

Dear Supporters,

Life is going ok here, with the new term off to a good start. Security is good too; the other day we had just a little hiccup in the form of road closures that prevented a few of our students from reaching school. The closures were because of VIP activity at the nearby parliament building, during which time we were 'confined to suburb', as of course with so many 'attractive' potential targets around, we were staying close to home.

The snow has also presented some transport challenges (several cm fell again yesterday and last night), with one or two students being unable to walk the distance through the snow, or arriving late because their vehicle kept slipping on the ice. But all in all, the students love the snow as it is so much fun at recess and lunch times. (For the gate keepers, it might be another story, as they have to shovel snow off rooves daily to avoid roof-collapse and clear the paths several times a day to avoid slippery surfaces.)

Am grateful to our father for

- * a good start to the term
- * that the new teachers are settling in well
- * that security is good at the moment

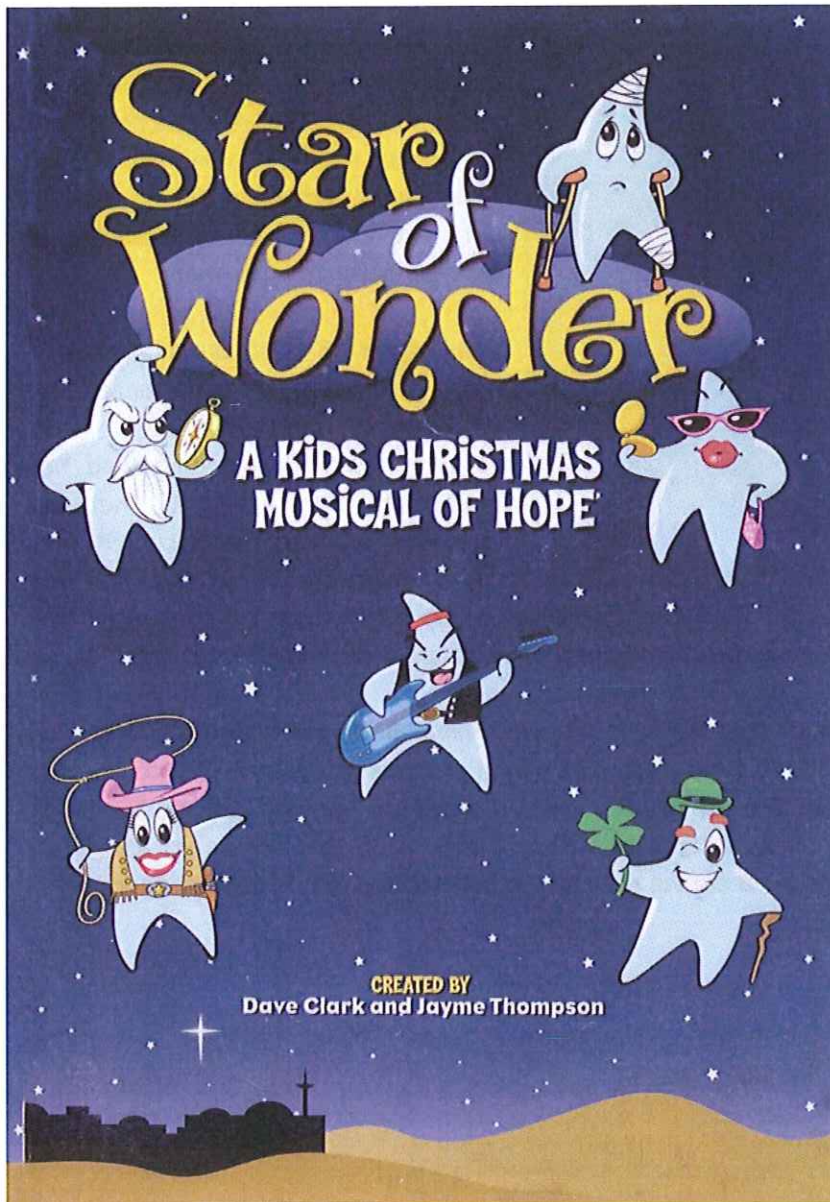
Am looking to the father for

- * teaching staff beyond August '12
- * continued wisdom & discernment to do the task assigned

May our father continue to enable us all.

Warmest wishes,

Joan M.



This comes with warm greetings for the New Year. May our father continue to guide us all and enable us in the tasks to which he has called us.

Christmas. Am hoping you had a lovely Christmas and that the New Year is shaping up ok for you. Here, I had the privilege of going to a project for a week. This town of around 60,000 people is located towards the north of the country not far from the Uzbek border, and the humanitarian organisation to which I'm seconded has projects there in community development and work with those who have lost limbs as well as those who suffer from polio etc. It was good to see how life is for this small

project and gain a sense of the issues that are faced there. There was snow on the ground on arrival, so it was a 'white Christmas'. The flight in a 9-seater plane to-&-from the project passed over snowy mountains, and even touched down in Bamyan for refueling, where the large Buddha niches in the hillside were visible from the runway.

Pageant. A few days before the fortnight break for Christmas, the school put on the musical 'Star of Wonder'. The students really enjoyed preparing for this and it was possible to invite the wider community to the performance. Our students also sang at a

Christmas carol gathering hosted by the international ch*rch group, held at one of the major hotels in town.



New teachers. The return from the project was in time to welcome two new teachers to the school and introduce them to how the school runs. These teachers will be with us until the end of March and we are very grateful to have them.

New term. School is running well since the new term started on 7th January. Personally, I'm very relieved that my teaching load has decreased since one of the new teachers is taking the Social Studies

for the Grade 4,5 & 6 class (my class). It was clear that the teaching load of the first few terms (Aug to Dec) could not be sustained as I'd ended up sick with a succession of bad colds. Still, two others in the community had pneumonia, so I guess it is all relative(!)

Winter. Walking to 'big group' this morning, it was minus 8 degrees Celsius, after an overnight minimum of minus 12. The maximum the other day was + 1 degree Celsius, so it is 'interesting' getting around on the icy roads. About a week ago we had around 30 cm of snow, much to the delight of the students who made a snow slide and snow fort as well as generally had fun in the school yard during recess and lunch times. More snow is forecast in a few days.

Thank you for your on-going interest and support. May our father continue to provide wisdom and discernment for the tasks given.

With warm regards,

Joan M.