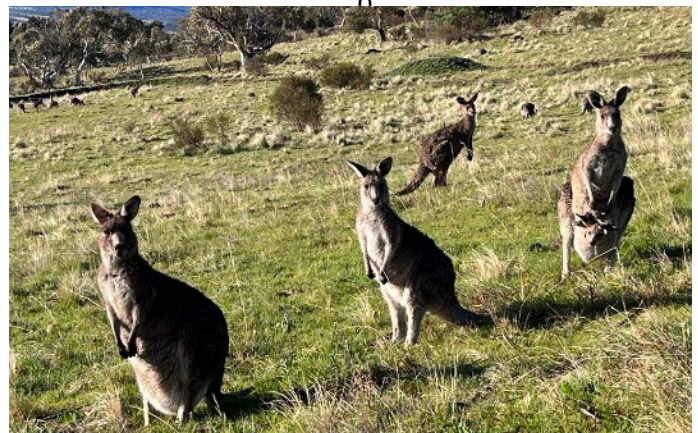
Ian and Conor are Chinese students at the University of Technology Sydney. Every Friday they travel about an hour to our home for lunch and discussion about Jesus' life. For them, reading stories of His power to calm storms, heal the broken, and bring people back to life seemed all too much like superheroes in movies who have magical powers. About two months ago (at the beginning of the semester) I asked each participant in our discussion group to share if they had any spiritual background or beliefs. Ian shared he was more open to the possibility of God existing, but Conor seemed very confident that God doesn't exist. Fast forward two months later, and the Lord has been at work in Conor's life.

One of the more recent passage we read and discussed together was Jesus healing the paralyzed man in Mark 2. The following week I asked how they were processing the existence of God. Ian didn't seem to have made any clear

steps toward God, but Conor unexpectedly said, "After reading that story, I'm wondering if Jesus must be true." Interestingly, what inspired Conor was Jesus' compassion for the disabled. He said it challenged him to be more compassionate for those around him who are in need. Conor reminds me of the friends who bring the paralytic to Jesus. Every day Conor helps Ian, who has a physical disability, get around Sydney. They walk almost everywhere together. And every Friday Conor and Ian train and walk over an hour to our house to come learn more about Jesus. We are praying that these two will one day be walking with Him!



(Above) Connecting with a fun group of Indians through a sightseeing trip around the city. (Below) A kangaroo mob greeted us each morning during the Leadership Summit!



Leadership Summit: Meeting Australian Ministry Leaders

Cru (Campus Crusade for Christ) in Australia is called Power to Change. This month we had the privilege of attending their annual Leadership Summit outside of the city with about 90 national, regional, and local leaders across 5 different focus areas of ministry (Campus, Church Movements, Global Aid Network, Youth, & Digital Strategies). It was encouraging to meet so many leaders taking steps of faith and seeking to bring various challenges before the Lord and each other through prayer. Although Australia has one of the highest number of international students in the world, surprisingly there are only three Power to Change teams in two cities dedicated to international student ministry. Our prayer is to see a growing and thriving international student ministry not only

in Sydney but across Australia. We are so excited that we get to be a part of what God is doing here.



Thank you for being a part of connecting international students to Jesus. We are so grateful for you!

With love in Christ,

Blake & Emily Ackerson

Praise & Prayer Requests

- Praise God for two students coming to Christ this semester from China.
- Praise God for seeing students take steps toward Christ.
- Pray that the Lord would draw Ian and Conor to Himself.
- Praise God for some inroads to the Indian community at Sydney University. Pray for open doors to share the gospel clearly among Hindus.
- Pray for the leadership in Power to Change/Cru Australia, and that their heart for ministry would continue to flow out of a love for the Lord.
- Pray that God would build a growing, thriving, and long-term international student ministry across Australia.
- Pray for our end of the year planning and evaluations next month. (The Spring semester officially finishes in November!)