



# Greetings from Australia



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**Please write**

I, Elisabeth, am grateful for ...

- ... **health.** Walking regularly and doing Pilates strengthens my back. I'm doing much better than before the wedding.
- ... being on the verge of submitting my **manuscript** to a publisher
- ... new **tenants** for my house in South Africa
- ... the **cell group** Len and I are leading (see picture)
- ... **Len's work**
- ... God's faithful and generous **provision.** So far, now and in the future.



## Update

I still enjoy maintaining the **Youth With A Mission Africa Homepage.** This gives me an active link with Africa.

On Thursday mornings I tend to join intercession with YWAM Melbourne. Thursday afternoons I help with an outreach to school kids in the inner city. Most of the children are from struggling immigrant families, more often than not from Africa (see picture below and left. This little girl insisted on 'helping' with set-up).



Some of the 10-year-olds are already criminally active, and some 15-year-olds are on drugs. Last week we put a jumping castle between three highrise buildings (see photos). Over 100 kids had lots of fun and good exercise. Boredom is a huge problem in these high-density areas.

Even though I know myself in the right place and am really grateful for my new station in life, I do miss Africa. Len and I are keeping our ears open to the Lord regarding the timing of our Africa trip together.



## Adjustment

The **climate** in Melbourne is more extreme than in Pretoria. It finally rained and suddenly it is freezing cold.

This means the danger of more bushfires is over for now.

While I'm used to **drive on the left** I am not at all accustomed to the strictly enforced speed and parking regulations.

Adjustment to **marriage** has been **very easy.** Len and I are well suited to each other and have lots of fun together.

However, I do **miss my friends and family.** Due to the huge **time difference** spontaneous phone and skype calls are severely limited. Please, write.





## From the tip of Len's tongue:



*Kobus van Niekerk declared I would never make a proper farmer. Well, I have now invested in a **worm farm** and become a farmer.*



For more Info about worm farming see:  
[www.thewormman.com](http://www.thewormman.com)

P.S. The worms compost kitchen waste faster. They also produce liquid fertilizer.



*Before our wedding I read „**The Five Love Languages**“. Because I didn't know Elisabeth's love language, I decided to practice all five. It paid dividends !!!*



*We are taking classes in ballroom **dancing**. This is a new experience where Elisabeth is learning to let me lead.*

*We are grateful to our guests and helpers for making our wedding such a tremendously joyous event.*

*Thank you.*

*Len has a new contract: Rebuilding what was destroyed in the Victoria Bushfires.*

## About the Bushfires:

Saturday 7 February 2009 changed the lives of many. This day consisted of extreme heat reaching 47.9°C after several days of 45°C and over. It also had a North West wind that blew more than 150 km per hour. This day had all the right conditions for a fire.

No one could have known the devastation that was to unfold within the next 24 hours. It took several months to investigate the impact of the fires.

### Some estimates:

- Lives lost: 173
- Houses destroyed: 2012
- Other buildings destroyed: 1,000
- Fences destroyed over 13,400 km
- Stock lost (sheep, cattle, poultry, horses, pigs): 12,908
- Cultivated fields burnt: 71,222 Ha
- Horticulture lost (Olives, orchards, vines etc): 2,084 Ha
- Planted Forests burnt: about 30,000 Ha

3 temporary villages have since been established in the worst hit areas as well as 5 Relief Centres, 5 Recovery Centres, 7 Community Hubs, and 2 temporary Schools. Many people are too traumatized to make decisions regarding rebuilding their lives, homes and businesses.



*Last Friday, nearly three months after the fires started, Len and I took these photos.*

*Note: The intense heat melted even the metal rims of cars.*

*While the Green of new grass, sprouting ferns and trees seems surreal it inspires hope in the midst of devastation.*